

COVENANT OF CLOSURE

PASTOR

Preamble:

Understanding that it is for the spiritual and mental health and future of a congregation and former pastor:

1. I will separate myself from participation in the life of the congregation from which I am resigning or retiring.
2. I will be a true and loyal friend to my former congregation and to its pastor by not making pastoral calls, hospital calls, or counseling with members, not presiding at weddings or funerals of former parishioners, and by declining all offices, positions and responsibilities in this my former congregation. The Commission on Ministry, through the Quadrant, may consider exceptions for truly exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
3. I will confer only with the Commission on Ministry, the General Presbyter, or the current pastor of this congregation about any problems I perceive in the congregation, and not discuss them with members of the congregation or others.
4. I will communicate with the Commission on Ministry or General Presbyter should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between this congregation and me.
5. If I desire any exceptions to this Covenant, I would petition the Committee on Ministry to discuss and/or grant such exception.
6. I reaffirm my vows as an ordained minister. Relying on the grace of God, I also affirm my commitment to the “Life Together in the Community of Faith: Standards of Ethical Conduct for Ordained Officers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”

Outgoing Pastor

Date

CONGREGATION

1. We accept that our former pastor will separate him/herself from participation in the life of this congregation.

2. We will be true and loyal friends to our former pastor by not asking him/her to make pastoral calls, hospital calls, or to counsel with members. We will not ask him/her to preside at weddings or funerals of parishioners nor will we offer positions, offices, and responsibilities in this congregation. The COM, through the Quadrant, may consider exceptions for truly exceptional circumstances.

3. We will confer only with the Commission on Ministry, the General Presbyter, or the current minister of the congregation about any problems we perceive in the congregation and not discuss them with the former pastor(s).

4. We will communicate with the Commission on Ministry or the General Presbyter should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between the former pastor and this congregation.

5. Relying on the grace of God, we reaffirm our commitment to “Life Together in the Community of Faith: Standards of Ethical Conduct for members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”

Clerk of Session

Commission on Ministry Liaison

Date

The Commission on Ministry through its liaison will monitor the relationships and this covenant.

The Presbytery will continue its responsibility of pastoral care and membership care to Rev. _____.

Pastor

Clerk