

**A CELEBRATION OF COVENANT BETWEEN
_____ PASTORAL CHARGE
AND _____ PRESBYTERY
(Clergy name)
(Date)
(Place)**



Gathering in God's Name

Presbytery Presider: _____ :
Pastoral Charge Presider: _____
Guest Speaker: _____
Scripture Reader: _____
Congregational Presenter: _____

Organ Prelude, Welcoming and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are called to be the church, to love God, and serve others.

**We gather as sisters and brothers in Christ, praising
God's faithfulness, embracing each other in God's
love, committed to acting out that love in God's world**

We worship God in joy, in expectation and in hope.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we know that change is a part of life itself. Some changes are happy ones and we celebrate together; some changes are sad ones and we share our grief. Some changes bring mixed feelings – feelings of loss, and feelings of excitement and expectations. Be with us, O God, in this time of change and offer us your care, as we try to live out your love in the midst of our transitions. We come to offer ourselves into Covenant with you this afternoon. Make your mark upon our hearts that we might be reminded of our part in this Covenant. This we ask in your name. Amen.

Opening Hymn: "In the Bulb" VU#703

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Eternal God

When our eyes are too full of our own visions;
When our ears are too full of our own sounds;
When our mouths are too full of our own wisdoms;
When our hearts are too full of our own concerns;
Break through;

Liberate us from the narrow worlds

which constrict our souls;

Liberate us from the fear which blinds us

to the nearness of your work on the horizon;

Liberate us from the preoccupation with the trivial

And uneasiness with what is great;

Liberate us into the community of God.

AND

When the hurt in our souls is deep;

When we feel weak at the beginning of a mighty task;

When we are parched for the water of life

and hungry for the breathe of heaven;

When we are guilty with a guilt that

Will not leave us in peace;

THEN O GOD

Heal us. Strengthen us. Feed us. Forgive us.

AND

Bring us

Through birth and rebirth

Through giving and forgiving

Through loving and loving kindness

Through using us and preparing us for use

Through judgement and grace

Into citizenship in the community

Where all are sinners, yet all are accepted

All are judged, yet all find mercy

All are limited, yet all are ministers

Grateful citizens,

Loving children of the community of God. Amen

Words of Assurance:

People of God, rejoice. In Jesus there is forgiveness
And freedom; in Jesus there is empowerment and peace.

In Christ all things are made new.

We are God’s Forgiven people. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 9:12-17

Isaiah 44: 14,18 & 19, 25

Psalms 122, #845 Praying for the Well Being of the Church

Hebrews 8:6-13

“May God bless to our understanding the reading of this scripture”

Amen

REFLECTION:

Hymn: “May the God of Hope Go With us” **VU#424**

CALL TO OFFERING:

Offertory: “For the Gift of Creation” ” VU#538

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love

And the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands,

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Dedication:

Covenant Service

Presbytery Presider: In Jesus, God came into the world not to be served but to serve. By our baptism we are called to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. As we prepare to make commitments to one another now let us join in a statement of our communal faith, saying together ...

The New Creed: Page #918

Congregational Presider: I present (name of clergy person) who has been appointed to an Interim Ministry in this Congregation. We believe (first name of IM) is well qualified and has been lawfully and prayerfully selected.

At this covenant time we recognize the work and commitment of the Transition Team: (names of TT, including Pres reps and IM) lawfully and prayerfully selected by _____ --- Pastoral Charge and _____ Presbytery to facilitate this ministry.

(Clergy first name), you are here in response to the invitation of _____ Pastoral Charge and by the action of _____ Presbytery. We come together to make a new relationship between you, the Congregation and the Presbytery. May the God, who has given us the will to do these things, give us the humility and grace to perform them

Presbytery Presider: Let us Pray:

Gracious God, in our baptism we covenanted to be one family of God’s people in ministry to each other and to God’s world; gift us now with your Holy Spirit as we commit ourselves to work together in Christ’s name Amen.

