

SAMPLE FOUR-WAY COVENANT [ORDAINED MINISTRY]

A MINISTRY COVENANT

among

[Ordained Minister]

[Calling Body]

[Local Church where Minister is a member] and

[Association where Local Church is a member]

ABOUT THE FOUR-WAY COVENANT

The United Church of Christ advises that in instances where Ordained Ministers are called to non-parish employment, a covenantal relationship be established among the Ordained Minister, the calling body, the United Church of Christ as represented by an association or conference, and the Local Church where the Ordained Minister is a member.

This is known as a "Four-Way Covenant" and it is motivated by the conviction that Ordained Ministers in non-parish settings need to be active and participating members of a Local Church and that calling bodies have a responsibility to the ecclesiastical system.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this covenant is three-fold:

1. To strengthen, support, and sustain the ministries of all the partners that share in this covenant.
2. To encourage mutual participation and accountability of and for the life of each by the others.
3. To observe, nurture, celebrate, and call forth the ministry of the Authorized Minister.

TERMS

[Minister] serves as [ministry title or descriptive term] with/for/of [name of calling body]. S/he preaches and teaches the Gospel, exercises pastoral functions, and administers the rites and sacraments of the Church at such times and in such places as may be appropriate. The terms of her/his ministry are given in his/her letter of call from the [calling body], dated [date].

S/he will be invited by [name of Local Church] to teach and participate in leadership of worship as the need presents itself and as his/her time allows, as well as to receive support and encouragement in her/his ministry from members of the congregation.

As an Ordained Minister with standing in the Northern California Nevada Conference, [name of Minister] will be bound in the covenantal ties of mutual accountability and support, including periodic reviewing of the mutual faithfulness to this covenant from the perspective of each member of the Four-Way Covenant.

Obligations of compensation and employment exist exclusively between [name of Minister] and [name of Calling Body].

This Four-Way Covenant will exist as long as [name of Minister] serves as [title] with [name of Calling Body] and all partners agree with the covenant as stated.

We believe that this covenant is ordained by the Holy Spirit working among us, and we will labor diligently and faithfully to make it effective. We enter into this covenant with a deep conviction that ministry is rooted in the Local Church and is extended outward through concern and care for the larger Church and the world. It is in and through the community of the Church, the Body of Christ, that we discern our calling and are supported to live out our lives in faithfulness to that call. We believe that our mutual ministry is strengthened by this covenant. We trust in God's presence with us as we seek to be faithful to this covenant.

_____, Minister date:

_____, Calling Body representative date:

_____, Moderator, Local Church date:

_____, Moderator, Association date:

Received for the Northern California Nevada Conference by:

_____, Conference Minister date: