

# Summary of the Grouping Arrangements between Barclay and Viewforth Churches

The formal arrangements are documented in the Basis of Parish Grouping (drafted by Presbytery and approved by both congregations) and the Constitution document. Both are attached.

In practical terms both congregations will retain their separate identity, Kirk Sessions, funding, ministers etc. The grouping is primarily directed at getting both churches to work together and plan strategically for mission and work in this area of Edinburgh.

The key elements are a Joint Strategy Group consisting of the two Ministers, both Session Clerks and 3 representatives from each congregation. This group will prepare a five-year vision document and an annual plan for the churches.

The plans will be discussed and, if appropriate, agreed by the two Kirk Sessions each year. The Strategy Group are accountable to the Sessions, who retain a supervisory and monitoring role.

Four 'delivery groups' – a mix of elders and congregational members from both churches are responsible for implementing the plans. As far as possible these groups will work jointly across both congregations. The delivery groups follow the structure of Barclay's Session teams with responsibility for

**Church Life** – responsible for welcome and integration, pastoral care, prayer life, social fellowship, communication.

**Education and Worship** – includes housegroups, children and youth, worship involvement and liaison, adult education.

**Parish Mission** - evangelism, Alpha, community involvement

**National and International Mission** - world mission, political and campaign issues.

A key part of the process is that the groups would also feed back to the Joint Strategy Group's planning discussions.