



The opportunity to express support for Newton Mearns New Church joining the Free Church of Scotland

The Newton Mearns New Church (NMNC) Kirk Session has recommended that NMNC should join the denomination of the Free Church of Scotland, and this would happen at the Free Church's General Assembly in May 2024, if supported by the NMNC congregation.

Members of NMNC will be given the opportunity to vote on this. The views of those who worship regularly with us, but who are not members, will also be sought.

The following Q&A outlines the voting process.

Q1. Who is overseeing the voting process?

A1. Lorna Hamilton will act as 'presiding officer' with support from Tom Brown to ensure the integrity of the voting system and to ensure independence from Kirk Session and to maintain confidentiality around how individuals vote.

Q2. When will I get my voting paper?

A2. Voting papers will be issued in person after worship at Belmont School on Sundays 11th & 18th February. The voting papers will include Lorna Hamilton's email and postal address for those wishing to submit votes by these routes, or for those who not be in attendance on the day of the vote.

To ensure votes are cast once only, members of NMNC will receive a voting paper with a unique number assigned against each member; regular worshippers (who are not members) will record their name on the voting forms. This will also enable us to record how many on our congregational roll have voted, and how many of our regular worshippers have voted. No record will be kept as to how members have voted.

Q3. When and where will the vote take place?

A3. Voting will take place at a congregational meeting after worship at Belmont School on Sunday 25th February. Voting papers will be received in person by 5pm on Sunday 25th February. For those not in attendance at church on that day – votes can be received by email or by post and those votes received by 5pm Sunday 25th February will be included in the count.

Q4. What will I be asked to vote on, and what responses can I choose from?

A4. The statement that members will be asked to vote on is as follows:

As a member of Newton Mearns New Church I support our Kirk Session's recommendation that our church should join the denomination of the Free Church of Scotland

The options for responding are: 'Yes' or 'No'.

The statement that those who worship regularly in NMNC but who are not members will be asked if they are supportive of is as follows: ***As someone who worships regularly in Newton Mearns New Church, although not a member, I support the recommendation that Newton Mearns New Church should join the denomination of the Free Church of Scotland***

The options for responding are: 'Yes' or 'No'.