

## Basis of Union

The congregation of Fort William; Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church of Scotland and the congregation of Kilmallie Church of Scotland shall be united on ..... on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The name of the united congregation shall be Fort William Kilmallie Church of Scotland and the Scottish Charity Number SC013279 will be retained.  
Initially there will be 3 sites of worship and the site will be reflected in the name; e.g Fort William Kilmallie Parish Church of Scotland; Caol/ Corpach.

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 congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.

3. **Places of Worship:**

Initially the church buildings at present used and occupied by the uniting congregations shall be the places of worship of the united congregation.

Services will be conducted in Fort William and in Kilmallie (Caol and Corpach) each Sunday at times to be decided by the Minister and Kirk Session subject to the approval of Presbytery.

During the first year of a union taking place the use of the buildings will be assessed and buildings deemed as non essential or non compliant to mission and ministry 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 Act VII 1995, 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.

4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the Parishes of Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmallie or as the Presbytery shall determine.

5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the ministers the Kirk Session of the united congregation. Congregational Board members are invited to join the Kirk Session as Elders or associates.

6. **Congregational Management:**

The temporal affairs of the united congregation 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.

7. **Minister:**

It is proposed that;

i) the Rev Richard Baxter, currently minister at Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh linked with Kilmonivaig shall be the minister of the united charge in terms of Section 11 (1) (b) of Act VII 2003 subject to agreement by Kilmallie congregational vote.

ii) A 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister of Word and Sacrament will be appointed as part of the team ministry necessary for the large area included in this parish.

8. **Ministerial Support:** The united parish and linkage will be served by a Parish Minister and a Team Minister. The stipend of the Charge for the full time Parish Minister shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.

The full-time team minister will be paid under the terms and conditions of associate minister scale and employed by Ministries Council but responsible to the Parish Minister.

Presbytery will attach other voluntary ministry personnel as appropriate and available; OLM, Auxiliary Minister, Reader.

9. **Manse:** The manse of the current Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh congregation shall be the manse of the united congregation. The manse of the Kilmallie congregation shall be used for the team Minister under a lease agreement drawn up by the General Trustees.

10. **Power to Readjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations now uniting, the united congregation shall be free like other congregations to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.