



(CE-CO-KS-NON PVG)

Preliminary Notes

1. This style is for congregations with a Unitary or *Quoad Omnia* Constitution. If you are operating in terms of the Model Constitution or with a Deacon's Court or a Committee of Management you should use the Congregational Board style.
2. It is important that the endnotes and the references contained within the style contract are **removed** prior to the issue of the contract to the employee either in draft or final form.
3. It is anticipated that this post is one where the nature of the duties DO NOT constitute "regulated work" with children and/or protected adults (see the job description attached). The post holder, therefore, does not require to be checked via the Church's Safeguarding Service with a view to becoming a Scheme member in terms of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 ("PVG"). Indeed, it would be unlawful to require this. It remains important, however, that a proper recruitment process (including the obtaining of satisfactory references) is carried out. If you are in any doubt as to whether the duties of the post will in fact constitute regulated work within the meaning of the PVG Act, please contact the Safeguarding Service at telephone number 0131 240 2256. Email: safeguarding@cofscotland.org.uk. Please also read the endnote to Clause 14 of the following contract.
4. For general advice, including details of the National Minimum Wage, see our employment law circular at:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/law_circulars

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

as

THE CHURCH OFFICER of

.....
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CONGREGATION

1. Employer
The Employer is the Kirk Session of ⁱⁱ
Church of Scotland Congregation, Scottish Charity Number SC0 per the Session
Clerk (“the Employer”).
2. Employee
The Employee is ⁱⁱⁱ
3. Commencement
The employment commences on ^{iv}
which is the date of commencement of continuous employment.
4. Duties etc.^v
The Employee will carry out diligently the whole duties pertaining to the post of Church Officer as detailed in the Job Description set out in Schedule 1 to this contract, as such duties may be adjusted from time to time by the Employer.
5. Place(s) of Employment ^{vi}
The Employee’s place(s) of work is/are.....
6. Salary
Salary will be payable at the rate of £ per annum, payable in arrears per calendar month. The salary will normally be reviewed annually by the Employer. The Employee will be permitted to make a charge of £.....for attendance at marriages held in the Church. Payment of such a charge will be the responsibility of the parties arranging the marriage and shall not be the responsibility of the Employer.
7. Hours of Work etc
The Employee’s normal hours of work will amount to ^{vii} hours per week but he/she will work sufficient hours properly to complete the duties incumbent upon him/her. The Employment is a full time one and the Church Officer is not permitted to engage in any other work for payment other than with the prior written approval of the Employer. ^{viii}

8. Accommodation^{ix}

The Employee shall in furtherance of his/her duties have the free occupancy of the Church Officer's house at ^x.....("the Property"). He/she will be obliged to occupy the Property during his/her employment and will be obliged to vacate the Property immediately following the termination of employment. The following terms and conditions shall, in addition, apply to the Employee's occupancy of the Property:-

- The Employer will be responsible for keeping the Property wind and watertight and for keeping in reasonable repair the installations in the Property for the supply of water, gas and electricity and for sanitation, space and water heating. The Employer will also be responsible for keeping in reasonable repair and proper working order any fixtures, fittings and appliances provided to the Employee in connection with their occupation of the Property. Otherwise, the Employee shall be responsible for the internal maintenance and repair of the Property and for keeping it clean, aired and decorated to a reasonable standard;
- The Employee will not be entitled to make any alterations to the Property either internally or externally;
- The Employee shall keep the garden ground (if any) in a neat and tidy condition, free from weeds and shall keep any grass regularly cut;
- The Employee will be liable for all electricity, gas, telephone and other utility costs throughout the period of his/her occupancy of the Property and shall ensure that all suppliers are notified of his/her occupation and all bills issued in his/her name;
- The Employee will be responsible for payment of the Council Tax and/or any other Local Authority tax substituted therefor and for all water and sewerage charges payable in respect of the Property;
- The Employer and any persons authorised by it shall be entitled to inspect the Property externally and internally on giving reasonable prior notice to the Employee and to carry out such works or alterations as it may deem advisable;
- The Property shall be occupied by the Employee and members of his/her immediate family only and lodgers, paying guests and the like are not permitted. The Property shall be used and occupied as a private dwellinghouse only and shall not be used for any other purpose.

