

**THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER CONTRACT**

The following contract between the session of [Name of Congregation] (“Church”) and [Name of Ruling Elder to be Commissioned] (“CRE”) is for the purpose of providing temporary pastoral services to the Church.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

The CRE is employed by the session of the Church with the concurrence of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee through its Commission on Ministry to serve for the period _____ to _____ (*commissions may be for a period of no more than 3 years, renewable*).

The CRE may periodically (check all that apply):

- ___ Administer the Lord’s Supper.
- ___ Administer the Sacrament of Baptism.
- ___ Moderate the session of the congregation under the supervision of and when invited by the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery, or when appointed by presbytery as moderator.
- ___ Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible committee, and when allowed by the state.

The CRE will regularly (check all that apply):

- ___ Have a voice in meetings of presbytery.
- ___ Have a vote in meetings of presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity).

PASTORAL TASKS:

The CRE will be responsible for providing pastoral duties as indicated below: (*Designation of seven areas of responsibility is generally considered a full time commitment.*)

List areas of responsibility in priority order:

- ___ **PREACHING AND LEADING WORSHIP** - Public presentation of the Gospel through: preparing sermons and leading worship; administering sacraments; officiating at weddings and funerals as requested; planning for special worship related to season to the Christian Year.
- ___ **VISITATION** - Developing bonds of caring with members through: routine calling on homes of the congregation; visiting hospital patients or members in nursing homes, etc.; pastoral care of persons and families in crisis and experiencing significant life events (birth, marriage, death, vocational changes, etc.).
- ___ **ADMINISTRATION** - Building a more effective church organization by: helping to plan and develop the church's program of activities in order to be prepared for the coming of the next installed pastor; training leaders toward responsible leadership; resourcing church committees along with leaders; supervising whatever office operation the church may have.
- ___ **TEACHING** - Fulfilling calling as a teacher by: teaching the following class(s) - _____ (*specify responsibility*); holding confirmation classes; conducting officer and / or teacher training.
- ___ **PERSONAL GROWTH** - Seeking continued professional and spiritual growth: in faith through devotional use of the Bible and other reading and regular prayer and spiritual discipline; in personal maturity and pastoral skills through participation in continuing education.

____ SERVICE TO THE GREATER CHURCH – Service to the Presbytery, the Synod, General Assembly.

Please provide details pertaining to this CREs specific commission (i.e. particular pastoral care responsibilities, particular service responsibilities)

It is understood that this contract may be terminated by either party upon 30 days / 60 days (*circle one*) written notice and the concurrence of the Commission on Ministry.

TERMS:

The compensation shall meet the presbytery minimum if the position is full time.)

Cash Salary	_____
Housing	_____
Furnishings / Utilities	_____
Social Security self-employment	_____
Pension/Major Medical	_____

(If the Pastor is an active member, pension and medical insurance dues are applicable as for installed pastor. The church may assist the Pastor with cost of Medicare supplement or other insurance.)

Automobile Expenses _____

(Presbytery recommends reimbursement up to the current IRS rate per mile for business mileage.)

Moving Costs <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Four Weeks Vacation	<i>(prorated annually)</i>
Two Weeks Study Leave	<i>(prorated annually)</i>
Professional Expenses	_____

Commissioned Ruling Elder

Date

Clerk of Session

Date

Chair, Commission on Ministry

Date