



COVENANT FOR ARRIVING PASTORS

This option can be used if an arriving pastor chooses to enter into a covenant with the congregation and its predecessor pastor.

As Christians, we all are baptized into the priesthood of Christ to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in thanksgiving for what He has done and continues to do for us. It is my privilege to support the mission and ministry of _____, as pastor.

In prayerful conversation with the Congregation Council of _____, I have reviewed **Section A: Healthy Transitions** and discussed the expectations of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and I enter into the following Covenant.

I agree:

- to pray for my predecessor and their ministry, for the sake of the mission of the Church
- to speak a good and positive word about my predecessor and the relationship they had with the congregation
- to treat my predecessor as a valued pastoral colleague
- to maintain my pastoral role at all times

(Other items may be added that are consistent with the particular relationship and mission of this congregation.)

It is understood that this Covenant does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals who are members of this congregation.

Signature of Pastor: _____ Date: _____
Witnessed by President (Vice-President): _____ Date: _____
Describe how shared with congregation, including dates: _____

**After sharing this Covenant with the predecessor pastor and with the congregation, please mail a copy of the completed and signed document to the Assistant to the Bishop at the office of the Metropolitan New York Synod, where it will be kept in the arriving pastor's file.*