

BASIS OF LINKING
BLAWARTHILL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
LINKED WITH ST COLUMBA GAELIC CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The congregation of Blawarthill Parish Church of Scotland, Glasgow (SC006410) and the congregation of St Columba Gaelic Church of Scotland, Glasgow (SC006342) shall be linked as from the XXXX day of XXXX or on a date determined by the Presbytery of Glasgow 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:** The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of Blawarthill shall be the place of worship of the linked congregations. Services shall be conducted there for the congregation of Blawarthill at 10.30am and for the congregation of St Columba Gaelic at 12 noon each Sunday. These arrangements may be varied subject to the agreement of the minister and the Kirk Sessions and the approval of the Presbytery.
3. **Territorial Responsibility:** The area to be served by the linked charge shall be (First) the territorial bounds of the present parish of Blawarthill and (Second) Christian witness, worship and service to Gaelic culture and language within the boundaries of the Presbytery, or as the Presbytery shall determine. The provisions of the Parish Ministry Act (Act II 2018) section 4 shall not apply to anything done by a minister in furtherance of the mission of St Columba Gaelic to Gaelic culture and language.
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 the contribution to the shared costs of the church premises, stipend and related expenses, listed expenses and 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:** The Rev Melvyn Wood, the present minister of Blawarthill, shall be the minister of the linked charge in terms of Section 8 of Act VII, 2021.
7. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Blawarthill shall be the manse of the linked congregations. The manse of the congregation of St Columba Gaelic shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of 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 Act VII 1995, 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 St Columba.
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.