

A COVENANT FOR MINISTRY

We are called to be a people of God. Being the people of God, individually and corporately called to obedience to Christ, we come together as communities of faith, as individuals in those communities, and as regions supporting those communities.

In recognition of this calling, we will seek to be obedient to Christ as we relate to one another. Accordingly, we will refrain from practices detrimental to our relationships. We will live, in the midst of this world, a transformed life consistent with biblical principles.

In recognition of our calling to be a family of believers,

We celebrate our heritage by working with and through the American Baptist Churches USA, the American Baptist Churches of _____ (Region), _____ Area, the _____ Association, and this local community of faith.

In recognition of our calling to model Christ in this world,

We will demonstrate the spirit of Christ as we unite minister, community of faith, and the larger American Baptist family in a working relationship. Our relationship will be, from beginning to end, open, honest, and caring.

In recognition of our calling to be people who are growing in Christ,

We will encourage and uphold one another in all areas of life: spiritually, physically, emotionally, intellectually, and socially.

In recognition of our calling to model reconciliation,

For the sake of our community of faith and for the sake of our community's and the larger American Baptist family's witness for Christ, we will deal redemptively and constructively with conflict.

In recognition of our calling as forgiven people,

We will exercise forgiveness and be forbearing in all of our dealings.

In recognition of our calling to commit our lives and destinies to Christ,

When we believe God to be moving us to change this relationship, we will effect that change in such a way as to carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Minister: _____

Moderator: _____

Region Staff: _____

Date: _____