9. Holidays

The holiday year is from 1st January to 31st December. Holiday entitlement is ^{xi} weeks *per annum*, the period during which holidays may be taken being at the discretion of the Employer.

If, on termination of the employment, holidays already taken exceed entitlement, the Employer reserves the right to deduct the equivalent sum from any monies owing to the Employee at the time.

10. Sickness Pay and Benefit

In any period of twelve consecutive months:

- (a) The Employee will be granted full salary during the first ^{xii} months/weeks of sick leave and half salary for the next months/weeks. At the discretion of the Employer, the period of full pay and/or half pay may be extended.

- (b) For absences through illness of up to seven days the Employee shall self-certify, in writing to the Session Clerk, the reason for his/her absence. In all other cases of absence through illness, medical certificates must be presented to the Session Clerk and any National Insurance Benefits receivable will be deducted from the gross salary payable.
- (c) Such period or periods of full pay and/or half pay shall not exceed in total 13 weeks in any 12 month period.

11. Pension Provision ^{xiii}

The Employee will be automatically enrolled in the [insert as appropriate – e.g. National Employment Savings Trust] if eligible in accordance with the Employer’s obligations under the Pensions Act 2008. Full details regarding the pension scheme, including the rate of Employee and Employer contributions and the Employee’s right to opt out or in, will be provided separately prior to the commencement of employment. A contracting out certificate is not in force in respect of this employment.

12. Notice of Termination of Employment ^{xiv}

The Employer will give the following notice of termination of employment except in cases of misconduct of a serious nature when the Employee may be suspended or dismissed:

<u>Period of Continuous Employment</u>	<u>Period of Notice</u>
Up to one month:	None
More than one month but less than 2 years:	1 week
Thereafter increasing by 1 week for every year of continuous employment up to a maximum of:	12 weeks

The Employee will give a minimum of two months’ notice of intention to resign.

It is understood that the Kirk Session has power to suspend or terminate the appointment of the Employee all in accordance with the terms of this Contract.

13. Disciplinary Matters ^{xv}

The matters which can lead to disciplinary action or dismissal by the Employer include the following:-

- i. Irregular attendance at work.
- ii Persistent lateness in attending to duties.
- iii Unsatisfactory work performance over a reasonable period of time.
- iv An unwillingness to accept authority or failure to carry out any reasonable instruction given in the course of duty.
- v. Disclosure of information acquired in the course of duty or any wilful act or default which prejudices the interests of the Congregation.
- vi. Action or behaviour likely to reflect adversely on the Church of Scotland or bring its name into disrepute.
- vii Failure to notify the Session Clerk of non-attendance at work.
- viii Failure to produce medical evidence of illness lasting more than seven days.

The disciplinary procedure set out in Schedule 2 annexed shall apply to the employment.

14. Redress of Grievances ^{xvi}
The grievance procedure set out in Schedule 3 annexed shall apply to the employment.
15. Direction of the Minister ^{xvii}
As regards the execution of his/her duties, the Employee will be subject to the direction of the Minister of the congregation.
16. Dress ^{xviii}
At all diets of worship on Sundays or otherwise, the Employee shall be suitably and appropriately dressed.
17. Protection of Children and Young People/Protected Adults ^{xix}
The Employee acknowledges that he/she has received, read and understood the Church of Scotland's Code of Good Safeguarding Practice. In the event of the duties of the post being amended by agreement so as to constitute regulated work with children and/or protected adults, the Employee acknowledges that he/she will require to become a PVG scheme member. He/she undertakes to comply with the Code and relative Church of Scotland Safeguarding guidelines in so far as relating to his/her employment. He/she understands that it is his/her duty to protect any children and young people/protected adults with whom he/she comes into contact. He/she is aware of what action to take if abuse is discovered or disclosed.
18. In these terms and conditions no particulars are entered in respect of the matters covered by paragraphs (g), (j) and (k) of Section 1 (4) of the Employment Rights Act 1996. ^{xx}

