



A COVENANT REGARDING ETHICS IN MINISTRY

As ministering people, we are called into relationship by a covenanting God, and our ethics are based on our covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This covenant is formed with Christ and the church at baptism, renewed at the Lord's Supper, and strengthened through every moment of grace experienced in Christ's body.

Ethical standards are set to create and maintain loving, caring, and responsible relationships within the church so that the church will be empowered to effectively participate in Christ's ministry.

Our covenantal commitments to ethical relationships are described in Section IV: Ethics in Ministry, in *A Shared Understanding of Church Leadership*, 2014 (pp 55-72), and summarized here.

The Minister covenants to maintain a healthy spiritual life, healthy personal relationships, and a transparent accountability in order to faithfully discern ethical issues arising in ministry. The minister commits to the self-reflection and intentional action needed to create ethical relationships and will be held accountable within the context of those relationships.

The Congregation/Ministry covenants to uphold the minister in these ethical commitments with trust, mutual submission, respect, and open conversation, all while speaking the truth in love. The congregation/ministry covenants to maintain ethical relationships with the minister and with one another.

The Area Church covenants to be in ongoing relationship with both the Minister and the Congregation/Ministry and to support them in maintaining a healthy relationship to each other, for the building up of the wider Church. The area church covenants to offer accountability, leadership development, counsel, and support, and whenever possible to maintain these relationships in the bond of love, peace, and unity.

Together, we also renew the covenant which God has made with us through Jesus Christ, seeking the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit in upholding our commitments. In signing this covenant, we demonstrate a desire to live out these commitments in God's grace.

Minister/Chaplain

Congregation

Congregational/Ministry Leader

Date

MCEC Representative