**Virginia Synod ELCA**

**Synodically Authorized Ministry**

**Model Covenant – Minister**

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , have been made a member by Holy Baptism of the Body of Christ and the universal priesthood of all believers, and have been invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Having been authorized by the Bishop of the Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to serve as a Synodically Authorized Minister within the congregation/parish of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , beginning on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby solemnly covenant before Almighty God and with this congregation/parish, faithfully and regularly to:

* do my utmost to maintain peace and harmony within the congregation/parish;
* commit myself to this new trust and responsibility;
* be diligent in my study of holy scriptures;
* provide for my personal growth in ministry through reading and study;
* meet regularly with my supervising pastor;
* be faithful in my use of the means of grace and in prayer;
* seek to grow in love for those whom I serve, to strive for excellence in my skills, and to adorn the gospel of Christ with a godly life;
* limit my service to this congregation/parish;
* abide by the “Expectations and Responsibilities” and “Supervision and Accountability” as outlined in the Virginia Synod Synodically Authorized Ministry Policy.

I promise that I will support and build up my colleagues, speak the truth in love and be receptive when that truth is spoken to me, and to forbear and forgive as God in Christ has forgiven me. I understand that my service as a Synodically Authorized Minister is accountable to the Congregation/Parish Council and that my authorization to provide this ministry within the synod must be renewed annually by the bishop and may be revoked by the bishop at any time.

Asking Almighty God to help and guide me, I make this covenant in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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