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this and the preceding [] pages and the three Schedules annexed are signed by the parties as follows:-

.....
Employee

.....
Session Clerk (on behalf of Employer)

.....
Date

.....
Date

.....
Witness (signature)

.....
Witness (signature)

.....
Witness full name

.....
Witness full name

.....
Witness address

.....
Witness address

Schedule 1 ^{xxi}
referred to in the foregoing Contract

The Employee will carry out the whole duties pertaining to the post of Church Officer which shall include:-

1. Preparation for and attendance at the usual diets of worship on Sundays, including communion services and also all additional Sunday or weekday services sanctioned by the Kirk Session. Such preparation will include the laying of the covers for communion services. The attendance will include ensuring that the Minister's robe, cassock, etc are ready. Subject to the overall direction of the Minister, the Church Officer will, in connection with these duties, act on the instructions of the Session Clerk.
2. Preparation for and attendance at the Sunday School services and any special services. Subject to the overall direction of the Minister, the Employee will, in connection these duties, act on the instructions of the Superintendent of the Sunday School, the Deputy Superintendent or the Secretary.
3. Preparation for and attendance at all Committee and social meetings of the Congregation, Kirk Session, Congregational Board and all other Church organisations, including choir practice and any meetings or series of meetings specially sanctioned or ordered to be held in the Church, halls or other accommodation (all herein referred to as "the premises")
4. Preparation of the premises for all services, meetings etc. including the heating, airing and general making ready thereof.
5. Opening up and preparation of the premises for occupation by third parties as permitted by the Congregation and subsequently locking up and tidying up as required after such use.
6. After all services, meetings etc. the Employee shall be responsible for effectively tidying up and cleaning the premises, arranging for the laundering of communion tablecloths and towels, washing up and putting away all dishes, utensils, etc. used.
7. The Employee shall be responsible for keeping the premises thoroughly clean and tidy. This will include the cleaning of all of the ground floor windows and the keeping of the whole grounds in neat and tidy condition. These duties shall also include the washing of the premises as often as may be required and, in particular, when requested to do so. He/she shall also ensure that the lavatories are fully serviced with towels etc. always being available.
8. If any repairs are required to the premises or their furnishings, the Employee will forthwith report the same to the Session Clerk.
9. The Employee shall, in consultation with the Session Clerk, order such bread and wine as may be required for communion services.
10. If required, the Employee will be responsible for taking Church collections and monies to the Congregation's Bank as soon as such monies are available or accompanying a designated person to the Bank to do so and for paying the same into the appropriate Congregational

Bank Account. Immediately thereafter, he/she will deliver the pay-in receipts to the Congregational Treasurer.

11. The Employee will order all necessary supplies of cleaning materials etc. In consultation with the Session Clerk, he/she shall also order such fuel as may be required for the central heating system of the premises (and for his/her own use in the Church Officer's house).
12. The accounts for all supplies or services ordered by the Employee in terms hereof will be checked by him/her and delivered to the Congregational Treasurer, duly initialled for payment, in the case of those accounts which have been approved by him/her and with his/her comments, in the case of those which have not.
13. At all diets of worship on Sundays and weekdays the Employee shall be suitably dressed and shall, if appropriate, wear the gown provided by the Church.
14. At such times as may be requested, the Employee will report to the Minister at the Manse and will perform any duties in connection with Church matters which the Minister may instruct him/her to carry out.
15. Such additional duties as may reasonably be requested by the Employer from time to time.

Schedule 2
referred to in the foregoing Contract

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The Employee shall be responsible on a day to day basis to ^{xxii}, who may, if his/her work or conduct is considered unsatisfactory, arrange an informal meeting with him/her to explain any shortcomings and suggest ways of correcting them in the future. This is not part of the formal procedure set out below. If the Employee's work performance is considered sufficiently serious, then a formal procedure shall be implemented as set out below.

