

BASIS OF LINKING

The congregation of Ashkirk (ID:040251, charity number SC010768) and the congregation of Ettrick and Yarrow (ID:040263, charity number SC034662) and the congregation of Selkirk (ID:040295, charity number SC014883) 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:** All 5 church buildings (Ashkirk Parish Church, Ettrick Kirk, Kirkhope Church, Selkirk Parish Church and Yarrow Kirk) at present used and occupied by the congregations shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations. A service will be held in each of the three parishes every week, led by an appropriate worship leader 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 parishes of Ashkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow, and Selkirk.
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, namely: Ashkirk – Unitary Constitution; Ettrick and Yarrow – Unitary Constitution; Selkirk – Model Constitution.

The office-bearers of the congregations shall decide on their portion of contributions towards listed expenses and maintenance of the manse, and other shared expenses, and these may be reviewed from time to time. The initial apportionment will be as follows: Ashkirk 9.2%, Ettrick and Yarrow 37.6%, Selkirk 53.2%.
6. **Minister:** The Rev. Margaret Steele, presently Minister of Ashkirk linked with Selkirk, shall be the Minister of the linked charge in terms of Section 11 (1) (b) of Act VII, 2003
7. **Manse:** The manse of Selkirk Parish Church shall be the manse of the linked congregations. The ownership of the manse will remain with Selkirk Parish Church. Maintenance and upkeep costs will be shared between the congregations on the basis of the apportionment in clause 5.
8. **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.