

PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY

Committee on Ministry A General Statement of Underlying Principles: Policy Regarding Former Pastors

This Letter of Agreement should be shared throughout the congregation so that others may understand the changes in the pastoral role and responsibilities and can cooperate as the church and pastor move into another phase of their respective lives.

- A. (Pastor's name) resignation effective (date) signifies (his/her) understanding that all pastoral and administrative duties in this church are terminated as of that date.
- B. It is further mutually understood that this applies to the interim period before another pastor is called.
- C. (Pastor's name) agrees that (she/he) will not provide pastoral guidance for weddings, baptisms or funerals in the former congregation or with members of the former congregation. Planning and counseling are to be performed by the resident pastor, either interim or installed. Any former pastor may be invited to share in services as a guest at the invitation of session and the current pastor as prescribed in the *Book of Order*. The former pastor should remember that it is much easier to avoid awkward situations with both former parish families and the church organization by saying "no" and attending as a guest. Ordinarily the former pastor shall not participate in the life of the congregation formerly served.
- D. (Pastor's name) agrees that (he/she) will neither say nor listen to any uncomplimentary or critical remarks concerning the present, interim or future clergy in social or other gatherings.
- E. It is agreed that (pastor's name) will not expect to have the freedom to use the services of the church office or support staff. It is expected that all church property, including all church keys, will be returned on the last day of service.
- F. If, after a suitable period of time, there is a desire on the part of the next pastor to review any of the above items, he or she may investigate that with the consent of the session and provided (pastor's name) is willing for such a review and renegotiation to occur.

_____ : Date

_____ : Pastor

_____ : Chairperson, Committee on Ministry

_____ : Clerk of Session