**Drylaw / Blackhall New Parish Steering Group**

Following the agreement of both Kirk Sessions to seek a Union of the Congregations of Drylaw and Blackhall St Columba’s a Steering Group was established.

**Remit**

The Mission and Purpose of the Steering Group was discussed and an initial remit was agreed as;

1. To work together, to identify the decisions and process that require to be taken in order to bring about a union between Blackhall St Columba’s Parish Church and Drylaw Parish Church.
2. To make recommendations regarding the aforementioned decisions and process’ to the relevant Kirk Sessions.
3. To prepare regular updates and communicate progress to the relevant Kirk Sessions and congregations of Blackhall St Columba’s and Drylaw Parish Churches.

**Membership**

Representing Drylaw : Elizabeth Martin, Myriam Wilkie, Hazel Hastie, Rev Iain May, Jill McIntosh and Amanda Lawson.

Representing Blackhall St Columba’s : Grant Macrae, Dianne Fulton, Jim Logan, Fiona Cook, Eddie Thorn and Rev Fergus Cook.

It has been agreed that initially there will be three sub groups, namely Worship, Mission and Communication.

The Steering Group has met twice – Monday 21 November 2022 and Sunday 29 January 2023. The following has been agreed:-

**Worship**

* Sunday 26 February – a joint Service (Founders / Thinking Day Youth Service) at Blackhall St Columba’s Church
* The Good Friday Service will be a joint one held in Blackhall St Columba’s with the Maundy Thursday Service to be in Drylaw.
* There will be a pulpit swap on Sunday 2 April.
* Easter Sunday – there will be an early morning Service – 08.00 – held as a joint Service in grounds of Drylaw. The good people of Old Kirk Muirhouse will be invited.
* Options for transport will be considered for all of the above.

**Mission**

* We should have a new mission statement agreed by both congregations.
* All agreed on the importance of the Five Marks of Mission.
* Both congregations share the broad areas of mission.
* All agreed that we have to get the message out there as we are about to become one new entity – a new congregation.

Amanda Lawson and Eddie Thorn

Session Clerks