

Pastoral Covenant

Because God has called me to live above reproach as I minister in this church (1 Timothy 3:2), I hereby promise this congregation and its leadership, and my colleagues in ministry, with God's help...

In my personal life: ... To exercise care for my relationship with God (through spiritual disciplines), for my physical health (appropriate rest, exercise, diet), for my relationships with friends (relaxation, transparency, accountability), and to pursue purity in my thoughts, words and behavior.

In my relationship to my family: ... To love my spouse, if married, faithfully in thought, word and deed; if parenting, to invest time to love and nurture our children in God's ways; if single, to nurture meaningful and right relationships with friends who provide appropriate emotional support.

In my relationship to finances: ... To receive my compensation for ministry gratefully, sensitively discussing concerns with those responsible for establishing it; to offer pastoral ministries to individuals without showing favoritism; to give proportionately to the church; and to live as a good steward of all I have, being an example for family and church, paying bills promptly, and not seeking personal favors because I am a pastor.

In my relationship to ministry: ... To reflect the beauty and dignity of Jesus Christ in relationship to others in the church and community; to give my energies fully to the congregation, accepting additional responsibilities only with the consent of its leadership; to maintain confidentiality, except where this might endanger the welfare of others; to speak truthfully with conviction and love, free of bitterness and spite; and to be a person of integrity in all I do and say.

In relationship to the congregation: ... To help lead this church to achieve the calling God has for it; to help people discover their spiritual gifts and equip them for ministry; regularly to seek the help of others in evaluating my ministry, being open to suggestions and counsel; and to respond with integrity to requests for ministry elsewhere.

In relationship to my colleagues: ... To speak well of my colleagues, seeking to enhance their reputation and ministry; and to relate with humility and integrity to my successors in pastoral ministry, engaging in ministry functions in my former place of ministry only with my successor's approval.

In relationship to my conference: ... To model and teach the Confession of Faith of the Mennonite Brethren; to lead this church in support of Mennonite Brethren ministries; and to support the leadership of the Mennonite Brethren to enhance our service for Christ. If I find myself no longer able to agree with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and/or Conference policies, I will seek the counsel of the District Minister and the Board of Faith and Life regarding my continued service.

In relationship to my resignation: ... When my ministry comes to an end for any reason, I will not enter into another ministry in the same geographic area that will jeopardize or threaten the ministry of my former congregation. The appropriateness of future ministry in that area will be determined in conversation with the congregation and the District Board of Faith and Life.

At the time of my resignation, I will seek counsel from the local church leadership for the purpose of discussing the overall impact of my ministry and leadership with the objective of enhancing my personal growth and ministry. I will also seek to have a similar conversation through an exit interview with the District Minister and/or the District Board of Faith and Life, seeking their counsel, guidance, and encouragement.

Congregational Representative

Pastor's Signature

Date

Conference Representative

(revised 10/12/2011)