PRESBYTERY OF LAKE HURON
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

COVENANT OF CLOSURE

I, _____, hereby agree to the dissolution of my call as Pastor of _____, effective _____, under the following terms:

The_____ , the _____
pastor Name and location of church

and the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Huron having discussed the intent and requirements of the Presbytery's Policy "Professional Ethics When Leaving A Church" enter into the following covenant:

1. _____ agrees
name of pastor

   a. not to involve him/herself in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in _____ and
   name and location of the church

   b. not to intervene, support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute, and

   c. 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

   d. to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members or the _____ congregation, and _____
   name of the church name of pastor

   e. to recognize that some circumstances make it unwise for a prior pastor to return to visit a previous congregation, and as a matter of professional courtesy, to establish an understanding with the new Moderator of Session regarding subsequent visits to the church, attending worship or attending a special event, and

   f. to refrain from giving opinions or direction regarding church business that could undermine the transition necessary for the church and the development of the relationship between the congregation and a new pastor.

      It is understood that this Policy does not affect or require the termination of friendships with individuals in the _____ congregation.
      name of the church

2. The _____Session and members agree
Name of the church

not to initiate pastoral or professional contact with previous pastors

a. to respect the terms of the Covenant of Closure agreed upon by _____ outlined above, and _____
name of pastor name of the church

b. to interpret the terms of the Covenant of Closure to the congregation, and

c. to incorporate this agreement in the Session minutes

d. will communicate the terms and intent of this agreement to the congregation through all means available.

3. The Presbytery of Lake Huron's Commission on Ministry shall

a. interpret this Covenant of Closure to the Session and congregation of _____
name of the church

b. be the Presbytery's agent in reminding the parties to this Covenant of Closure of the principles of the Covenant in the event any transgressions are reported to it, and

c. note this agreement in the Minutes of the Commission on Ministry

_____ _____
Pastor's Name Date

_____ _____
Clerk of Session Date

_____ _____
Church's Name Location

_____ _____
Representative Date
Commission on Ministry