



Covenant of Separation¹

This covenant of separation will guide the future relationship between (The Reverend Name) and (Church Name). It is designed to enable a healthy process of separation following the dissolution of the pastoral relationship on (Date). It is important that members and friends of (Church Name) understand and accept the terms of this covenant so that relationships with new ministerial staff may develop positively. This covenant is mutually affirmed by the (The Reverend Name) and the consistory of (Church Name) Church.

As of (Date), the (The Reverend Name) has relinquished all pastoral and professional duties as minister of this congregation and will no longer function as part of the staff of (Church Name). The (The Reverend Name) will accept no new pastoral obligations without the prior permission of the elders. *[If there are future obligations that will be fulfilled, such as weddings or funeral commitments, these are noted in the next sentence, otherwise the sentence is omitted.]* The consistory permits the (The Reverend Name) to complete the following future obligations in this congregation: (Itemize list with names and/or dates).

The congregation of (Church Name) recognizes and accepts the completion of (The Reverend Name)'s ministry here. As this congregation desires to live into its future, it releases (The Reverend Name) to move to a new form of ministry. To assist in this transition, the members of (Church Name) will refrain from requesting forms of pastoral services, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, and worship leadership from (The Reverend Name), lest the development of new relationships by either minister or people be hindered. Exceptions to this covenant may only be granted by the Board of Elders of the church.

(The Reverend Name) recognizes and accepts the completion of (his/her) ministry with this congregation. As (she/he) desires to support the future ministerial and congregational leadership of (Church Name), (The Reverend Name) will not provide any further pastoral service unless the elders shall so request; nor engage in conversations which offer opinions, advice, or criticism about the church's life and work or the performance of interim and subsequently installed minister/s.

This covenant is offered to the people of (Church Name) and (The Reverend Name) to strengthen their future mission and ministries. It grows out of deep gratitude for the special relationship that develops between minister and congregation.

Minister *(Signature & Date)*

Vice-President of Consistory *(Signature & Date)*

Classis Representative *(Signature & Date)*

¹ Adapted from document created by Holland Classis—used w/permission.