

**A THREE-WAY MINISTRY COVENANT FOR EXEMPT MINISTER
AMONG
ORDAINED MINISTER
LOCAL CHURCH
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE**

ABOUT THE THREE-WAY COVENANT for Exempt Status

The rite of Ordination is understood as lifelong, however there may come a time when the public ministry of an Ordained Minister comes to a close. In these circumstances, Ordained Ministers currently with Authorized Ministerial Standing may apply to their Committee on Ministry (COM) for Exempt Standing, covenanting to no longer perform acts of public ministry (defined below). The United Church of Christ advises that when an Ordained Minister has chosen to maintain Exempt Standing, a covenantal relationship be established among the Ordained Minister with Exempt Standing, the Local Church, and the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association or Conference. This relationship is known as a three-way covenant, with each party accountable to and for the others.

The purpose of this covenant is three-fold:

1. To strengthen, support and sustain the ministries of all the partners that share in this covenant.
2. To encourage mutual participation and accountability of and for the life of each by the others.
3. To observe, nurture, celebrate, and call forth the ministry of the Ordained Minister with Exempt Standing.

COVENANTS OF MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Ordained Minister's name, as an Exempt Minister of the United Church of Christ covenants:

To *Local Church of membership* United Church of Christ in *City/State*

- to serve *Local Church* in roles of service traditionally performed by lay persons such as participate on a committee, teach a class, serve as liturgist in worship, and guest preach when invited by the Local Church minister.
- To be available in and for the local church to perform all functions of an Ordained Minister at the Pastor's or Adjudicating bodies request.
- Maintain membership in good standing with *Local Church*, including financial support for the general ministries of *Local Church* and a commitment to earnest prayer for the well-being of this congregation and its ministry and to embody the ethics of the UCC Ministerial Code.
- Fidelity to the terms of this covenant and dedication to the tasks as set forth.

Authorized Minister's Name

To the Pacific Northwest Conference where Standing is held:

- Attendance at the Annual Meeting and participation in Ministerium gatherings when available.
- To vote in church and Conference meetings when appropriate.
- Adherence to oversight by the PNC Committee on Ministry in accordance with the guidelines outlined in this Covenant.
- Submission of any change in contact information.
- To refrain from seeking ministerial positions, entering into Call Agreements, providing on-going Pulpit Supply and other ministry outside [the local church](#).
- To refrain from officiating at weddings and funerals, unless invited by an Ordained Minister in good standing and for members of their immediate family.
- *Additionally, as a Minister with Exempt Standing, I understand that I may request to reinstate my Active Ministerial Standing in the PNC should I desire to return to Active Ministerial Standing.*

[Local Church United Church of Christ](#), as the Local Church of Membership covenants:

To [Ordained Minister with Exempt Standing](#):

- Belief in God's call that has led you to this particular season of mission and ministry.
- Prayers for [her/his/their](#) work with the [Local Church](#).
- Public recognition of an Ordained Minister with Exempt Standing as a member of the congregation and to extend invitations to co-officiate rites and sacraments when appropriate.

To the Pacific Northwest Conference, the [Local Church](#) Covenants:

- Appropriate documentation of an ordained minister with Exempt Ministerial Standing.
- Fidelity to the covenants of mutual accountability as articulated in this document.

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ covenants:

To [Ordained Minister's name](#):

- All the rights and responsibilities of an Ordained Minister with Exempt Standing in this Conference.
- Clear communication of this Conference's requirements for good Exempt Ministerial Standing (submission of the Annuals Information Review form and conduct that is in keeping with the Ministerial Code of Ethics).
- Assure the Exempt Standing is entered into the National Data Hub.

To [Local Church](#), United Church of Christ:

Authorized Minister's Name

- Belief in the local church as the locus for mission and ministry in the United Church of Christ and thankfulness for your support of the [Ordained Minister's name](#) holding Exempt Standing.
- Appropriate support and oversight of all ministers in three- or four-way covenants with your congregation.

We trust in God's presence with us as we seek to be faithful to this covenant:

_____ [Minister with Exempt Standing](#) Date: _____

_____ Moderator, [Local Church, City/State](#) Date: _____

_____ COM Pacific Northwest Conference Date: _____

Date received in the PNC Office: _____