

BASIS OF UNION

Final version for agreement

The Congregations of

Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy SC002586

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy SC005628

Linktown Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy SC012039

St Bryce Kirk Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy SC031064

shall be united as from 1st September 2024 or from a date to be determined by Presbytery

and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The name of the united charge shall be Kirkcaldy Langtoun Central Church of Scotland and SC031064 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. **Place of Worship:**
 - (a) The churches at present used and occupied by the congregations of Bennochy and St Bryce Kirk are to be retained, with the new Kirk Session deciding the way in which one or other or both of these Churches are to be used for worship and mission by the new congregation. The properties at present used by the congregations of Abbotshall and Linktown shall be sold, let, or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which they are 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 General Trustees (Delegated Powers) Act (Act 7, 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 Abbotshall, Bennochy, Linktown, and St Bryce Kirk, or as the Presbytery shall determine.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of the four Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.
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:** All the charges being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act 8, 2003) as part of the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan allocation of 2.5 ministries.
8. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Bennochy shall be the manse of the united charge.
9. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
10. **Power to Readjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the four congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.