



## COVENANT BETWEEN THE CONGREGATION AND THE DEPARTING 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 has been our privilege to support the mission and ministry of The Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ as pastor of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

In prayerful conversation with Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, the Congregation Council, on behalf of the congregation, has reviewed **Section A: Healthy Transitions** and discussed the expectations of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and we enter into the following Covenant.

We agree:

- to pray for the ongoing mission of our congregation and for our pastoral leadership
- to respect the terms of the attached Covenant of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_
- to incorporate both Covenants in the minutes of a called Congregation Council meeting
- to communicate to the congregation, in writing and conversation, the terms of the Covenant that terminates this pastoral relationship
- to refrain from asking our former pastor to perform pastoral services, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, visiting the sick and homebound, etc., and to remind members to refrain from making similar requests
- to show respect and regard for our new pastor (temporary or successor) by supporting him/her in performing pastoral duties, and to encourage parishioners to seek pastoral services from our new pastor
- to celebrate what will be as we honor what was, and...

*(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 President (Vice-President): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 congregation's file.*