

This annual Covenant between the session of _____ Church of _____, IN, Ruling Elder _____, a member of congregation of _____, and the Presbytery of Wabash Valley is for the purpose of commissioning to provide limited pastoral services to the _____ Church for a period of not more than three years, with annual covenant beginning _____ and ending _____.

G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICE

G-2.1001 Functions

When the presbytery, in consultation with the session or other responsible committee, determines that its strategy for mission requires it, the presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery. A ruling elder so designated may be commissioned to serve in a validated ministry of the presbytery. Presbytery, in its commission, may authorize the ruling elder to moderate the session of the congregation to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. This commission shall also specify the term of service, which shall not exceed three years but shall be renewable. The presbytery shall review the commission at least annually.

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

G-2.1003 Commissioning Service

When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of a ruling elder to serve a congregation providing the services described above, it shall commission the ruling elder to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery, employing the questions contained in W-4.0404.

G-2.1004 Supervision

The ruling elder commissioned under the terms of G-2.1001 shall work under the supervision of the presbytery. The presbytery may at any time withdraw the commission for reasons it deems good and sufficient. A teaching elder shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Commissioned Ruling elder is accountable to the session of the church and to the presbytery through its Commission on Ministry and appointed mentor. The Commissioned Ruling Elder shall have voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity).

MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS

- To provide prayer and spiritual support as members of the family of Christ.
- To moderate the session of the congregation to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law.
- If the congregation, the session, or the commissioned Ruling Elder experiences any interference or other difficulty with any former pastors of the church, officers or members of the church, the matter will be dealt with promptly, and will be referred to the session and/or the Commission on Ministry. The commissioned Ruling Elder may invite a former pastor to conduct any services of worship, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals for any member but is encouraged to deny any requests by or for any former pastor.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER

- To provide spiritual leadership, pastoral care, administrative oversight and organizational direction to the congregation of _____ Presbyterian Church.
- To establish procedures to assure visitation to shut-ins and visitors of the church, and encourage all members to be welcoming to those outside the church congregation.
- To live a life that spiritually, physically and emotionally commends the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To work under the supervision of the presbytery through the _____ (moderator of session or mentor).
- To provide annual reports of ministry to the Commission on Ministry for review.
- To attend approved boundaries and ethics training once every three years.
- _____

—Please list and detail other position expectations of the commissioned Ruling Elder. —

EXPECTATIONS OF THE SESSION

- To provide support and collegial consultation in working with the Commissioned Ruling Elder and the presbytery to establish goals for the present and future ministry of the church.
- To review, feedback and support the Commissioned Ruling Elder's work through any appropriate committee at least every six (6) months.
- To negotiate time away from _____ Church by the Commissioned Ruling Elder to fulfill responsibilities in the larger church, attend continuing education events and maintain personal care.
- To negotiate a new covenant/contract at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of this annual contract and to arrange for a re-commissioning by presbytery prior to the three year expiration of this commission if pastoral services are to continue.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY

- To provide support and consultative services to the commissioned Ruling Elder through the Commission on Ministry.
- To assist the session and the commissioned Ruling Elder with emerging needs through the resources of the committees of presbytery.
- To assign the Rev. _____ as (session moderator), mentor and supervisor.

FINANCIAL AND TIME PROVISIONS

—Please attach the “ANNUAL SALARY REPORT/CHANGE OF CALL” for the current year. —

Compensation for the Commissioned Ruling Elder shall not be less than the minimum compensation established by Presbytery each year for CREs and reported annually as a “Terms of Call” report. Proportional compensation for part-time work is calculated by part-time hours/35 hours times the minimum full-time compensation established for commissioned ruling elders announced each year.

TERMINATION PROVISIONS

The Commissioned Ruling Elder may terminate this agreement prior to its termination date upon sixty days written notice to the Session.

The Session, with the consent of the COM, may terminate this agreement prior to its expiration date upon sixty days written notice to the Commissioned Ruling Elder. The Session's failure to negotiate an extension of this agreement prior to sixty days from its expiration shall be considered notice of termination.

All vacation time and funds earned during the contracted period shall be paid in full as the work terminates.

If this agreement is terminated by the Session prior to its expiration, and Commissioned Ruling Elder does not have a comparable paid-position at Session's termination of the contract, _____ Church will continue the salary, housing allowance, and any benefits payments for the Commissioned Ruling Elder for a period not to exceed 60 days after written notice of termination or until such time as the Commissioned Ruling Elder secures a new position with comparable compensation, whichever comes first.

SIGNATURES

The session, being satisfied with Ruling Elder _____'s qualification and trusting that his/her ministry in the Gospel will be to our spiritual benefit, hereby commits our congregation to this Covenant/Contract and invites _____ to accept this commissioned Ruling Elder position.

Clerk of Session _____ Date_____

Commissioned Ruling Elder _____ Date_____

Stated Clerk on behalf of COM _____ Date_____