**BASIS OF LINKING**

The congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) and the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) shall be linked as from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 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/All churches at present used and occupied by the congregations shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations. Services shall be conducted:

(a) in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ each Sunday.

OR

(b) 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:** [*Appropriate wording should be included, which is likely to be either:*]

(a) Both/All charges being vacant, the linked charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act 8, 2003).

OR

(b) The Rev \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, presently minister of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, shall be the minister of the linked charge in terms of section 8.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021).

7. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall be the manse of the linked congregations. The manse of the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_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 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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.