



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

COVENANT FOR INTERIM MINISTRY

between

Congregation (Name and Address)

and

Rostered Leader

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Our ministry comes from Christ through the Church and belongs to the whole people of God. The gospel calls all Christians to be ministers in word and deed. So it is the privilege of every Christian to be a steward of the gospel of God's reconciling love. The whole church ministers as it celebrates God's presence, shares in the Good News, cares for those in need, and witnesses to the power of God's love.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes the office of pastor. It also recognizes that there are occasions when parishes will need to be served by interim pastors while they are in the study or calling process. Keeping in mind the apostolic advice that all things be done decently and in order (*1 Corinthians 14:40*), the Church provides for the calling of interim pastors.

Accordingly, _____ and the Bishop of the
Name of Congregation
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA covenant with you to serve as

Title

from _____ to _____
dd/mm/yyyy *dd/mm/yyyy*

on the following conditions and mutual covenants.

WE TOGETHER

- A. Share in the mission which was given by Christ and involves the whole people of God.
- B. Engage in ministry as we celebrate God's presence, experience renewal through the gospel, give witness to Jesus Christ, and provide care, fellowship, and support for each other.
- C. Call forth leadership and equip our people for ministry in order to meet the challenges and opportunities presented us in the congregation and the community.
- D. Receive the Word of God as revealed in the Old and New Testaments and witnessed to by the Lutheran Confessions.
- E. Subscribe to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the constitutions(s) and bylaws of the congregations(s)
- F. During this interim, agree to address the following concerns:

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

YOU AS PASTOR

- A. Preach and teach the Word of God.
- B. Preside at worship and administer the sacraments according to the practice of the Lutheran Church.
- C. Provide pastoral care to all members of the parish according to our needs, visit us as necessary, and uphold us in prayer.

- D. Give pastoral leadership for the meetings, activities, and organizations of the congregation.
- E. Encourage us to support the total ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- F. Be responsible for the recording of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, attendance at Holy Communion, and the maintenance of the membership rosters; and report the statistics of the parish promptly and fully, as requested by The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- G. Agree not to make yourself available for regular call in this congregation.
- H. Agree not to be involved in the congregation's call process except when the synod president requests your participation.
- I. During this interim, will give special attention to

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

WE THE CONGREGATION

- A. Commit ourselves to the gospel by faithful participation in worship, learning, and fellowship activities.
- B. Seek to fulfill our calling to be servants to others in our families, occupations, communities, civic and political institutions, and voluntary associations.
- C. Receive you as our interim pastor, uphold you in prayer, and accord you our love, respect, and good will.

D. Look to you to preside at baptisms, celebrations of Holy Communion, and the rites of the Church.

E. Agree that we will not consider you for regular call to this congregation.

F. Compensate you in the following ways:

1. Pay you a salary of \$ _____, the payments to be made in equal installments weekly bi-monthly monthly as follows:

2. Provide for your housing as follows:

3. Grant one week vacation for each ten weeks of full time interim service, not to exceed five weeks.

4. Additional compensation:

G. Reimburse you for expenses related to our common ministry as follows:

1. Pay you a travel allowance of _____

2. Pay expenses, not otherwise provided for, incurred in attending synod assemblies and other official meetings at which your attendance is required.

Please send a signed copy of this Covenant to the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod office for review and signature of the Synodical Bishop.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA
305 E Street, NW Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20001

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It is sincerely hoped that you find it to be in accordance with God’s will to give this invitation your immediate and affirmative response.

This covenant terminates when a new pastor has accepted the call to this parish or may be terminated by the interim pastor, congregation, or the synodical bishop with a thirty-day notice.

Upon completion of interim ministry, and in accordance with the bylaws of the ELCA, the pastor MUST make the request to the synodical bishop for a change in rostered status. Please contact the Synod Office for the guidelines for change in rostered status.

Correspondence should be sent to: _____
This is usually the Congregation Council President

Address: _____

Contact Information: H: _____ W: _____
C: _____ E: _____

WITNESS OUR HANDS on this the _____ day of _____ 20 _____

Name of Congregation

Congregation Council President
print

City ST

Signature of Congregation Council President

ACCEPTED BY: _____

Interim Pastor
print

Date

Signature of Interim Pastor

ATTESTED BY: _____

Date

Signature of Bishop, Metropolitan Washington D.C.
Synod