

**COVENANT IN MINISTRY BETWEEN  
THE PEOPLE OF  
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH  
DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA  
DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
AND  
THE REVEREND KYLE WAGNER  
RECTOR, CHRIST CHURCH DARTMOUTH**

**JUNE 6, 2017<sup>1</sup>**

**PREAMBLE:**

**Ministry is defined as:** *the work of all members of the church, through their baptismal covenant. Together we work in the service of our Lord, to live out the gospels as one community, united in social justice, pastoral care and stewardship.*

**PREFACE:**

This covenant affirms such documents as the Episcopal Guidelines for Healthy Parish Life, and the Constitution, Canons and Guidelines of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, as well as the Parish Profile received by Parish Council.

We affirm that the position of Rector assumes the ministry of a person ordained to the Office of a Priest. This ministry is described as the work of “pastor, priest and teacher” which includes: “to proclaim by word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . to fashion life in accordance with its precepts . . . to love and serve the people . . . preach, declare God’s forgiveness . . . to pronounce God’s blessing . . . to preside at the administration of holy baptism and at the celebration of the mysteries of Christ’s body and blood, and to perform other ministrations entrusted . . .” We affirm the context of parish life as it is described in Canon 35, Parochial Government, in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, recognizing in its provisions the vital parts of our common life. The Office of Rector provides for primary leadership throughout the parish, and is best expressed through a consultative, shared ministry in the community of the baptized. We affirm the Mission Statement of Christ Church as it is described as **“to be a welcoming Christian community committed to enabling each other to grow through worship, spiritual fellowship and service, following the example of Christ.”**

**This covenant is also based upon the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada.** Because we are all ministers by our baptism, such marks will engage all the people of Christ Church, fostering an atmosphere of positivity, growth, and renewal.

**A Background on the Five Mark of Mission:**

The Five Marks of Mission are<sup>2</sup>:

1. *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
2. *To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers*
3. *To respond to human need by loving service*
4. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue*

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<sup>1</sup> Updated May 1, 2019

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.anglican.ca/marks/about>

*peace and reconciliation*

5. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

These five Marks of Mission are a framework used to describe and encourage ministry throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion.

### **Spiritual and Personal Wellbeing:**

I commit to the overall wellbeing of myself by taking my allotted days off (Friday, Saturday), knowing that sometimes parish events may fall on these days. Also, I commit to taking my four weeks' vacation, a week study leave, and a week spiritual retreat leave. I also commit to the overall wellbeing of laity, and paid staff, and I will encourage them to take the time they are allotted in an effort to maintain spiritual and physical wellness.

I commit myself to continued education, particularly as I work towards completing a Doctorate of Ministry degree, seeking the support of the parish as I undertake this endeavour.

We, the Laity, covenant to support the Rector's need for days off, vacation, study leave, and spiritual retreat leave, to maintain a healthy spiritual and personal wellbeing.

We, the Laity, covenant to support the Rector's continued education by intentionally encouraging him to develop his academic advancement, supporting him in his pursuit of his Doctorate of Ministry.

### **SPIRITUAL, & PARISH DEVELOPMENT:**

*To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers*

#### **Spiritual Development:**

As Rector, I affirm the priority of spiritual development by supporting and nurturing the community life through worship and faithful programming. I confirm my commitment to creating and promoting Christ Church as a welcoming church community to the wider community of Dartmouth, in an effort to grow the church and to see the image of Christ in the faces of our community members.

I covenant to affirm and uphold the spiritual life of the parish. I covenant to listen and be sensitive to the spiritual needs of members of all ages, and in particular young families and the youth in our community. Together with Parish Council and committees, I will discern, develop and implement programs that will adequately meet expressed needs.

We the Laity, affirm the priority of spiritual development and the fostering of an energetic, diverse, and rich spiritual life. We commit to assisting our Rector in developing our collective resources by recognizing and accepting our shared ministry of spiritual development.

**Parish Development:**

I commit myself to Ministry in the parish and developing the spiritual lives of all people in the parish and community. I particularly will seek to engage the wider community, and encourage church growth through direction connection to younger generations. I commit to provide pastoral care, a developed curriculum, and a safe environment for youth and leaders to grow spiritually and socially.

We, the Rector and the Laity, covenant to work together to develop, nurture, support and engage in programming and community life, which fosters the spirit. We, the Laity, covenant to support the Rector's continued support for youth ministry in the parish and community by intentionally encouraging such a ministry through prayer, and intentional listening.

**WORSHIP, PREACHING & MUSIC MINISTRY:**

*To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

As Rector, I affirm the importance of sound theological worship, and music.

