

BASIS OF UNION

The congregation of Edinburgh: Greyfriars Kirk (Church of Scotland) (SC003761) and the congregation of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh (SC010592) shall be united on 1 August 2026 or 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 Edinburgh: Greyfriars St. Cuthbert's Church of Scotland and SC003761 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:** Both churches at present used and occupied by the congregations, designated 'A' for retention in the approved Presbytery Mission Plan, shall be the places of worship of the united charge. Any proposal to release either building, or to alter the use of a current sanctuary to another use, will require the agreement of the Kirk Session, Presbytery and the General Trustees. Sunday services shall, in the first instance, be conducted in Greyfriars Kirk and at St. Cuthbert's Church at 10.30am each Sunday led by the Minister at each church on alternate Sundays and supported by a team. Early communion will take place at 9.15am twice monthly (once at each church). The timing and location of monthly joint services to take place equally at both locations will be agreed by the Minister and Kirk Session, subject to the approval of Presbytery.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of Greyfriars and St. Cuthbert's, or as the Presbytery shall determine.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of both 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:** Both charges being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Call, Election and Appointment of Ministers of Word and Sacrament Act (Act XI 2025) when, and only when, the requirements contained within the act are fulfilled, including the possession of a vacant, available manse (as per s.9d,e). The minister shall then be called on a Basis of Reviewable Charge in terms of section 9.1.1 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021).
8. **Manse:** A manse suitable for a serving minister will be agreed in consultation with the Presbytery Property Committee prior to the right of call being granted. Any remaining manses 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 V 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.
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 two congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.