

## Progressing in Partnership

A Resource Document from the Scottish Churches Sponsoring Body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships

### Preliminary Meetings

- The Office bearers from all those wishing to explore becoming a Local Ecumenical Partnership need to agree that this is the course of action to take.
- Ecumenical Officers can help facilitate these meetings and share their expertise and others' experiences



### Wider discussions

- Test the idea with the congregations concerned. This may take some time and employ different decision making processes.
- Hold discussions with other Christian traditions in the locality about joining the Partnership



### Mission/Vision Statement

- Draw up a mission or vision statement which sets out the theological principles for the partnership, not the practical details
- The statement should reflect the local context



### Constitution

- Do you need a constitution or a covenant?
- If so, draw this up with the guidance of the denominational Ecumenical Officers concerned.
- Templates are available but Foundation documents should reflect the local context.



### Developing the Relationship

- Develop existing inter-church activities
- Identify new means of being in partnership in worship, study, social action, mission, pastoral care, leadership models.



### Timescale

- Covenants and Constitutions need to be approved at regional and sometimes national level. Denominational Ecumenical Officers will be involved in this process.



### Signing the formal documentation

- When no Constitution is involved, a Covenant should be signed by those with pastoral responsibility in each congregation.
- Where there is a Constitution, the Covenant should be signed by representatives of the churches from a regional or national level.



### Now you are a Local Ecumenical Partnership

- You will be registered with the National Sponsoring Body and supported by a Regional Advisory Group.
- You will be involved in a regular (usually 5 yearly) ecumenical review process to encourage you in your continually developing relationships.