

Presbytery of the Miami Valley Covenant for Commissioned Ruling Elder

In keeping with the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to set forth clearly the agreement for the Commissioned Ruling Elder relationship between the _____ Presbyterian Church in _____ and Ruling Elder _____, the following covenant is mutually agreed to:

- A. Ruling Elder _____ agrees to provide pastoral leadership and guidance in the following ways during the period of this commission:
 - 1. Preach and involve the congregation in worship, thereby facilitating spiritual growth;
 - 2. Administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper if authorized by the Presbytery and the Session;
 - 3. Serve as Moderator of Session and congregational meetings, with Rev. _____ as mentor.
 - 4. Perform weddings and funerals if authorized by the Presbytery and the Session and in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio;
 - 5. Provide pastoral care, including visitation;
 - 6. Advise the Personnel Committee, serve ex officio with the Nominating Committee, and act as a resource to other committees as necessary;
 - 7. Maintain personal growth programs through formal and informal study as required and as appropriate;
 - 8. Attend meetings of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, and serve on presbytery committees and commissions as appropriate;
 - 9. Participate in evaluations of the pastoral experience with the Committee on Ministry;
 - 10. Agree to only perform pastoral duties for the church named in this agreement, and agree to cease all pastoral functions with this church when this commission ends;
 - 11. During the commission, the Commissioned Ruling Elder will remain a member of _____ Presbyterian Church.

- B. The congregation will support and cooperate with the Commissioned Ruling Elder in every way and will assume responsibility for:
 - 1. Attending worship services and meetings;
 - 2. Supporting the Commissioned Ruling Elder by engaging fully in the church's ministry to the community;
 - 3. Providing clerical assistance as needed;
 - 4. Participating in evaluation during and at the end of the commission.

- C. This Commissioned Ruling Elder's service will be part-time at _____ hours weekly.

D. This covenant is effective from _____ (date) through _____ (date), and is reevaluated annually as mutually agreeable, pending appropriate approval of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

E. The church agrees to provide the following compensation to the Commissioned Ruling Elder, with due regard to the minimums set forth in the presbytery-approved 2020 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation:

Cash Salary	_____
Housing Allowance	_____
Mileage and Professional Expense Reimbursement	_____
Continuing Education Allowance (must meet presbytery minimum—for 2020, \$1,220)	_____
Total package:	_____
Vacation, at one week per quarter, cumulative to four weeks per year	_____
Study leave, at one week per six months	_____

F. Either the Session or the Commissioned Ruling Elder can terminate the pastoral relationship, with notice of at least _____ days.

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Date

Clerk of the Session

Date

Chair, Committee on Ministry

Date

I attest that this covenant was approved by the Committee on Ministry, on delegated authority from the Presbytery, on _____ (date).

Stated Clerk

Date