

What on earth is the Unitary Constitution, you may ask? It is a form of structure for the leadership of a Church of Scotland.

For many years St Andrew's Parish Church operated under what was called the Model Deed, meaning that the work of the church was split into the spiritual and temporal with the Kirk Session having responsibility for the former and the Congregational Board for the latter.

While this worked well for many years, with the adoption of seven Action Groups to which much decision making was devolved, it was found that there was often unnecessary duplication of decisions and meetings between the Congregational Board and Action Groups.

In 2006 the congregation voted to move to the Unitary Constitution. While this returns oversight of all matters both spiritual and temporal to the Kirk Session, this is balanced by the decision making powers that have been passed to the members of the Action Groups, which comprise both elders and church members.

