

The origins of the Parish Grouping lie in the Presbytery Plan of 2004. The conversation was taken up initially by St Colm's and St Michael's following the induction of their ministers in 2005. In God's grace, the Grouping embraced St Martin's Episcopal Church in 2006 followed by Gorgie Parish Church in 2009.

Our life together, thus far, has centred on worship, study, prayer and co-operation strengthening the bonds between us, deepening our understanding of each other's life, drawing us closer together as we continue to explore the nature of our district and our calling to serve in Christ's name.

We recognise that we have much work to do together as we honour our calling to worship, ministry and service in this place and at this time. On the basis of conversation, trust and respect we now formalise our relationship in this covenant.

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

1 Corinthians 12.12-14

As Partner Churches in Gorgie, Dalry and Slateford we are journeying into trust and co-operation with the help of the Spirit that each person received at their baptism into Christ. That common baptism expresses the faith that we are the Body of Christ: as local congregations; as Partner Churches seeking to serve the Gospel in and for our locality; as denominations that together are part of the universal church. This covenant affirms our desire to seek ways to express ever more truthfully that common life in our discipleship. We learn what it means to be the Body of Christ as we grow in our relationships of love and trust, honest and faithful conversation, and the practice of compassionate service. Through our co-operation as Partner Churches, as part of the universal church in this place, we commit ourselves to pray and seek for that deepening of faith, hope and love into which the Spirit calls each individual, and each local congregation.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4.1-3

The Covenant Statement

While celebrating the creativity and spontaneity of purpose within each individual congregation the Partner Churches will:

- foster good communication between congregations,
- encourage active engagement between each congregation and their local community.
- offer enthusiastic support for the ventures of individual congregations
- develop a flexible approach to mission and worship opportunities that are too large for any one congregation to undertake on its own.

Statement of Intentions

As Partner Churches we commit ourselves to work together to:

- Celebrate our diversity of church tradition, affirm our unity and create new opportunities for worship and mission.
- Create opportunity for life long learning for everyone
- Serve the needs of the local communities.
- Collaborate in our use of people, gifts, buildings and finance.
- Continue in trust and mutual recognition through regular review of how the vision expressed in this covenant is being realised.