

## **PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER COVENANT/CONTRACT**

This Covenant/Contract between the session of \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_, IN, Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_, a member of Church of \_\_\_\_\_, and the Presbytery of Wabash Valley is for the purpose of providing pastoral services to the \_\_\_\_\_ Church for a period of not more than three years, beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_.

### **G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICE**

#### **G-2.1001 Functions**

When the presbytery, in consultation with the session or other responsible committee, determines that its strategy for mission requires it, the presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery. A ruling elder so designated may be commissioned to serve in a validated ministry of the presbytery. Presbytery, in its commission, may authorize the ruling elder to moderate the session of the congregation to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. This commission shall also specify the term of service, which shall not exceed three years but shall be renewable. The presbytery shall review the commission at least annually.

#### **G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning**

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

#### **G-2.1003 Commissioning Service**

When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of a ruling elder to serve a congregation providing the services described above, it shall commission the ruling elder to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery, employing the questions contained in W-4.4000.

#### **G-2.1004 Supervision**

The ruling elder commissioned under the terms of G-2.1001 shall work under the supervision of the presbytery. The presbytery may at any time withdraw the commission for reasons it deems good and sufficient. A teaching elder shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Commissioned Ruling elder is accountable to the session of the church and to the presbytery through its Commission on Ministry. The Commissioned Ruling Elder shall have voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder

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commissioner for purposes of parity).

### **MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS**

- To provide prayer and spiritual support as members of the family of Christ.

It is agreed that if the congregation, the session, or the commissioned Ruling Elder experiences any suggestions, interference, or other difficulty with any former pastors of the church (installed or temporary), officers or members of the church, the matter will be dealt with promptly, and will be referred to the session and/or the Commission on Ministry. The session asks the commissioned Ruling Elder to deny any requests by, or for, any former pastor to conduct any services of worship, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals for any member.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER**

- To work under the supervision of the presbytery through the \_\_\_\_\_ (moderator of session, mentor, liaison of COM to congregation).
- To provide annual reports of ministry to the Commission on Ministry for review.

—Please list and detail the job expectations of the commissioned Ruling Elder. —

### **EXPECTATIONS OF THE SESSION**

- To provide support and collegial consultation in working with the Commissioned Ruling Elder and the presbytery to establish goals for the present and future ministry of the church.
- To review, feedback and support the Commissioned Ruling Elder's work through any appropriate committee at least every six (6) months.
- To negotiate time away from \_\_\_\_\_ Church by the Commissioned Ruling Elder to fulfill responsibilities in the larger church, attend continuing education events and maintain personal care.
- To negotiate a new covenant/contract at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of this contract and to arrange for a re-commissioning by presbytery prior to the three year term of this covenant.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY**

- To provide support and consultative services to the commissioned Ruling Elder through the Commission on Ministry.
- To assist the session and the commissioned Ruling Elder with emerging needs through the resources of the committees of presbytery.
- To assign the Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ as (session moderator), mentor and supervisor.

### **FINANCIAL AND TIME PROVISIONS**

—Please attach the "ANNUAL SALARY REPORT/CHANGE OF CALL" for the current year. —

Compensation for the Commissioned Ruling Elder shall not be less than the minimum compensation established by Presbytery each year and reported annually as a "Terms of Call"

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report. Proportional compensation for part-time work is calculated by part-time hours/35 hours times the minimum established for commissioned ruling elders announced each year.

**TERMINATION PROVISIONS**

This agreement may be terminated by the session with sixty (60) days notice. The church shall pay full salary, housing and pension to the Commissioned Ruling Elder for a maximum of three (3) months from notice of termination of this contract, until succeeding full-time church employment is secured by the Commissioned Ruling Elder, or adjusted if part-time work is secured. Failure to negotiate a new contract prior to sixty (60) days from its expiration or notice of non-negotiation of a new contract shall be considered notice of termination.

This agreement may be terminated by the commissioned Ruling Elder with thirty (30) days notice, in which case payment beyond the thirty (30) day period will be forfeited. Vacation and study leave compensation, if accrued, is to be paid in full at time of termination.

**SIGNATURES**

The session, being satisfied with Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_ qualification and trusting that his/her ministry in the Gospel will be to our spiritual benefit, hereby commits our congregation to this Covenant/Contract and invites \_\_\_\_\_ to accept this commissioned Ruling Elder position.

Clerk of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioned Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

COM Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_