Promises of the New Minister:

Presbytery Presider: (clergy name), do you in the presence of this congregation commit yourselves to this new responsibility? (Clergy responds) I will, by the grace of Gd. I have come to share the life of this congregation, to minister and be ministered to, to learn and to encourage learning, to challenge, and to be challenged.

Presbytery Presider: Will you accept the discipline of the Presbyter, and together with its other members, be responsible for the oversight of the Church’s life? (Clergy responds); I will, by the Grace of God.

Presbytery Presider: Will you accept the support and encouragement of those with whom you minister in the congregation and this Presbytery?

(clergy responds): I will, by the Grace of God.

Presbytery Presider: Lorraine, you have been called by God to work together in this pastoral charge. Will you promise in faith and obedience to Jesus, to share this ministry, supporting one another in their common ministry for God?

(clergy responds): I will, by the Grace of God.

Promises of River Bend Presbytery

Presbytery Presider: Will the members of _____ Pastoral Charge please stand. (clergy first name) has been invited as Interim Minister to serve among you. The Transition Team has been chosen. (clergy first name) and the Transition Team will need your support and encouragement. Welcome, (clergy first name and names of Pres reps) as your friends and fellow workers. As members of the Church of Christ, you and they will serve together. The work of the church requires active cooperation and good will from all its members. On behalf of _____ Presbytery, I ask you, will you accept your Christian calling in this place and in the world?

Congregation **Yes, we will, with the help of God.**

Promises of the River Bend Presbytery

Presbytery Presider: Will the members of _____ Presbytery please encourage (clergy first name) as she assumes her responsibilities?

Presbyters: **Yes, we will, with the Grace of God.**

Presbytery Presider: Will you support and encourage this Pastoral Charge in their work and witness?

Presbyters: **Yes, we will, with the Grace of God.**

Presentation of Symbols

A Bible, water, bread and wine.

Presenter: Be among us to proclaim the Word and celebrate the sacraments.

All: **Amen**

A Clock:

Presenter: Take time and live a balanced life.

Take time to work and time to play,
Take time to learn and time to teach,
Take time to give, and be open to receiving
The bountiful blessings of life.

Spend time with yourself,
Spend time with the Divine,
Spend time with others,
Spend time in nature.

Take the time to spend time, enjoying all that life has to offer,
Rest. Work. Play. Serve. Learn. Teach. Give. Receive.
Create harmony, in the balance of life.

All: **Amen**

Rainbow Balloons:

Presenter: The colours of these balloons represent the variety and diversity of God's creation. The balloons represent the joy of the Spirit moving and dancing amongst us. Take these rainbow balloons and be among us as one who celebrates diversity, welcomes the dancing Spirit, and dares to live with joy.

All: **Amen**

The Manual and Congregational Goals:

Presenter: Be among us as one who helps us to work on our congregational goals and to pursue Interim Ministry talks that will benefit this congregation and help us to understand the traditional policies of The United Church of Canada.

All: **Amen**

The Anthem

The Choir and I present this anthem as a symbol of the volunteer work done by many in this Pastoral Charge. May it enrich our time together.

Declaration of the Covenant

Presbytery Presider: In the name of Jesus, and by the authority vested in me by _____ Presbytery, I declare that the

covenant which has been made this afternoon by (clergy first name), by the Pastoral Charge and by the members of _____ Presbytery of The United Church of Canada has been duly witnessed, and the relationship duly constituted. May God bless the ministry of Clergy first name, the members of _____ Pastoral Charge and all who gather here this afternoon.

Prayers of the People:

Parting Hymn: “We have this Ministry” VU# 510

Commissioning and Benediction

Hymn “Make a Joyful Noise: VU#820

Organ Postlude

Thank you to all the people who participating in this afternoon’s Covenanting Service.

Welcome You are invited to stay following the service for a potluck supper and fellowship.

