

## BASIS OF LINKING

The congregation of Balerno Church of Scotland (SC018012) and the congregation of Edinburgh Currie Kirk (Church of Scotland) (SC001554) shall be linked as from the first day of December 2024, and that 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 and funds of each congregation as at present.
2. **Places of Worship:** Both churches at present used and occupied by the congregations shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations. Services shall be conducted at times to be decided by the minister and the Kirk Sessions, subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
3. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the linked charge shall be the bounds of the present parishes or as the Presbytery shall determine.
4. **Kirk Session:** The minister of the linked charge shall be the Moderator of each Kirk Session. The Kirk Sessions may meet together, as they deem it desirable.
5. **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of each congregation shall be administered as at present. The office-bearers of the congregations shall meet annually to decide on their portion of ministry expenses (as listed in the Regulations for Remuneration and Reimbursement of Parish Ministers 2015) and costs for the maintenance of the manse, as may be agreed from time to time by the office-bearers and subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
6. **Minister:**  
Both charges being vacant, the linked charge shall proceed to the appointment of one Full Time Minister of Word and Sacrament, as per the approved Presbytery Mission Plan.
7. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Balerno shall be the manse of the linked congregations. The Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian have already agreed that the manse of the congregation of Currie shall be sold. The free proceeds of the sale 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 of Currie, in consultation with Balerno and subject to the approval of Presbytery.
8. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the minister shall be payable in terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
9. **Power to Readjust:** While these articles and terms shall form the Basis of Linking for the congregations now linking, the linked congregations shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise. The linked congregations will work towards a Union, as per the approved Presbytery Mission Plan.