

**A Celebration of Covenant**  
**(date)**

**Between:**  
**(Presbytery,)**  
**(Pastoral Charge)**  
**(Clergy name)**  
**And GOD!**

***Participating in the service:***

Worship Leader:

Scripture Reader

Reflection Presenter:

Presbytery Representative:

Congregational Presenter:

Symbol Presenters:

    Clock –

    Balloons –

    Others as you desire . . .

Prayers of the People – Lay person from the congregation

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**Prelude:**

**Candle Lighting:** singing MV 85 Take, O Take Me as I Am

**Welcome & Announcements:**

**Centering Prayer:**

**Holy One,  
Like light spilling through dappled trees,  
You are with us.  
Like wind rippling through curtained windows,  
You are with us.  
Like water ever smoothing the sandy beach,  
You are with us.  
Embraced by your presence,  
We open our hearts to you.  
Encouraged by your love,  
We release our thoughts to you.  
Intrigued by your mysteries,  
We listen now for your song. Amen**

(Adapted from Keri K. Wehlander  
*Circles of Grace*)

**Centering Hymn:** VU 703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

**Scriptures/Readings:**

**I Corinthians 12: 1, 4-12**

**The Now Reading:** (*a contemporary reading that brings wisdom about Covenant*)

**Reflection:**

**Hymn:** VU 509 I, The Lord of Sea and Sky –(invitation to sing "God" instead of "Lord" or whatever suits the individual)

**Offering:** As per Presbytery's direction, the offering this evening will be received and forwarded to the Presbytery Student Bursary Fund (*or whatever*)

**Offertory:** MV 191 What Can I do?

**Dedication of Offering:** God of all peoples and God of all places, we present these offerings, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen

**Covenanting Service:**

*Presbytery Representative:* We are brought together this evening by our love of church, our need for community, and in our gratitude for being brought together to celebrate a Covenant Relationship. As we prepare to make commitments to one another, let us join in A Song of Faith the Refrain:

**A Song of Faith      *the Refrain:***

**God is Holy Mystery,  
beyond complete knowledge,  
above perfect description.**

**Yet,  
in love,  
the one eternal God seeks relationship.**

**So God creates the universe  
and with it the possibility of being and relating.  
God tends the universe,  
mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.  
God enlivens the universe,  
guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.**

**Grateful for God's loving action,  
We cannot keep from singing.**

**With the church through the ages,  
we speak of God as one and triune:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
We also speak of God as  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer  
God, Christ, and Spirit  
Mother, Friend, and Comforter**

**Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
and in other ways that speak faithfully of  
the One on whom our hearts rely,  
the fully shared life at the heart of the universe.**

**We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.**

*Congregational Presenter:* I present clergy name who has been called to Pastoral Ministry in this congregation. We believe first name is well qualified and has been lawfully and prayerfully selected.

At this covenant time we recognize the work of support staff person's names, support staff to the ministries of Pastoral Charge or congregation name I invite them forward to covenant with clergy person's first name

Clergy first name you are here in response to the invitation of pastoral charge or congregation's name and by the action of Presbytery name. We come together to acknowledge this new relationship between you, the congregation and the Presbytery.

*Presbytery Representative:* Let us Pray:

**Holy One, receive our prayers with gentleness.**

**Bring to this Covenant relationship, patience and perseverance.**

**Help us to help each other search out our spirits and our gifts, that we might support each other in the work that we need to do together.**

**May quiet words bring to us a sense of peace and a glimmer of your intentions for us.**

**Encouraged by love and intrigued by mystery may we listen. Amen.**

**Promises of the new Minister:**

*Presbytery Representative:* clergy first name, do you in the presence of all those gathered, commit yourself to this new responsibility?

*Clergy's first name:* I will, knowing that we will be supported by God. 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 Representative:* Will you accept the discipline of the Presbytery and together with its members, be responsible for the oversight of the Church's life?

*Clergy's first name:* I will, knowing that with God it will be just and fair.

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

*Clergy's first name:* I will, knowing that God shines through others.

*Presbytery Representative:* clergy's first name, you have been called to work in and

with Pastoral Charge or congregation's name. Do you promise to share this ministry, supporting one another in your journey together?

*Clergy's first name*: I will, knowing that the journey is of more importance than the destination.

**Promises of Support Staff:**

*Presbytery Representative*: Will you support staff, first names do your best to offer your gifts and skills to the ministries of Pastoral Charge or congregations name.

support staff, first names: We will, with the help of God

*Presbytery Representative*: Will you work cooperatively and in team with *Clergy's first name* seeking to serve the needs and wishes of the congregation?

support staff, first names: We will, with the help of God.

**Promises of the Congregation:**

*Presbytery Representative*: Will the members and adherents of Pastoral Charge or Church name please stand. *Clergy's first name* has been invited by you to serve among you as a called Pastoral Minister. Will you walk with her/him, talk with her/him, look for ways to cooperate with her/him and in the best ways possible seek to serve God together in this place?

*Congregation*: **We will, with the help of God.**

**Promises of River Bend Presbytery:**

*Presbytery Representative*: Will the members of Presbytery please stand. Will you encourage and support Clergy first name as s/he assumes her/his responsibilities in this congregation?

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

**Presentation of Symbols:** *(whatever the planning teams pick as appropriate to the setting and people, two possibilities are offered below:*

**A Clock**

*Presenter*: Take time to live a balanced life.  
Take time to work and to play,  
Take time to learn and 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.

**Rainbow Balloons** –

*Presenter:* The colors 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.

Other symbols as chosen by the search committee and or worship committee

**Declaration of the Covenant:**

*Presbytery Representative:* In the name of Jesus, and by the authority vested in me by Presbytery, I declare that the covenant which has been made this evening has been duly witnessed, and the relationship duly constituted.

May God bless the ministry of clergy and support staff first names, the members and adherents of name of pastoral charge or congregation and all others who gather here this evening.

**Special Music:** True Faith Needs No Defense MV 139

**Prayers of the People:**

We come offering prayer this evening. We have many concerns on our minds. We know that the answers we may receive might not be exactly what we think they should be, but because of love, we trust in the answers we receive.

I invite you to offer your prayers, in voice or in silence, now.

> > .....

There is so much in our hearts. We trust that our prayers are heard and will be answered in love. Amen.

**Parting Hymn:** Song of Community - Carolyn McDade – Songs for Congregational Singing #1

**Words of Departure:**

The covenant is complete.  
The presentness of God reaches beyond this place...  
As the spirit teaches inwardly,  
may we involve ourselves in the grander issues of life:  
those issues which make a compelling difference,  
which create the good life for all humanity. Amen

**Hymn:** As We Go Now - Season of the Spirit – vol 6

**Postlude:** VU 820 Make a Joyful Noise

