

## BASIS OF UNION

The congregation of **Forest Kirk, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** (SC013968), the congregation of **Kirkton Parish Church, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** (SC026539) and the congregation of **Law Parish Church (Church of Scotland)** (SC013217) 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 **Carluke and Law Church of Scotland** and the charity number SC026539 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:** The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of **Kirkton Parish Church, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** shall be the place of worship of the united charge.  
The church and halls currently used by **Law Parish Church (Church of Scotland)** shall be retained for missional purposes.  
The churches and halls at present used by the congregation of **Forest Kirk, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** will be reviewed by June 2026 in accordance with the Presbytery Mission Plan, which designates the buildings as B. The decision of Presbytery will be binding on all parties. Following that review, any building not being retained 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 (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act 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.
- 4 **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of **Forest Kirk, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** **Kirkton Parish Church, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** and **Law Parish Church (Church of Scotland)** or as the Presbytery shall determine.
- 5 **Kirk Session:** The elders of the three 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 27, in proportion to the roll/kirk session size of each of the uniting congregations.
- 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:** The charge will consist of a Team Ministry of 2 Ministers of Word & Sacrament. The Rev Elijah Obinna, currently minister at **Forest Kirk, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** shall be a minister within the united charge in terms of section 8.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021). A second Minister of Word and Sacrament will be elected on the Basis of Reviewable Charge.
- 8 **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of **Forest Kirk, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** shall be retained as a Manse of the charge. A decision will be made as to whether a new manse will be purchased or whether the Manse of the former congregation of **Carluke St Andrew's Parish Church**, the manse of **Kirkton Parish Church, Carluke (Church of Scotland)** or **Law Parish Church (Church of Scotland)** will be the second Manse of the charge or whether all will be sold let or otherwise disposed of, subject to the titles on which they are 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 General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act 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 three congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.