



COVENANT BETWEEN THE DEPARTING PASTOR (NOT RETIRING) AND THE CONGREGATION

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 has been my privilege to support the mission and ministry of _____ at _____, 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 the ongoing mission of the congregation and for its new pastor
- to respect the terms of the attached Covenant of _____
- to communicate to the congregation, in writing and conversation, the terms of the Covenant, which terminate this pastoral relationship
- to not be involved in or associated with any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in this congregation and to refrain from behaviors that seek in any way to control the transition process, including any attempt to influence the choice of a successor
- to refrain from language or behavior that could undermine the development of the relationship between the congregation and a new pastor (temporary or successor)
- to not support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement
- to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, visiting the sick and homebound, etc., except as invited by the current pastor, and to consult with the current pastor regarding attendance at worship and special events
- to encourage my family members to support me in maintaining this Covenant and to support the ministry of the congregation's new pastor

(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 congregation, please mail a copy of the completed and signed document to the Assistant to the Bishop in the office of the Metropolitan New York Synod, where it will be kept in the departing pastor's file.*