Formal Procedure

1. The formal procedure will be implemented by the Employer if the informal stage fails to result in the desired improvement or in the case of any matter that is considered sufficiently serious. The Employer will arrange to establish the facts of the case to decide whether disciplinary action may be required. In some instances this will involve the holding of an investigatory meeting with the Employee before proceeding to any disciplinary hearing. In others, the investigatory stage will be the collation of evidence by the Employer for use at any disciplinary hearing. Where this is practicable, such investigation will be carried out by someone other than the person who conducts any subsequent disciplinary hearing. Following such investigation, if it is decided that a disciplinary hearing is appropriate, the ^{xxiii} will send to the Employee a written statement setting out the nature of the alleged misconduct or poor performance and its possible consequences in good time for him/her to consider the contents prior to the meeting referred to below.
2. Following the production of the statement referred to in paragraph 1 above, the [w] will, as soon as reasonably practicable, arrange a disciplinary meeting with the Employee and with such other persons as the Employee or the Employer may consider necessary. The Employee is entitled to be accompanied by a fellow employee or another person of the Employee's choosing who has had no involvement in the matter. If the date or time arranged for the meeting is unsuitable, the Employee may suggest another date or time within 5 working days from the hearing date that has been proposed. The Employee may be entitled to call witnesses at such a meeting but must first give the [x] reasonable notice of the witnesses that he/she intends to call.
3. The disciplinary meeting shall be conducted by a Committee set up by the Employer to consider the complaint. After taking submissions and evidence from the Employee, any witnesses that the Employee may have called, and from any other appropriate sources, the Committee shall decide what action should be taken and may:-
 - (a) decide that the Employee is not in breach of the contract of employment;
 - (b) consider that there has been a breach which warrants the issuing of an oral warning that such a breach must not recur;
 - (c) in more serious cases, issue a formal written warning that any repetition of the breach will result in the employment being terminated;
 - (d) terminate the employment with notice either where there have been previous warnings or the conduct has been sufficiently serious to warrant such dismissal;

- (e) terminate the employment without notice where the breach of contract is considered sufficiently serious to warrant summary dismissal.
4.
 - (a) The decision of the Committee will be communicated to the Employee and confirmed in writing, together with notification of the Employee's right to appeal the decision. Any warning will indicate the breach of the contract of employment and what steps the Employee must take to prevent a repetition of such breach. The Employee will also be informed that if his/her performance remains unsatisfactory after written notice of breach and of the improvements required after the expiry of the period of time within which it is expected that the improvements should be achieved, or if further breaches occur, the Employee will be dismissed. Any such written notice shall state the period for which it shall remain in force.
 - (b) If the decision is that the Employee shall be dismissed then the written Notice of Dismissal shall state the misconduct which had led to the dismissal, why the Employee is guilty of that misconduct and shall notify him/her of his/her right of appeal.
 5. If the Employee is dissatisfied with that decision then he/she may appeal against it in writing to the [y]. Such appeal must be made in writing to [z] within 5 working days of receiving written confirmation of that decision and must set out the reasons or other submissions the Employee wishes to make. The Employer may require such submissions to be supplemented orally or in writing as considered appropriate.
 6. On receipt of the Employee's notification of the desire to appeal, an Appeal Committee shall be set up by the Employer which shall be entitled to seek such other submissions, orally or in writing, from the Employee or such other persons as the Appeal Committee may think fit, and shall then either confirm a decision or substitute it with such decision as it considers appropriate. xxiv

Schedule 3
referred to in the foregoing Contract

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

If the Employee has any grievance relating to his/her employment then this should, in the first place, be raised on an informal basis with ^{xxv}

If the Employee is dissatisfied with the response then he/she should initiate the formal grievance procedure. To do that the Employee must set out his/her grievance in writing and send the statement, or a copy of it, to ^{xxvi}

Thereafter, the Employer will arrange within 14 days (or as soon as reasonably practicable) a meeting to discuss the grievance. The meeting cannot take place unless the Employer has had a reasonable opportunity to consider his response to the written statement. The Employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting. The Employee is entitled to be accompanied by a fellow Employee or another person of the Employee's choosing who has had no involvement in the matter. If the date or time arranged for the meeting is unsuitable, the Employee may suggest another date or time within 5 working days from the hearing date that has been proposed. The Employee may be entitled to call witnesses at such a meeting but must first give the [x] reasonable notice of the witnesses that he/she intends to call.

