**Covenant for Ending a Pastoral Relationship**

The Rev. ***Name***and the ***Vestry/Bishop’s Committee*** of ***Church*, *City***, Colorado enter this covenant for ending a pastoral relationship out of mutual love and support for the congregation and ministries of***Church***.

This covenant clarifies the role and expectations of the resigning priest and congregation to ensure that healthy boundaries are maintained and to prevent any misunderstandings or hurt feelings. The observance of healthy boundaries by the priest and congregation members allows the church to successfully move through the transition process and embrace their shared ministry with their next priest.

Based on our mutual desire for ***Church*** to continue to thrive, both parties agree to the following leave-taking practices for ending a pastoral relationship:

The Rev. ***Name’s***resignation will be effective ***Date***. ***His/her/their*** last Sunday will be ***Date****.* By the final date of employment:

* All church property will be returned and personal items removed from the church.
* All requests for reimbursements will be submitted.
* All transition tasks will be completed.

After the pastoral relationship has ended, ***Church***and The Rev.***Name***recognize and acknowledge that ***he/she/they*** will not exercise any authority over the sacramental, pastoral, or financial affairs of ***Church*.** The Rev. ***Name*** will not discuss or comment on the leadership, ministries, or operations of ***Church*** with any current or former parishioners.

While the congregation has been the center of clerical life every effort should be made to form social ties outside of the congregation. Continuing social engagement with former congregation members impacts the ability of congregation members to form healthy pastoral relationships with the newly called clergy. Retired clergy are requested to minimize social engagements with former parishioners.

***Church***and The Rev. ***Name***agree that ***he/she/they*** will not officiate or assist at any baptism, wedding, or funeral for any current of former parishioner. If such a request is made, it is incumbent upon the resigning priest to refer the requesting party to the priest at ***Church. After the new priest is established, he/she/they, at their discretion, may invite a former clergy member to assist at a baptism, wedding, or funeral.***

The Rev. ***Name*** understands that, if ***he/she/they*** desires to attend ***Church*** in the future, it will be after the permanently called priest has been in place for a period of one to two years. The settled priest, in consultation with the bishop, may invite a former priest to return after that period.

Out of respect for The Rev. ***Name’s*** new role as former ***Rector/Vicar/Priest-in-Charge*** the ***Vestry/Bishop’s Committee*** members will also encourage members of ***Church*** not to request or expect pastoral care, hospital visits, or priestly ministrations from The Rev. ***Name***. The ***Vestry/Bishop’s Committee*** understands that their new priest is responsible for and will provide all sacramental, liturgical, and pastoral care for ***Church.***

With love and gratitude for ***number*** years of ministry together we faithfully enter into this covenant.

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SENIOR WARDEN, ON BEHALF OF THE VESTRY

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BISHOP’S WARDEN, ON BEHALF OF THE BISHOP AND BISHOP’S COMMITTEE

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