Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ROSTERED MINISTERS DEPARTING COVENANT

It has been my privilege to serve the mission and ministry of _____ Church/Parish as Pastor/Deacon during these past _____months/years. As God called me for a time to serve among you, God now calls me forth to serve in a new way, in a new place among a new people though still one in the body of Christ.

In prayerful conversation with the Congregation/Parish Council of_____,I have discussed the policies and expectations of the Northwestern Minnesota 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 their new rostered minister;
- to communicate to the congregation, in writing and in conversation, the terms of the covenant, which terminates this called relationship;
- to not be involved in 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 rostered leader (interim or successor), including social media;
- to refuse to offer support or 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;
- to consult with the current rostered minister regarding my 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 rostered minister.

(*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 Rostered Minister:_____Date: _____

Witnessed by President (Vice-President):_____Date: _____

After sharing this covenant with the congregation, please e-mail a photocopy of the completed and signed document to callprocess@nwmnsynod.org, where it will be kept in the departing rostered minister's file.

01/22