After the meeting, the Employer must inform the Employee in writing without unreasonable delay of his decision in response to the grievance and notify him/her of the right of appeal against the decision if the Employee is not satisfied with it.

If the Employee wishes to appeal he/she must inform the Employer whereupon the Employer must invite him/her to attend a further meeting within 14 days (or as soon as reasonably practicable). The appeal group which shall hear the appeal shall be made up of members of the Kirk Session who have not been involved in consideration of the initial grievance. The Employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting. After the appeal meeting, the [y] shall inform the Employee in writing and without unreasonable delay of the Employer's final decision.

Where the Employee has ceased to be employed, but wishes to bring to the Employer's attention a grievance which he/she had not raised before the date of termination, the parties may agree to the matter being handled in line with foregoing procedure, except that in that case there will be no right of appeal against the Employer's decision.

Where the Employee raises a grievance during a disciplinary process the disciplinary process may be temporarily suspended in order to deal with the grievance. Where the grievance and disciplinary cases are related it may be appropriate to deal with both cases concurrently.

TIPS AND NOTES FOR COMPLETION

i Insert the name of the Congregation.

ii Insert name and charity number of the Congregation

iii Insert the employee's name.

iv The date on which the employee is to start work with you should be inserted here. However, if the employee has previously been employed by you (whether in the same post or a different one) and he/she was so employed immediately before the date on which he/she is to start work under this contract, the date to be inserted above should be the date he/she first started working for you.

Fixed term contracts –

If the contract is to last only for a fixed term, that should be stated in this clause e.g. *The employment commences on 5th June 2011 which is the date of commencement of continuous employment and shall be for a fixed period of two years terminating on 4th June 2013.*

Please note however that the employment rights of a fixed term employee have been put on much the same basis as those of a permanent employee and there may therefore be little advantage to constituting a contract on a fixed term basis. For example, failure to renew a fixed term contract at the end of its term counts as a dismissal. Also, after the employee has been with you for a year, they can take a claim to an Employment Tribunal alleging unfair dismissal. It will be a defence if the post has become redundant and a fair process has been followed including the necessary consultation. After more than two year's employment, the employee in such a case will however be due a redundancy payment. It is quite a complicated topic and if unsure, please contact us for further advice.

Retirement age

This clause used to specify a retirement age. However, a retirement age at which the employee might be "compulsorily" retired has been removed from the style because of the abolition of default retirement ages.

v This refers to the Job Description which will have to be made up to detail all the expected duties.

It is anticipated that the duties in this post will not constitute "regulated work" with children and/or protected adults in terms of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. If, however, your church/hall premises are regularly (i.e on more than 6 occasions per year) used by a nursery or other service which provides day care for children for more than 2 hours per day, the position will be different and **if the Church Officer is working in the premises at times when the children are being looked after** then he/she will require to be checked via the Church's Safeguarding Service and to become a Scheme member in terms of the PVG Act. For further information, contact the Safeguarding Service as set out in the Preliminary Notes above.

vi This should be completed to list all Churches, halls etc. where the Church Officer is expected to perform his/her duties.

vii If the number of hours worked per week varies then it will be necessary for the purposes of the Minimum Wage legislation for the Contract to state a daily average number of hours and the following should be inserted in place of what is stated in the style contract:-

The Employee shall work sufficient hours properly to complete the duties incumbent on him or her but the average number of hours to be worked by the Employee shall be [] per day.

If the average number of hours changes in the course of the contract then a separate “daily average agreement” should be attached onto the agreement. A style is included in our Employment law circular. See:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/law_circulars

^{viii} If the employment is full-time, the last sentence in this clause should be inserted but if it is part-time only, it should be taken out.

^{ix} This clause should be removed if no accommodation is provided.

