

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH EAST AND THE NORTHERN ISLES

BASIS OF UNION

ABERDEEN: FERRYHILL, SOUTH HOLBURN AND ST MARK'S

The congregation of Ferryhill Parish Church of Scotland (SC010756) and the congregation of Aberdeen South Holburn Church of Scotland (SC017516) and the congregation of Aberdeen St Mark's Church of Scotland (SC015451) shall be united on Sunday 28 May 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 Devana Parish Church of Scotland, Aberdeen and SC015451 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 churches at present used and occupied by the congregations of Ferryhill Parish Church of Scotland and Aberdeen South Holburn Church of Scotland shall be the places of worship of the united congregation each Sunday at times to be decided by the Ministry Team and Kirk Session, subject to approval of Presbytery. The church at present used by the congregation of Aberdeen St Mark's Church of Scotland shall be used, 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 Act VII 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.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of Ferryhill Parish Church of Scotland, Aberdeen South Holburn Church of Scotland and Aberdeen St Mark's Church of Scotland, or as the Presbytery shall determine.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of the three Kirk Sessions shall form with the Ministry Team the Kirk Session of the united congregation. Thereafter suitable arrangements shall be put in place to ensure an effective Kirk Session of an appropriate size and composition shall be created and maintained.
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 Reverends Peter Johnston and David Stewart, currently the incumbent ministers of Ferryhill Parish Church of Scotland and Aberdeen South Holburn Church of Scotland respectively, shall be the members of the Team Ministry of the united charge all as set out in the Basis of Team Ministry annexed to this Basis of Union.
8. **Manse:** The manses of the congregations of Ferryhill Parish Church of Scotland and Aberdeen South Holburn Church of Scotland shall be the manses of the united congregation. The manse of

the congregation of Aberdeen St Mark's Parish Church of Scotland 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 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 charges 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 congregation shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.