

Presbytery of Kirkcaldy - Strategy and Resourcing Committee

We asked – You said – April 2019

“How can we be church in the 21st century in our area?” 12-14 Nov 2018

156 attended from all 23 congregations and almost unanimously reported that the meetings were helpful. People enjoyed the meetings and the discussion was good.

We asked “How can Strategy & Resourcing team take planning to the next stage?”

You said –

- ☞ “Be honest and listen to congregations ideas/suggestions, evaluate, then review & present ideas on future”
- ☞ “Let’s have further discussion & feedback, continue to engage elders, congregations and wider communities.”
- ☞ “Need to take action urgently, we cannot afford to dilly-dally, be realistic & take drastic action. Be radical! Get it right first time, change has to happen”
- ☞ “It’s encouraging to think BIG, creative and pro-active (do not procrastinate)”
- ☞ “Don’t give up - press for new ideas, devise action plan, take next steps, lead”
- ☞ “Re-think how to distribute resources, review all ministers and staff”.
- ☞ “Consider different formats of meeting, praying, sharing faith, teaching and serving - suitable for all those who do not come near church right now. It involves a strong focus on youth and creative experimentation”

We asked “How can we ‘do church’ here in our areas?”

You said –

- ☞ “We need to work together, share resources and ideas.
- ☞ “We have a common interest in the future of church, let’s listen to ideas of others, constructive sharing, common problems, seek what works best for all”
- ☞ “It’s helpful to find that everyone is realistic about buildings needing to close”
- ☞ “Let’s share resources, gifts, talents, expertise, share what works (capture others’ successes/failure/best practice), share “organisations” (e.g. Guild, Messy Church, Holiday Club, summer mission, ‘clubs’, data protection, ...)”
- ☞ “Let’s do less - but do it better”
- ☞ “Let’s network, share news/timetables, supporting local initiatives/events raising awareness of church and its place in community”
- ☞ “Let’s work closer with other churches, share discussion events, it’s good to meet up regularly with people from other churches, let’s have more contact.”

- ☞ “User-friendly and youth-friendly buildings, more welcoming, community events, space for children to move around and parents to be comfortable”
- ☞ “Reduce overall number of buildings to free up money, close buildings after review of usage, the cost/upkeep of buildings - how are they actually used?”
- ☞ “Recognise property that’s a liability and deal with it, consolidate, rationalise”
- ☞ “Church is not a building (DO, not only say it) - Put faith in God not in buildings,
- ☞ “Combine churches, share buildings, merge congregations, amalgamate (bus service to pick up people), one church for worship and hubs for pastoral care, possibly 3 worship centres for Kirkcaldy, phased closures, cut costs”
- ☞ “Rotate a pool of resources within groups”
- ☞ “Let parishes be flexible together, share one ‘town/area identity’”.
- ☞ “5-year contracts for ministers. Do hub/team ministry. More flexible, strong creative leadership teams, covenant (e.g. Leith), share ministers”.
- ☞ “Share workers (e.g. one development worker for several churches) and share good practice, have one church co-ordinator, working hub with agencies,
- ☞ “Be more flexible with worship times and other aspects, open to new ideas/change, re-imagine church”
- ☞ “Make religion fashionable in religion-free-living of today, “market” our faith, attract ‘too busy’ people, change towards being society relevant, use up-to-date technology, access to apps / I.T., ‘streaming’”.
- ☞ “Use everyone’s gifts, elders as worship leaders, use & develop talents”
- ☞ “Be less minister dependent”. Provide support to ‘doers’”
- ☞ “Younger life-styles need younger minds leading”
- ☞ “Be more community based, connect with community, support the community, use other venues that are less formal for small group meetings”
- ☞ “Take communion to people, meet people where they are (schools, men’s clubs, lunch groups), in care homes, school ministry, open air services”
- ☞ “Retain outreach to community projects, seek to be central to community, assess need of community and meet them. Host community events in church.”
- ☞ “What is our message for parents or young families?, Area-wide events (Christmas/other) for all children. Encourage young people (new members)”
- ☞ “Space for children to move and parents be comfortable. Not only Sundays!”
- ☞ “Have ecumenical services & discussion events, learning from other denominations; do ‘walk of witness’ events, interfaith events”.
- ☞ “We are unique in following Jesus (everything else other clubs/societies can do too), so let’s not water down faith, our biggest resource to share is our faith and worship, let’s be more evangelical – *where 3 or 4 meet in my name there I am amongst them* - let’s work and walk together in faith”.