Many Church Officers or Beadles will be provided with accommodation and, indeed, it may form the most significant part of the remuneration. Payments in kind, in general, may not be taken into account when calculating the figure a worker is paid. The provision of accommodation is the single exception but allowance can only be made for part of the value of the accommodation provided. The figure is set quite low and it may therefore be the case that Congregations require to increase the salary actually paid.

From 1st October 2010 the maximum amount that could be offset against the national minimum wage in respect of the provision of accommodation was fixed at £32.27 per week (£4.61 per day). Where accommodation is provided for less than a full week, the offset should be correspondingly reduced.

In determining whether a salary needs to be increased the allowance, calculated as above, should be added to the amount actually paid over the relevant period and that figure divided by the number of hours worked in the period. If, after this, the hourly rate is less than the appropriate hourly minimum then the monetary element will require to be increased.

The pay statement should not refer to a “net” figure to which the accommodation element is be added. Although, for the purposes of the legislation, the critical factor is that any worker who has the benefit of tied accommodation should receive remuneration equivalent to at least the minimum statutory rate (after taking into account the accommodation offset, correctly calculated), the pay slip should state the “gross” figure (i.e. a sum equivalent to at least the hours worked times the appropriate hourly minimum rate) from which the accommodation offset is treated as a deduction. As mentioned below, there are record keeping obligations on employers and, while these are not specific on the point, it is suggested that it would be clearer if the pay statement detailed a “gross” amount with a deduction being made for any accommodation element.

Where accommodation is included as part of the terms and conditions of employment, this arrangement will be subject to the provisions of Part 8 of the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 which means that the “landlord” must register with the Local Authority. If title to the house is held in the name of local trustees on behalf of the congregation then this should be done locally but if the title is in the name of the Church of Scotland General Trustees then contact should be made with them (Mr Robert Lindores: email rlindores@cofscotland.org.uk) and they will arrange to add the details of the house to their existing registration with the appropriate Local Authority. Further information about the registration procedure is available at: www.landlordregistration.scotland.gov.uk.

The provision of accommodation to the Church Officer will also be regulated by the terms of Section 20(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006. This requires that the house must meet what is known as the Repairing Standard i.e that the following conditions must be met:-

- It must be kept wind and water tight and reasonably fit for human habitation;
- The structure and exterior of the house (including drains, gutters and external pipes) must be in reasonable repair and proper working order;
- The installations in the house for the supply of water, gas and electricity and for sanitation, space heating and heating water must be in reasonable repair and proper working order;
- Any fixtures, fittings and appliances provided must be in reasonable repair and proper working order;
- Any furnishings provided must be capable of being used safely; and
- There must be satisfactory provision of smoke alarms.

The house should therefore be inspected by the Property Convener to ensure that it complies with the Repairing Standard and, along with the contract, the employee should be issued with a letter advising about the effect of the Standard and the Private Rented Housing Panel arrangements on their occupancy of the house. A pack of information about this can be downloaded from the Private Rented Housing Panel website at:-

<http://www.prhpscotland.gov.uk/prhp/137.html>.

This includes a style of required letter to the employee which should be completed and printed off. (In the letter, the references to the landlord and the tenant should be filled in respectively with details of the employer and the employee.)

^x Insert the address of the Church Officer's house, if any.

^{xi} The amount of holiday you are giving should be inserted. Currently the statutory minimum entitlement is 5.6 weeks paid holiday per annum and you cannot give less than that. For a post such as this, it may be easier to express holiday entitlement in hours off rather than weeks. For a handy government ready reckoner to help you calculate statutory minimum holiday entitlement click on:

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?r.11=1073858787&topicId=1079427399&r.12=1073858926&furlname=annualleave&furlparam=annualleave&ref=&domain=www.businesslink.gov.uk>

Public Holidays

There is no legal entitlement to public holidays or days off in lieu in addition to the statutory minimum entitlement and with a part time employee, depending on when the public holidays fall, this can add complications. However, if you wish to give public holidays, a possible clause (to go in after the second sentence in this clause) could read:

“In addition, there will be an entitlement to X days public holidays or alternatively as agreed between the Employer and the Employee X further days in lieu of public holidays.”

