

At Fort William, and within the hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, the first day of May 2007, at 6.30 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met in hunc effectum and was constituted with prayer.

1. **SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES & WELCOME**
 - 1.1 Present were Mr John Fraser, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, 26 full members and 2 corresponding members of Presbytery. Names and apologies as per sederunt sheet.
 - 1.2 Members of the congregations of Fort William Duncansburgh, Fort William MacIntosh Memorial and Kilmonivaig were welcomed by the Moderator.
2. **MINUTE**
 - 2.1 The Clerk read that part of the minute of the meeting of the twenty seventh of March 2007 appointing this day, place and time to meet in hunc effectum, and the business to be transacted.
 - 2.2 The Clerk intimated that in terms of Act 7, 2003 Section 13 (2) (b) the congregations of Fort William Duncansburgh, Fort William MacIntosh Memorial and Kilmonivaig had been cited to attend for their interests.
3. **CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - 3.1 The Clerk distributed a summary of the recommendations from the Presbytery Conference on 24th April 2007. These were both amended and approved – Appendix 1.
 - 3.2 The Clerk agreed to bring to the June 2007 meeting proposals to amend Standing Orders to implement these recommendations.
4. **BASIS OF UNION**
 - 4.1 The Convener of the Presbytery Appraisal and Ministry Committee, the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, outlined the background to the proposed Union of the congregations of Fort William Duncansburgh and Fort William MacIntosh Memorial.
 - 4.2 He presented the Basis of Adjustment, which had been agreed by both Kirk Sessions on Monday 12th March 2007, circulated to both congregations, and been agreed with both congregations on Sunday 15th April 2007 with the following votes cast: at Fort William Duncansburgh, FOR the Union one hundred and nine, AGAINST the Union one; and at Fort William MacIntosh Memorial FOR the Union seventy eight, AGAINST the Union none.
 - 4.3 After questions, discussion and minor alterations to the Basis of Adjustment, the adoption of the Basis of Union was proposed and seconded – Appendix 2. This was agreed by Presbytery, the voting being twenty five FOR and none against.
5. **BASIS OF LINKAGE**
 - 5.1 The Convener of the Presbytery Appraisal and Ministry Committee, the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, outlined the background to the proposed Linkage of the congregation of Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig.
 - 5.2 He presented the Basis of Linkage, which had been agreed by the Kilmonivaig Kirk Session on Thursday 22nd March 2007, circulated to the congregation, and been agreed by the congregation on Sunday 22nd April 2007 with the following votes cast : FOR the Linkage thirty two, AGAINST the Linkage none.

5.3 After questions, discussion and minor alterations to the Basis of Linkage, the adoption of the Basis of Linkage was proposed and seconded – Appendix 3. This was agreed by Presbytery, the voting being twenty four FOR and none against.

6. DELIVERANCE

The Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, Convener of the Appraisal & Ministry Committee, moved the following Deliverance, which was seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

6.1 Receive the Report of the Appraisal and Ministry Committee conveying the votes of Congregational Meetings on the proposed Basis of Union between the congregations of Fort William: Duncansburgh and Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial.

6.2 Note with gratitude the overwhelming support of both congregations for a Union between them.

6.3 Propose that the Union takes place with effect from 1st September 2007.

6.4 Agree to forward the Basis of Union to the General Assembly's Appraisal Committee.

6.5 Commit both congregations to God's wisdom and guidance as they prepare for their Union.

6.6 Receive intimation of the vote of a Congregational Meeting at Kilmonivaig on the proposed Basis of Linkage between that congregation and the proposed congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh.

6.7 Note with gratitude the unanimous support of the congregation for a renewed Linkage.

6.8 Note that whilst the congregations of Fort William: Duncansburgh and Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial were cited to attend for their interest, no one appeared to speak against the proposed Linkage.

6.9 Propose that the Linkage takes place on 1st September 2007, subject to the approval of a Congregational Meeting of the united congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh.

6.10 Agree to forward the Basis of Linkage to the General Assembly's Appraisal Committee.

6.11 Commit the congregation to God's care and blessing.

6.12 Agree to all of the above.

7. BASIS OF ADJUSTMENT

7.1 The Clerk informed the meeting that as the Presbytery does not have an agreed Presbytery Plan, this adjustment would have to be brought to the Assembly's Appraisal Committee under Act 4, 1984 and, to use the wording of Act 7, 2003 Section 13 (3), "the concurrence of the Assembly's (Appraisal) Committee shall be required before the adjustment can be implemented".

