**Currie Kirk Office**

**156 Lanark Road West**

**Currie**

**EH14** **5NY**

**1st June 2022**

Dear Hugh and Pauline

On behalf of Currie Kirk Session and Congregation, we would like to thank you, as representatives of the Deployment Group, for coming to meet with us on April 27.

We very much appreciate the time you have taken to listen to the points made by members of the Congregation, those in particular, who feel very strongly that it was a mistake to place Currie Kirk in the ‘Border’ Mission District in the draft Presbytery Plan.

The main points of our written submission on 15th March 2022 stressed that Currie looks eastward toward Edinburgh and therefore naturally to the proposed South West Mission District which includes the Churches of Juniper Green, Colinton, Slateford Longstone, Craiglockhart, and others along the Water of Leith and Canalside, rather than Churches in West Lothian with which there has been little contact or relationship. Transferring Currie Kirk to the South West District gives greater opportunity to share resources and produce a ‘menu’ system of worship; we would like to expand on the many positive and productive ways that could be implemented in discussion with the other Churches in South West District. Although we made a brief reference to the points of advantage outlined in our submitted paper perhaps we were remiss in not reiterating them. However, we very much wished to give the Congregation the opportunity to voice their points of view and state their concerns that naturally existing natural community links through schools and activities would be broken or strained by separating Currie and Juniper Green into different Mission Districts.

We are grateful for your note of the meeting which distils the discussion. However, this should, we feel, be read in conjunction with the submission paper form Currie Kirk which details some of the means to closer working with all the churches in South West district, almost to form a small Presbytery to explore different ways of working to people’s strengths.

In your Minute, an action point proposes to consult with Rachel and Jamie; we are unclear what this point entails. Is it the case that Rachel and Jamie are your counterparts in visits to churches in the South West District? We would like to learn what progress, if any, is there to report on our requested transfer to the South West District? A positive response would enable us to begin to develop our plans/strategy for engagement with, and conversations with, this Mission District.

We believe that our perspective on future co-operation in Mission Districts does dovetail well with Gordon Jamieson’s paper on Mission Districts presented on 30 April 2022. However, we would ask for some clarification on the position of Heriot Watt University and its Chaplaincy in terms of belonging to a Mission District. We in Currie Kirk are glad to host their Annual Rededication Service and seek opportunities to build closer relationships, hold joint services, ask exchange students to provide links to different ways of worship, for example in the use of technology, Heriot Watt being a leading centre of excellence in electronics.

We look forward to hearing a favourable resolution to our request that Currie Kirk joins the South West Mission District.

Yours sincerely

Viola MacPhail

Co-ordinating Currie Kirk Elder on the Water of Leith Cluster Group