Holiday cover

As this is an employer/employee relationship, it is up to the employer to arrange cover for holidays (and indeed sickness.)

^{xii} There is no obligation on an employer to offer anything other than statutory sick pay to an employee and it is up to the Congregation to determine what additional sickness pay it wishes and

can afford to give. It is suggested that periods of from one month to three months full pay and a corresponding period of half pay may be appropriate, depending on the circumstances.

^{xiii} It is vital you read this section alongside the Law Department Guidance on Auto Enrolment, available on the Law Circulars section of the Church of Scotland website. The Guidance will help you to ascertain what your ‘staging date’ is and what category your worker currently falls into (i.e. whether they are eligible for auto-enrolment or whether you simply need to make them aware of the scheme they may opt in to). It is also imperative that you diarise to review the pension position annually as your worker could fall into a different category as their salary increases or they fall into a different age bracket.

^{xiv} The periods of notice to be given to the employee are the statutory minimum. You can be more generous if you wish. The law does not specify the minimum period of notice an employee must give and you should fix this in accordance with your own requirements. However, if it is too long, it may be difficult to enforce. It is **important to note** that, for a dismissal to be fair, an employee cannot simply be given notice and dismissed unless the employer has first followed a fair procedure and further guidance is available from the Law Department should you be contemplating the dismissal of the employee.

^{xv} You can add or subtract from the list of examples given (although the list is a tried and tested one and should cover most forms of unacceptable conduct). The disciplinary procedure attached complies with ACAS guidelines. If you wish to make substantial changes, please contact us for further advice as the procedural aspects of disciplinary and grievance matters are extremely important and are strictly regulated by the courts.

^{xvi} The same advice as in Clause 13 applies.

^{xvii} This provision may be altered if the Church Officer is to be managed by someone else but, if the post includes duties which constitute “regulated work” with children in terms of the PVG Act, the line manager must be the Minister, who will be a PVG Scheme member.

^{xviii} If you are a more “casual” congregation, you may wish to omit this clause. Alternatively, if you wish a particular garb to be worn e.g. a gown, this should be specified as a requirement.

^{xix} This is hopefully self explanatory but if any further advice is needed, please contact the Safeguarding Service.

^{xx} A statement of this kind is required under Section 2(1) of the 1996 Employment Act.

Paragraph (g) refers to non-permanent or fixed term employment and if this is a fixed term contract the reference to paragraph (g) in clause 21 will require to be deleted.

Paragraphs (j) and (k) refer respectively to collective agreements and working abroad and are not therefore likely to be relevant for a contract of this type but the absence of terms and conditions relative to these matters must be stated as above.

^{xxi} This is only a suggested style and will need to be redrafted to meet your own particular requirements. Not all of the suggested clauses will fit the bill.

^{xxii} There should be inserted the name of the office bearer to whom the employee will be responsible on a day to day basis. It is suggested that it would be preferable to refer to a specific office such as Session Clerk rather than a named individual. In cases where reference is made in the body of the contract to the day to day direction of the employee being the responsibility of the Minister then it is the Minister who should be mentioned at this point.

^{xxiii} Here refer to either the office bearer mentioned in paragraphs 1 & 2 or the office bearer, if different, who will be responsible for dealing with this and the following matters of administration –

this will be the person who should also be named at insertions [w, x, y and z] in subsequent paragraphs.

^{xxiv} The same procedures apply to Appeal meetings as apply to the initial disciplinary meeting i.e the employee is entitled to be accompanied and to call witnesses. No one who has participated as a decision-maker in the original disciplinary process should subsequently take part in the Appeal process.

^{xxv} Insert the name of the office bearer to whom the employee will be responsible on a day to day basis. It is suggested that it would be preferable to refer to a specific office such as Session Clerk rather than a named individual. In cases where reference is made in the body of the contract to the day to day direction of the employee being the responsibility of the Minister then it is the Minister who should be mentioned at this point.

^{xxvi} Insert the name of the office bearer to whom the statement of the written grievance should be sent. It is suggested that this should be different from the office bearer named above. This office bearer should also be mentioned at x and y in subsequent paragraphs.