7.2 It is hoped that this concurrence will be intimated to the Presbytery at the June 2007 ordinary meeting and to the congregations immediately thereafter.

7.3 The Clerk asked Presbytery to note that at its meeting on 20th February 2007, the Assembly Appraisal Committee concurred with the Presbytery motion (8.3) of 6th February 2007 which stated: "Resolve that the Union of the

congregations of Fort William Duncansburgh linked with Kilmonivaig and Fort William MacIntosh Memorial will be served by one Minister and one Associate Minister”.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet for Holy Communion, the Installation of Moderator and for ordinary business on Tuesday the 5th day of June 2007 in St Munda’s Parish Church, Glencoe at 6.30 pm.

Closed with prayer

8.05 pm

.....Moderator

.....Clerk

APPENDIX 1

1 The Presbytery of Lochaber should continue as a “stand alone” Presbytery and make no overtures, at this stage, to develop further a formal relationship with any other Presbytery.

2.1 Of utmost importance for Presbytery is the development of encouragement to personnel and congregations in the local setting. This could be implemented by: -

2.2 The Presbytery Moderator, or the Presbytery Clerk, being invited to conduct worship in all of the Presbytery’s Congregations each Moderatorial Year. The Pulpit Supply Fee and expenses for this will be paid by Presbytery.

2.3 Presbytery conferences, Presbytery meals, Presbytery retreats etc. initiated by the Presbytery Spiritual Development Working Group.

3 The number of meetings for “ordinary business” per session to remain as present at six.

4 The location for ordinary meetings will continue to be the Hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol. The exception being the June meeting, which will continue to be held within the congregation of the incoming Moderator.

5 The dates of the ordinary meetings to be as present with the exception of the February meeting which will be the first **Saturday** in February.

6 Ordinary meetings to commence at 6.00 pm with the exception of the February meeting which will commence at 11.00 am.

7 The practice of having a Presbytery meal and reception prior to the December meeting to continue.

8 The Business Committee will also act as Nomination, Vacancy Procedure and Superintendence Committees.

9 Membership of the Business Committee will be the Moderator, the incoming Moderator, the Clerk (and Depute Clerk if appointed), the eight Working Group Conveners (and both joint conveners if appointed), with the power of co-option. At the first meeting of the Business Committee per session, a Business Convener will be appointed by the Business Committee, the appointment being intimated to the September Presbytery Meeting.

10 The present committee structure will be replaced with eight Working Groups with either one or two Conveners. It is recommended that these Groups maintain records of their meetings, but when presenting a report to Presbytery, their report must be given to the Clerk in writing. This report will then form part of the permanent minuted record of Presbytery as an appendix to the minute. The eight Working Groups will be: -

Appraisal. This Group will implement and monitor the Presbytery Plan. The proposed Convener for session 2007/08 is the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell.

Education. This Group will oversee all educational issues within the scope of the Presbytery: - Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, School Chaplaincy etc. The proposed Convener for session 2007/08 is Mrs Elizabeth Carmichael.

Finance. This Group will look after all Financial and Stewardship matters concerning the Presbytery. The Presbytery Treasurer would normally be a member of this Group. The proposed joint Conveners for session 2007/08 are the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson and Mr Alex Sandilands.

Ministries. This Group will liaise with the work of the Council of Ministries in relationship to the work of Ministers (stipendiary and auxiliary), Deacons and Readers. The proposed joint Conveners for session 2007/08 are the Rev Peter Rae and Mrs Jean Coke.

Mission. This Group is to promote outreach beyond and within the work of the Presbytery and its congregations. The proposed Convener for session 2007/08 is Janet Anderson DCS.

Property. This Group will oversee Property matters within Presbytery. The proposed Convener for session 2007/08 is Mr George Haggart.

Safeguarding. This Group will oversee Safeguarding issues within the Presbytery. The proposed Convener for session 2007/08 is Mrs Sallie Parrish.

Spiritual Development. This Group is to promote spirituality within the work of the Presbytery and its congregations. The Presbytery Prayer Coordinator will normally be a member of this group. The proposed Convener for session 2007/08 is Mr John Fraser.

