



Church of Scotland

Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian

ADDITIONAL PAPER 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

DEPLOYMENT

MARCHMONT ST GILES' AND REID MEMORIAL

Deliverance

Presbytery:-

- agree the Basis of Union for Marchmont St Giles' and Reid Memorial.

BASIS OF UNION

The congregation of Marchmont St Giles Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh (SC009338) and the congregation of Church of Scotland, Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh (SC014027) shall be united on 1 January 2026, or 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 Edinburgh: Blackford and Grange Parish Church of Scotland and SC009338 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 church at present used and occupied by the congregation of Marchmont St Giles shall be the place of worship of the united charge. The church at present used by the congregation of Reid Memorial 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 Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5, 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 Marchmont St Giles and Reid Memorial, or as the Presbytery shall determine.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of both 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 Rev Dr Karen K Campbell, currently minister at Marchmont St Giles, shall be the minister of the united charge in terms of section 8.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021).
8. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Marchmont St Giles shall either serve as the manse of the united charge, or else shall be sold to enable another property to be purchased which will

then serve as the said manse. The manse of the congregation of Reid Memorial 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 the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5, 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 two congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

Union between Marchmont St. Giles and Reid Memorial

The Presbytery Mission Plan for Edinburgh and West Lothian, approved in April 2023, proposed that Marchmont St. Giles work together with Morningside United and St. Catherine's Argyle in order to form a union. The plan also proposed that Reid Memorial work with Gracemount, Liberton Kirk, Liberton Northfield and Tron Kirk (Gilmerton/Moredun) to create a union structured as a team ministry. Subsequent conversations and votes suggested that Reid Memorial might better engage in mission elsewhere. Thus, it was reported to Presbytery on 5 December 2023, and agreed in the midst of an amendment, that 'recent conversations and votes by the congregation of Reid Memorial have indicated that Reid do not wish to take part in this proposed Team Ministry...Presbytery will initiate conversations with Reid Memorial in order to discern the way forward and will propose an alternative by the first evaluation and development.' In the Annual Evaluation and Development report provided to Presbytery on 3 December 2024, the uncertainty regarding the best way to proceed with the Local Ecumenical Partnership at Morningside United meant that St. Catherine's Argyle and Marchmont St. Giles would continue conversations. 'These discussions have suggested that more work would be required for these two congregations to work well together in a union to advance mission in the area.' As conversations proceeded, it became apparent that there was greater alignment in missional approaches between Marchmont St. Giles and Reid Memorial and that cooperation might bear fruit. The national bodies were apprised of this possibility. Discussions regarding a potential union proceeded positively and the votes reported below point to a successful outcome. Greater clarity is being sought regarding the future of St. Catherine's Argyle, as well as Morningside United, and these will be reported to Presbytery, perhaps in the form of an amendment covering a number of congregations in the area, as soon as practicable.

The Kirk Session of Marchmont St. Giles met on Tuesday 3 June 2025 to consider a draft Basis of Union with Reid Memorial. The results are as follows:

Document	Votes for	Votes against	Total
Basis of Union	12	0	12

The Kirk Session of Reid Memorial met on Tuesday 3 June 2025 to consider a draft Basis of Union with Marchmont St. Giles. The results are as follows:

Document	Votes for	Votes against	Total
Basis of Union (excluding Para. 7/Minister)	7	0	7
Para. 7/Minister within Basis of Union	7	0	7

The Congregation of Marchmont St. Giles met on Sunday 7 September 2025 to consider a draft Basis of Union with Reid Memorial. The results are as follows:

Document	Votes for	Votes against	Total
Basis of Union	48	0	48

The Congregation of Reid Memorial met on Sunday 7 September 2025 to consider a draft Basis of Union with Marchmont St. Giles. The results are as follows:

Document	Votes for	Votes against	Total
Basis of Union (excluding Para. 7/Minister)	41	2	43
Para. 7/Minister within Basis of Union	40	3	43