

PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH EAST AND NORTHERN ISLES

BASIS OF UNION

Blairdaff & Chapel of Garioch, Cluny, Echt & Midmar, Kemnay, Kintore and Monymusk

THE CONGREGATIONS of Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Church of Scotland (SC004050), Cluny Church of Scotland (SC003429), Echt and Midmar Church of Scotland (SC009556), Kemnay Parish Church of Scotland (SC014790), Kintore Parish Church of Scotland (SC001406) and Monymusk Parish Church of Scotland (SC004525) upon satisfying the requirements of charity law, shall be united on 1 September 2023, or from a date to be determined by Presbytery, and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. NAME

The name of the united congregation shall be: **Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland** and the Scottish Charity Number SC014790 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 congregation, and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.

3. PLACES OF WORSHIP

The following buildings shall be the places of worship of the united congregation:

- a. Chapel of Garioch
- b. Monymusk
- c. Echt
- d. Kemnay
- e. Kintore

Worship shall be conducted at each of these buildings every Sunday, or at other times as decided by the Kirk Session.

All members and adherents will remain members or adherents of the united charge of the Church of Scotland.

4. BUILDINGS AND LAND

The church buildings at Chapel of Garioch, Monymusk, Echt, Kemnay and Kintore including Kemnay Church Centre will be retained for the use of the united charge. The buildings at Midmar, Cluny and Blairdaff shall be used, sold, let, or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which they are held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, where appropriate, the General Trustees. 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 united 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 united congregation.

5. TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The bounds to be served by the united congregation shall be the bounds of the parishes uniting.

6. KIRK SESSION

The elders of all six Kirk Sessions shall in the first instance, form with the ministers, the Kirk Session of the united congregation. Thereafter suitable arrangements shall be put in place to ensure that an effective Kirk Session of an appropriate size and composition shall be created and maintained.

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. MINISTERS

The Rev Euan Glen, Rev Sheila Mitchell, Rev Joshua Mikelson and the Rev Neil Meyer, currently the incumbent ministers of Cluny and Monymusk, Echt and Midmar, Kemnay, and Kintore respectively shall be the Team Ministry of the united charge, all as set out in the Basis of Team Ministry annexed to this Basis of Union.

9. ADDITIONAL POST

The united congregation will be allocated a further 0.5 FTE MDS (Ministries Development Staff) post who shall work under the line management of the Ministry Team Member designated as Moderator of the Kirk Session. The appointee to this post shall be employed by the Faith Nurture Forum under the terms and conditions of Ministries Development Staff.

10. MANSES

The manses of the congregations of Echt, Kemnay, Kintore and Monymusk shall be the manses of the united congregation. The manse of the congregation of Chapel of Garioch 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 Act VII 1995, be credited to the benefit of the united congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or if not falling with the scope of said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the united congregation.

11. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

The stipend(s) of the united Charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.

12. POWER TO READJUST

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