**BASIS OF DEFERRED UNION** *[note 1]*

The congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) and the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) *[note 2]* shall be united on a date to be appointed by Presbytery, and on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The name of the united charge shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[note 3]* and Scottish Charity Number SC0\_\_\_\_\_ will be retained.
2. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.
3. **Places of Worship:** The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall be the place of worship of the united charge. The church at present used by the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which it is held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery, and, if necessary, the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5,2024), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

*[Other situations may be possible – see the Basis of Union template for options, or insert appropriate provisions].*

1. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be the bounds at present served by the congregations of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or as the Presbytery shall determine.
2. **Kirk Session:** The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.
3. **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of the united charge shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.
4. **Minister:** The congregations to be united shall proceed to the appointment of a minister who shall be inducted in the first instance as minister of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[the vacant congregation]*, provided that on the demission of the Rev \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as minister of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the union shall immediately be effective under the minister so appointed and inducted. ***[Note that the appointment of a new minister to the vacant congregation may cause the allocation of ministries under the Presbytery Mission Plan to be exceeded, in which case permission is required from PMPIG as part of the PMP approval process].***

*[This wording applies where one congregation is vacant and the other has a minister on an unrestricted basis who does not wish to become minister of the united charge. There may be other situations where a deferred union is required, for example where both congregations currently have a minister called on an unrestricted basis. There may also be other arrangements for ministry in the united charge, for example where the united charge will be served by a Team Ministry].*

1. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(a) shall be the manse of the united charge

OR

(b) **shall** either serve as the manse of the united charge, or else shall be sold to enable another property to be purchased which will then serve as the said manse.

The manse of the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of, subject to the titles on which it is held, and subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, of the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5,2024), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

*[There may be other situations, for example where it has not yet been determined which manse will be retained, or where both of the existing manses are to be sold and a new manse purchased].*

1. **Ministerial Support:** The Stipend of the Minister shall be payable in terms of the National Stipend Scale.
2. **Power to Readjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations to be united, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

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*Notes:*

*1. This Template is for a Deferred Union, where the union of congregations cannot take place until the demission of the minister of one or both congregations and/or the agreement of the minister of one to become the minister of the united charge.*

*2. If more than two congregations are being united, please make appropriate amendments throughout the Basis of Deferred Union.*

*3. In 2008 the General Assembly agreed a “formula” for the name of a congregation. The formula for the names of congregations of the Church of Scotland is that every congregation’s name should comprise:*

1. *A geographical name, i.e. a city, town or village;*
2. *An additional name identifying the congregation if there is more than one congregation at that geographical location, e.g. Anytown: St Mary’s, Anytown: St Margaret’s, etc;*
3. *The words ‘Church of Scotland’. The word ‘Parish’ or ‘Kirk’ are optional and, if preferred, the words ‘Church of Scotland’ may appear in brackets, e.g. Anytown St George’s (Church of Scotland).*