

COVENANT FOR DEPARTING PASTORS
Grand Canyon Synod-ELCA
Phoenix, Arizona

As Christians, we all are baptized onto 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 _____ Lutheran Church.

In prayerful conversation with the congregation council I enter into the following Covenant.

I agree:

- To pray for the ongoing mission of this congregation and their new pastor.
- To communicate to this congregation, in writing and conversation, the terms of this Covenant, which terminates this pastoral relationship.
- To abstain from 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 this congregation and their new pastor (temporary or successor).
- To abstain from offering support or advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement.
- To decline 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 this congregation's new pastor.
- To continue to pray for the transformation and renewal of _____ Lutheran Church.

It is understood that this Covenant does not effect or require termination of friendships with individuals who are members of this congregation.

Signature of Pastor: _____ *Date:* _____

Witnessed by President (Vice-President): _____ *Date:* _____

Signed in the presence of the congregation at worship on _____.

After sharing this Covenant with the congregation, please forward a signed copy to the Grand Canyon Synod office for placement in the roster file of the departing pastor.