

**COVENANT FOR
SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTERS
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD/ELCA AND CONGREGATION**

This covenant is between _____
_____ (congregation names and addresses)
and the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Synodically
Authorized Minister (SAM) _____ (name).

The purpose of this covenant is to:

- Lift up the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of God’s Church in the South Dakota Synod;
- Provide ministry and order for congregations of the South Dakota Synod, and
- Provide for the authorization of lay ministers.
- Provide for a working partnership between congregation, synod, and SAM.

Responsibilities of the Bishop and Support to Ministries Committee:

- The Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, together with the Synod’s Support to Ministries Committee, agrees to support the SAM named below with prayer and continued involvement in the SAM’s candidacy efforts.
- The Bishop and/or Synod Staff shall interview, approve, and authorize candidates for SAM, and present them to the Support to Ministries Committee for approval and for annual review.

The candidate for Synodically Authorized Minister agrees to fulfill these expectations:

- Be a member of an ELCA congregation of the South Dakota Synod;
- Be enrolled in the ELCA candidacy process through the Synod’s candidacy committee for one of the rosters of the church.
- Agrees to the psychological testing conducted with candidates for ELCA candidacy;
- Agrees to live in accordance with the ELCA’s Vision and Expectations document for rostered leaders.
- Agree to meet regularly, usually twice a month, with a mentor who was chosen through a recommendation of the Support to Ministries committee. Further agree to work together to develop a relationship between the mentor’s and the SAM’s congregational settings so that pulpit exchanges and other shared programming can be accomplished.
- Agree to submit a written quarterly report to the Bishop.
- Agree to participate in conference and synod events, and to encourage the congregation’s support of and involvement in synod and ELCA ministries.
- To preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
- To uphold the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Synod, and this congregation.
- To live in accordance with Vision and Expectations for Rostered Leaders of the ELCA
- To pray for the congregation, its mission, and its members
- To encourage the congregation in the call process towards securing an ordained pastor.

Responsibilities of the Congregation(s):

- Commit to continuing in the call process for an ordained pastor, recognizing that congregations of the ELCA are best served through the ordained ministry of the Church. Each congregation should seek, through faithful stewardship, evangelical outreach, partnership with neighbor churches, or other means, to reach the point where an ordained minister can be called to serve as pastor.
- Regard the SAM as their worship leader and spiritual advisor, showing honor for the preparation and dedication of the SAM for their ministry.
- Pray for the SAM, their family, and their work in the congregation.
- Encourage the SAM in the discernment of their call to serve the church.
- Compensate the SAM in a fair and just way, following the Synod's compensation guidelines.

Mentor: Pastor _____,
Serving _____ (filled in by StM)

Signed _____
Synodically Authorized Minister

Signed _____
Bishop, South Dakota Synod

Signed _____
Congregation President

Bottom portion for office use:

At it's meeting on _____ (date) the South Dakota Synod Support to Ministries
Committee voted to recommend _____ (name of SAM) to be authorized as a
Synodically Authorized Minister at _____
_____ (churches) of _____
_____ (address).

This authorization for Word and Sacrament ministry begins _____ (date) for one year.
Review and renewal may happen at that time. Authorization can be withdrawn at the Bishop's discretion,
and if the Covenant is not being fulfilled.