



Gentlemen

I thought it appropriate to drop you an email just to let you know where we are in respect of our constitutional process.

As you are aware, at the Special General Meeting, the Master Court was given unanimous approval to proceed with the formation of a new charity, the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee General Fund Charity, and I can confirm that our application to set this up has been lodged with OSCR.

Our legal advisers have indicated that this could be approved within 2.3 months, after which all the assets of the Nine, ie investments and property, will be transferred into the new charity and the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee will cease to be a charity but will continue to operate as it has done for hundreds of years.

Once the new charity is up and running, the existing Trustees will take office until the autumn, when we will be looking to appoint a new Trustee at the Master Court meeting. It follows therefore that we will be looking for a candidate who will want to serve the Nine for a period of 2/3 years, as all Trustees, whether new or existing, will have fixed terms of office.

It is hoped that all the processes will be completed before the Bridie Supper next November, if not long before that, but it will all take time and it is important that it is done properly.

It is my intention that, as from January 2017, the new charity will operate in shadow form and this will mean that how we distribute our monies will be more structured. Much of how we will operate is determined by charity law, so it is important that we set off on the right foot.

I have asked Tim Heilbronn, as one of our existing Trustees, to be our new Charity Convener, taking over from Past Convener Alex Coupar who has given many years of steadfast service to the Nine, service which we will recognise in the New Year. Tim will be in touch with the various Crafts to explain how things are intended to operate, but by all means contact myself or Lindsay Darroch if anyone has any questions.

If having constitutional problems to sort was not enough, it is understood that St Andrews Kirk, our spiritual home, is not being allowed to call a minister. This situation has only just arisen and so I cannot as yet say how this will work out, but rest assured, I will do my best to ensure that St Andrews will continue to play a full part in our life and work.

I know that we approach 2017 in good heart in spite of the travails that affected us in 2016. My thanks to all for your forbearance and support in my first year as your Deacon Convener. I look forward to welcoming you all at my Biennial Dinner on 12 May at the Invercarse where we will celebrate together our common history.

I would wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Murray Petrie  
Deacon Convener  
Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee