PETITION

ANENT CONSTITUTION OF GRAHAMSTON UNITED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH AND METHODIST CHURCH

From the Presbytery of Falkirk

Unto the Venerable General Assembly

The Petition of the Presbytery of Falkirk humbly sheweth:

THAT:

1. The Church of Scotland charges of Grahamston and Graham's Road were linked on the 9 January 1972;

2. On the 5 September 1972, the linked congregations were associated for worship, witness and congregational activities with Trinity EU Congregational Church, Falkirk and with Falkirk Methodist Church. The Associated Congregations were known as "Grahamston United Church" (hereafter referred to as "the United Congregation");

3. The linkage between the Church of Scotland charges of Grahamston and Graham's Road ended with their union on the 15 October 1975;

4. Following the union of the Congregational Union of Scotland with the United Reformed Church on 1 April 2000, the former Congregational Church became a congregation of the United Reformed Church;

5. In recent years it has become more difficult to continue to distinguish three distinctive wings within the congregation in that the congregation works as one and separate 'wing' meetings have ceased;

6. This movement towards uniting relates directly to the declared purpose of the intention of the participating denominations and declared in the aims of Action of Church Together Scotland (ACTS) to which each of the participating denominations has subscribed;

7. It was therefore decided by your Petitioner on the 25 day of January 2011, and subject to similar agreement being confirmed by the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church and the Scotland District of the Methodist Church, that the United Congregation shall be constituted as a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership as designated by the Scottish Churches' National Sponsoring Body (the National Sponsoring Body) and further, that the said Partnership be in terms of the Constitution attached to this Petition as Annexure A.

THEREFORE:

May it please the venerable Court to agree that the United Congregation be constituted as a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership as designated by the Scottish Churches' National Sponsoring Body (the National Sponsoring Body), subject to similar agreement being confirmed by the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church and the Scotland District of the Methodist Church, that the United Congregation shall and further, that the said Partnership be in terms of the Constitution attached to this Petition as Annexure A, or to do otherwise as the venerable Court may seem good.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

REV JEROME O'BRIEN