

## **Covenant of Ministry Commissioned Ruling Elder**

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill, the \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE), agree to the following terms and conditions for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Presbytery of Prospect Hill

1. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill will, at its discretion, commission the CRE to administer the sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper, and to officiate at weddings, only in the congregation(s) currently being served.
2. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill will provide a moderator for the session, who will normally preside at all meetings of the session(s) and congregation(s) or at its discretion, commission the CRE to moderate the session.
3. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill will provide a Teaching Elder mentor for the CRE who will consult at least quarterly with the CRE to provide guidance, counsel and supervision. The mentor shall also meet with the session at least annually to hear the congregation's assessment of the relationship.
4. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill's Committee on Ministry will receive regular reports from the mentor and the CRE regarding the ministry of the CRE and the congregation(s).
5. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill's Committee on Ministry will review the effectiveness of the relationship between the CRE and the congregation prior to the end of the commission and approve the renewal or termination of the commission.
6. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill will grant voice and vote on the floor of Presbytery of Prospect Hill to the CRE for the duration of this covenant.
7. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill may rescind this covenant prior to the ending date at its discretion.

### The Commissioned Ruling Elder(CRE)

1. The CRE will provide \_\_\_\_\_ hours of service per week/month, including time for:
  - a) preparation of sermons.
  - b) preparation for classes/training led by CRE
  - c) travel to and from the congregation for worship and ministry.
2. The CRE will attend meetings of the session(s) and congregation(s). The CRE may be excused from all or part of meetings for administrative purposes at the discretion of the moderator or COM.
3. The CRE will provide emergency pastoral care either personally, or through other members of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill.
4. Duties of the CRE shall include: (Check all that apply)
  - Leading Worship
  - Nursing Home Visitation
  - Administrative duties
    - a) Correspondence
    - b) Oversight of and resource to committees.
    - c) Attend committee meetings as needed.

Program planning  
 Call on shut-ins and hospitalized  
 Funerals and grief visitation  
 Weddings  
 Other visitation  
 Counseling  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. The CRE will participate in at least one Continuing education event in consultation with the mentor and session.
6. The CRE will not be involved in the work of any Pastor Nomination Committee.

**The Congregation(s)**

1. In recognition of the above duties and responsibilities, the members of the session(s) agree to accept the CRE as an elder commissioned to the office of Pastor, to follow where the CRE leads, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to pray for the ministry of the CRE and the congregation(s).
2. The congregation(s) will continue an active search for an ordained pastor. (Yes/No)
3. The congregation(s) will compensate the mentor and the moderator appointed by COM.
4. The congregation(s) agree(s) to the following financial terms
 

Salary _____	Books _____
Housing _____	Other Terms:
Utilities _____	SECA _____
Pension/Annuity _____	Continuing Ed Cost _____
	Travel vouchered at IRS rate
Total _____	

 Plus 2 weeks paid vacation and 2 weeks study leave per year

**Endorsements**

Commissioned Ruling Elder	_____	_____
	(Signature)	(Date)
Clerk of Session	_____	_____
	(Signature)	(Date)
Committee on Ministry	_____	_____
	(Signature)	(Date)
Presbytery Stated Clerk	_____	_____
	(Signature)	(Date)

This is to be refiled at lease annually to COM with the CRE Pastoral Ministry Review, TE Mentor Report, and Session CRE Review attached.