**Proposed Basis of Union** – August 2023 – as agreed by Cluster Planning Group

*NB The document below uses a template provided by the Church of Scotland with the relevant parish names, etc, pasted in.*

*The section in larger type is non-standard in that the Planning Group felt that decisions about the future of the various church buildings, and hence the places of worship, should be made by the new, composite Kirk Session.*

*The congregations of Edenshead Parish Church (SCO05402); Howe of Fife Parish Church (SCO05381); Falkland Parish Church (SCO12247); Freuchie Parish Church (SCO16622) and Lindores (SCO04848) shall be united from 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 Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland and SC004848 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:** The churches at present used by the congregations of Edenshead Parish Church, Falkland Parish Church, Freuchie Parish Church, Howe of Fife Parish Church, and Lindores Parish Church will be reviewed before or at the latest by December 2027 in accordance with the Presbytery Mission Plan, which designates some of the buildings as B. The decision of Presbytery will be binding on all parties. Following the review, any building not designated by Presbytery as necessary shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which they are 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 (Delegated Powers) Act (Act 7, 1995) be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; (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. In the interim, services shall be conducted in Edenshead Parish Church, Falkland Parish Church, Freuchie Parish Church, Howe of Fife Parish Church, and Lindores Parish Church at times to be decided 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 Edenshead Parish Church; Falkland Parish Church; Freuchie Parish Church; The Howe of Fife Parish Church; and Lindores Parish Church.

**5. Kirk Session:** The elders of the 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**: The charges of Falkland l/w Freuchie, Edenshead, Howe of Fife and Lindores being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act 8, 2003) with the following addition dependent on Presbytery's decision - The minister shall be called on a Basis of Reviewable Charge in terms of section 9.1.1 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021). The ministry in the charge shall be supplied by a Team Ministry (at least one of whose members must be a Minister of Word and Sacrament) with the roles, responsibilities and other relevant provisions applying to the Team Ministry being as set out in the accompanying Basis of Team Ministry.

8. **Manse:**The manse of the congregation of Edenshead Parish Church (a) shall be the manse of the united charge.

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 congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.