

Covenant of Closure

MINISTER

1. I will separate myself from participation in the life of the congregation from which I am resigning or retiring during the interim/transitional period and for at least one year after the arrival of the new pastor.
2. I will be a true and loyal friend to my former congregation and to its minister by not making pastoral calls, hospital calls, or counseling with members, not presiding at weddings or funerals of former parishioners, and by declining all offices, positions and responsibilities in this, my former congregation, **except at the invitation of the current minister.**
3. I will confer only with the Regional Minister or the current minister of this congregation about any problems I perceive in the congregation, and not discuss them with members of the congregation or others.
4. I will communicate with the Regional Minister should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between myself and this congregation.
5. If at the end of one year after the arrival of the new pastor I wish to participate in this congregation, I will communicate such interests to the Regional Minister who will facilitate discussion of this possibility with the congregation and its pastor. If such participation is deemed appropriate, a “Covenant for a New Ministry When the Previous Minister is Remaining in the Community”* will be established.
6. I reaffirm my vows as an ordained/licensed minister. Relying on the grace of God I also reaffirm my commitment to the “Ministerial Code of Ethics” of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

CONGREGATION

1. We accept that our former minister will separate him/herself from participation in the life of this congregation during the interim/transitional period and for at least one year after the arrival of the new pastor.
2. We will be true and loyal friends to our former minister by not asking him/her to make pastoral calls, hospital calls or to counsel with members. We will not ask him/her to preside at weddings or funerals of parishioners nor will we offer positions, offices and responsibilities in this congregation, **except at the invitation of the current minister.**
3. We will confer only with the Regional Minister or the current minister of this congregation about any problems we perceive in the congregation, and not discuss them with the former minister(s).
4. *We will communicate with the Regional Minister should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between the former minister and this congregation.*
5. If one year after the arrival of the new minister we wish our former minister to participate in this congregation, we will communicate such interests to the Regional Minister who will facilitate discussion of this possibility with the congregation and its new minister. If such participation is deemed appropriate, a “Covenant for a New Ministry When the Previous Minister is Remaining in the Community”* will be established.
6. Relying on the grace of God, we reaffirm our commitment to the “Congregational Code of Ethics” of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

SIGNED

Outgoing Minister

Date

Officer of the Congregation

Date

Witness for the Region

Date