11 The appointment of Working Group Conveners for the following session will be made at the June Presbytery meeting.

12 Membership of the Working Groups will not be allocated by Presbytery. Presbytery members are free to volunteer to a Convener for membership of a Working Group and Conveners are free to invite membership of Working Groups from both within and outwith Presbytery Membership. The Moderator and Clerk will be members ex officio of all Working Groups. Presbytery retains the right to authorise or to refuse Working Group membership to any individual.

13 The Clerk to bring proposals to the Presbytery Meeting on June 5th 2007 to amend Presbytery Standing Orders to enact the above changes for Session 2007 / 08.

APPENDIX 2 - BASIS OF UNION FOR UNITING CONGREGATIONS

The congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh and the congregation of Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial shall be united as from the first day of September 2007, and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** *The name of the united congregation shall be Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh.*
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 church at present used and occupied by the Fort William: Duncansburgh congregation shall be the place of worship of the united congregation. The church at present used by the Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial congregation shall be sold, as approved by the Presbytery on 5 December 2006. The free proceeds of such sale, falling within the scope of Act VII 1995, shall be credited to the benefit of the united congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund. Services shall be conducted weekly, at times to be determined by the Kirk Session, intimated to Presbytery and subject to the approval of Presbytery.*
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** *The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be the bounds of both Fort William: Duncansburgh and Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial, or as the Presbytery shall determine.*
5. **Kirk Session:** *The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister or ministers the Kirk Session of the united congregation.*
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 Rev Donald MacQuarrie, presently Minister of Fort William: Duncansburgh shall be the Minister of the united charge in terms of Section 11(1) (b) of Act VII, 2003. The Lochaber Presbytery Plan makes provision for the appointment of an Associate Minister.*
8. **Manse:** *The manse of the Fort William: Duncansburgh congregation shall be the manse of the united congregation. The manse of the Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial congregation shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of, subject to the titles on which it is held, and subject to the approval of Presbytery. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the united congregation.*
9. **Ministerial Support:** *The stipend shall be such as is sanctioned by the Presbytery in conjunction with the Board of Ministry.*
10. **Power to Readjust:** *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.*

APPENDIX 3 - KILMONIVAIG and FORT WILIAM: Duncansburgh MacIntosh

BASIS OF LINKAGE

Whereas a Basis of Union has been agreed between the congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh and the congregation of Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial, thereby creating the congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh as from the first day of September 2007; and whereas the congregation of Kilmonivaig, and the congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh were linked as from the twenty-first day of July 1987, this linkage shall cease on the thirty-first day of August 2007; and the congregations of Kilmonivaig and Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh shall be linked on the first day of September 2007 on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Transference of Property and Funds: The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall remain the property of each congregation.**
2. **Places of Worship: Both Kilmonivaig church, and the church of the United congregation of Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh, shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations. Services shall be conducted weekly, at times to be determined by the Kirk Session, intimated to Presbytery and subject to the approval of Presbytery.**
3. **Territorial Responsibility: The bounds to be served by the linked charge shall be the bounds of both Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig, or as the Presbytery shall determine.**
4. **Kirk Session: The minister of the linked charge shall be the Moderator of each Kirk Session. The two Kirk Sessions may meet together as they deem desirable.**
5. **Congregational Management: The temporal affairs of Kilmonivaig shall be administered as at present, and those of Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh in accordance with the Basis of Union. The office-bearers of the two congregations shall meet annually to decide on their portion of the contribution to stipend, and the various schemes of the Church, listed expenses, and the maintenance of the manse(s), as may be agreed from time to time by the office-bearers, and subject to the approval of the Presbytery.**
6. **Minister: The Rev Donald MacQuarrie, presently Minister of Fort William: Duncansburgh, shall be the Minister of the linked charge. The Lochaber Presbytery Plan makes provision for the appointment of an Associate Minister.**
7. **Manse: The manse of the Fort William: Duncansburgh congregation shall be the manse of the linked congregations.**
8. **Ministerial Support: The stipend shall be such as is sanctioned by the Presbytery in conjunction with the Board of Ministry.**
9. **Power to Readjust: While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Linkage for the two congregations now linking, the linked congregations shall be free like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.**