**CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY**

COVENANT OF CLOSURE

The PASTOR, the CHURCH NAME, and the Commission on Ministry of Cherokee Presbytery, having discussed the intent and requirements of the Presbytery’s Ethical Guidelines Between Departing Pastors and Their Congregations enter the following covenant:

1. I, the PASTOR agree:
2. Not to become involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in the CHURCH NAME congregation; and
3. Not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute;
4. Not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the moderator of the session and clerk of session;
5. To refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation;
6. To consult with the moderator of session prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;
7. To refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;
8. To explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter or newsletter) and/or the pulpit before departing.

It is understood that this policy does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals in the congregation.

1. The Session of the CHURCH NAME agrees:
2. To respect the terms of the Covenant agreed upon by PASTOR outlined above; and
3. To interpret the terms of the Covenant to the congregation and incorporate this agreement in the minutes of the congregational meeting when the pastoral relationship is dissolved; and
4. To incorporate this agreement in the Session minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature, Clerk of Session

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature, Departing Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature, COM/Presbytery Representative