

## BASIS OF UNION WHEN ESTABLISHING A LOCAL MISSION CHURCH

The congregations of **Blackbraes & Shieldhill Parish Church of Scotland** (SC002512), **Brightons Parish Church of Scotland** (SC001385), **Muiravonside Parish Church of Scotland** (SC007571) and **Slamannan Parish Church of Scotland** (SC013602) shall be united from a date to be determined by the Presbytery of Forth Valley & Clydesdale, and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The name of the united charge shall be **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland** and SC001385 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. **Local Mission Church:** The Presbytery shall establish a Local Mission Church in the **Slamannan** area of the parish of **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland**. This shall be in terms of Regulation II 2021 and the Basis for Local Mission Church attached to this Basis of Union.
4. **Places of Worship:** The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of **Brightons Parish Church of Scotland** shall be the place of worship of the united charge. The churches at present used by the congregations of **Blackbraes & Shieldhill Parish Church of Scotland and Muiravonside Parish Church of Scotland** 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 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.

The church located in **Slamannan** in the parish of **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland Parish Church of Scotland** shall be a Local Mission Church.

5. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of **Blackbraes & Shieldhill Parish Church of Scotland, Brightons Parish Church of Scotland, Muiravonside Parish Church of Scotland and Slamannan Parish Church of Scotland** or as the Presbytery shall determine.
6. **Kirk Session:** The elders of the 4 Kirk Sessions shall form with the Minister the Kirk Session of the united charge. It is the intention that the number of elders on the new Kirk Session will be reduced as soon as possible to around 15, in proportion to the roll of each of the uniting congregations.
7. **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.
8. **Minister:** The Rev Scott Burton, currently minister at **Brightons Parish Church of Scotland**, shall be the minister of the united charge in terms of section 8.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021).
9. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of **Brightons Parish Church of Scotland** shall be the manse of the united charge.
10. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
11. **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.

## **BASIS OF LOCAL MISSION CHURCH**

As agreed in the Basis of Union for **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland**, the Presbytery of Forth Valley & Clydesdale shall establish a Local Mission Church in terms of Regulation II 2021 from a date to be set by Presbytery.

### **1. Geographical Setting**

The Local Mission Church shall be located in the area of **Slamannan** within the parish of **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland**.

### **2 Responsibilities of the Kirk Session**

All legal and governance matters affecting **Slamannan Local Mission Church** shall be the responsibility of the Kirk Session of **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church of Scotland**, (Charity No SC001385) in the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale.

In particular, the Kirk Session shall:

- (a) ensure that all requirements of the law of the Church of Scotland and of civil law are fulfilled in relation to the Local Mission Church;
- (b) be the owner/title-holder/tenant of all property whether heritable or moveable, used by or within the possession of the Local Mission Church;
- (c) enter any contracts relating to the activities of the Local Mission Church;
- (d) administer all offerings and other monies collected at or in relation to the Local Mission Church;
- (e) apply such monies in the first instance to meet the costs of the Local Mission Church for as long as it exists, after discussion with the Leadership Team, and thereafter as the Kirk Session determines.

### **3. Oversight by Presbytery**

The Local Mission Church shall be subject to the oversight of the Presbytery, through the Kirk Session. The Presbytery shall review the Local Mission Church and its place in the Presbytery Mission Plan five years after the establishment of the Local Mission Church and at least once every five years thereafter all without prejudice to the annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan.

### **4. Leadership Team**

The Local Mission Church shall have a Leadership Team consisting of between three and seven communicant members of **Falkirk: Upper Braes Parish Church** of Scotland at least one of whom shall be a member of the Kirk Session.

The Presbytery shall also appoint a member of the Team as their representative.

The life and witness of the Local Mission Church shall be co-ordinated by its Leadership Team, subject to the oversight of the Kirk Session and the Presbytery. Without prejudice to this generality, the Leadership Team shall be responsible for:

- (a) developing appropriate expressions of worship, witness and service;
- (b) ensuring that the Local Mission Church is adequately organised;
- (c) ensuring good communication with the Kirk Session; and
- (d) assisting with the upkeep of buildings (if any), subject always to strict adherence to sections 5(a) and (b) below.

### **5. FURTHER PROVISIONS**

- (a) Neither the Leadership Team nor any person acting on behalf of the Local Mission Church shall have any authority or power to enter into contracts or to incur liabilities on behalf of the Kirk Session.
- (b) Neither the Leadership Team nor any person acting on behalf of the Local Mission Church shall conduct themselves in such a way (including silence) that might cause an inference contrary to section 5(a) to be drawn by any person.

### **6. POWER TO READJUST**

While these provisions shall form a Basis of Local Mission Church, the Presbytery shall be free to adjust arrangements as Presbytery may determine.