

**PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN
BASIS OF DEFERRED UNION
SUMMERHILL WITH MASTRICK**

The congregations of Summerhill (SC007076) and Mastrick (SC013459) shall be united following the demission of the Rev Michael Shewan as from a date to be determined by the Presbytery and that on the following terms and conditions:-

1. **Name:** The name of the united congregation shall be decided by the congregations within a year of the agreement of the deferred union by all parties.
2. **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. **Buildings and Land:** The buildings and land presently used and occupied by Mastrick comprising the respective church buildings and surrounding grounds, halls, and any glebe lands shall be retained by the united congregation. The church building currently used by Mastrick shall be the place of public worship for the united congregation.

The church buildings and halls currently occupied by Summerhill shall be retained by the united congregation and shall be used as a community centre for service and mission in the parish, subject to a feasibility study being carried out within a year of the agreement of the Basis of Deferred Union and a review of the future of the Summerhill buildings being carried out.

The assets being retained by the united congregation shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.

4. **Manse:** The manse of Summerhill and a section of the land presently used and occupied by Summerhill shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the approval of Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees or General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale (a) if falling within the scope of Act VII 1995 be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund of (b) if not falling within the scope of the Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation with the intention that the funds shall contribute to the renovations and the ongoing upkeep of the retained buildings.

A decision as to whether the Mastrick manse shall be retained as the manse of the united congregation shall be taken before the Union is effected.

5. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united congregation shall be those of the existing charges or as the Presbytery shall determine. The parish boundaries shall be reviewed prior to the date of the union being effected.
6. **Kirk Session:** The elders of each of the Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united congregation.
7. **Congregational Management:** The affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Unitary Constitution.
8. **Vacancy & Nominating Committee:** After approval is granted by Presbytery, a Nominating Committee will be elected with representatives from both Summerhill and Mastrick congregations. The numerical composition of the Nominating Committee shall be determined by the Vacancy Procedure Committee of the Presbytery of Aberdeen in terms of Act VIII,

2003 section 14, as amended. In the event that the present incumbent of Summerhill is still in post, the newly elected minister will be inducted in the first instance to Mastrick and once the two congregations are united, the same individual shall be the minister of the united charge in terms of Section 11(1)(b) of Act VII, 2003. In the event that Summerhill is already vacant, the minister shall be inducted to the united charge. The minister shall be inducted in line with the agreed Presbytery Plan.

9. **Grouping:** The Grouping between Summerhill and Mastrick shall be dissolved on the date of the union of the two congregations.
10. **Additional Staff:** The job descriptions of any additional ministry staff provided by Aberdeen Presbytery Plan shall be agreed prior to the date of the union being effected.
11. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the minister shall be payable in terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
12. **Power to Adjust:** 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.