

Presbytery of Northern Waters

2105 Woodland Ave
Duluth, MN 55803

Covenant of Separation Ethics – MoO 4.508

The Pastor: _____,

the Church: _____

and the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of Northern Waters,
having discussed the intent and requirements of the Presbytery’s “Separation
Ethics for the Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships” regarding former pastors,
enter into the following covenant:

1. Pastor

I, _____ agree:

- a. not to become involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in the _____ congregation;
- b. not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute;
- c. not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the moderator of the session and clerk of session; and to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation;
- d. to consult with the moderator of session prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;
- e. to refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;
- f. to explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter or newsletter) and/or the pulpit before departing.

It is understood that this policy does not require termination of friendships with individuals in the congregation, but that a pastoral relationship no longer exists with them.

Pastor: _____ Date: _____

Print Name

Signature

Covenant of Closure
continued

2. Session

The Session of the _____ agrees:

- a. to respect the terms of the Covenant agreed upon by _____ outlined above; and
- b. to interpret the terms of the Covenant to the congregation and incorporate this agreement in the minutes of the congregational meeting when the pastoral relationship is dissolved; and
- c. to incorporate this agreement in the session minutes.

Clerk of Session:

_____ Date: _____
Print Name *Signature*

Commission on Ministry:

_____ Date: _____
Print Name *Signature*