As Liturgy is the "Work of the People" I commit to listen to the desire of the parish in regards to forms of worship.

I covenant to uphold the rich tradition of preaching, and seek to bring preaching which engages God's people. Time will be allotted for the crafting of weekly sermons.

I covenant to work with all leaders in the parish who have an official role in worship.

I commit to foster a positive relationship, (based upon mutual support and uplifting of gifts) with the parish Organist and Music Director.

The parish covenants to listen to the desires of the congregation in terms of music as liturgy, mindful to the broad range of traditions in our beloved Anglican Church community, and wider ecumenical partners.

I commit myself to the nurturing and support for lay ministry in the parish including lay readers, Eucharistic ministers, and all called to serve.

We the Laity, affirm the priority of liturgical worship. We the Laity affirm the priority of preaching and seek to provide our priest time in preparing for Sunday worship.

We covenant to work with and support each other and the Rector in defining the worship needs of the church community, including music ministry. We commit ourselves to support our Rector, musicians and lay readers.

## **PASTORAL MINISTRY & VISITATION:**

*To respond to human need by loving service*

The Rector and the Pastoral Visitor covenant to support one another in their mutual ministry. The Pastoral Visitor will provide pastoral care in the community for those who are shut in and in times of continued pastoral care. *Please see covenant signed by The Rev. Kyle Wagner and The Rev. Bonnie Baird.*

The parish covenants to support and uphold the ministry of the Pastoral Visitor, and to communicate with the Rector and the Pastoral Visitor when pastoral care needs are seen or arise in the community.

The Rector covenants to be present in times or crisis, illness and death to support the Pastoral Visitor and lay leadership in the continued pastoral care of the congregation, discerning together how to best approach the multitudes of needs with grace and dedication.

As Rector, I affirm the priority of pastoral care, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. The visiting of the people of the church is paramount in fostering a rich and vibrant faith community.

I covenant to support and work with the community in defining the pastoral needs of the parish and developing ministries to meet these needs.

I commit myself to nurturing the people of this church community, and to offer support and counsel to persons of all ages, in particular during times of crisis, illness and death.

We the Laity, affirm the priority of pastoral care. We covenant to work with and support each other and the Rector in defining the pastoral needs of the church community.

We commit ourselves to undertaking regular reviews of pastor needs of the parish and, with the Rector, taking action on the identified needs, to determine the future focus of the parish in terms of pastoral care. This includes the communication of the needs of the parish. The Rector needs to know of who is sick and in need of pastoral care. A good communication network among all members of the church is essential for maintaining a healthy congregation.

We, the Rector and the Laity, covenant to work together to define the pastoral needs of the Parish and to nurture the church community especially during times of crisis, illness and death.

## **OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

*To seek to transform unjust structures of society,  
to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*

I commit myself to being attentive to the needs and concerns of the neighborhood and the community at large, identifying with the local community at large, its needs and concerns within the community and the development and future growth of the church.

I covenant to support and work with the wider community in defining the needs of the God's people through positive relationships with government officials, and social agencies. I commit to encourage and foster the social outreach of the parish and to continue the excellent work that defines Christ Church's character.

Participation within the community is essential for Christ Church if continued growth and stability is to be accomplished.

We the laity commit ourselves to justice, peace and social concerns within our church community, as well as, supporting our Rector in identifying the needs and concerns of the local community at large, beyond our own borders, and the wider world.

### **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:**

*To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

As Rector, I affirm the priority of strong and sound use of parish resources within our parish community, our local community at large, and the world. I covenant to discern with the church community the time, talents and treasures of its membership.

We the Laity, affirm the priority of strong and sound use of parish resources. We covenant to follow the Rector's lead and support him in developing our time, talents and treasures.

### **PARISH ADMINISTRATION**

As Rector, I covenant to provide continuing support and leadership for staff, paid and volunteer, in the council and committees of the parish, carrying out the administrative requirements of the community in a timely manner, respecting the roles and functions of other persons.

I commit myself to providing leadership, focus and clarity in programming and the administration of such programs. I covenant to seek support and guidance in the management of paid office staff.

The Parish covenants to encourage laity to carry out administrative functions as determined by the gifts of the laity and the discernment of the executive.


We the Laity, affirm the priority of administration. We covenant to engage with the Rector in providing good and sound leadership.

We commit ourselves to actively assist our Rector while he works to install good and sound leadership. We the Laity, seek to support the Rector as he manages paid office staff.

### **CONCLUSION:**


We covenant to carry out our ministries in partnership with the Bishop and the whole Church as the People of God in the Parish of Christ Church. We commit ourselves to review annually our performance within the Covenant, and to review this Covenant under

the oversight of our Bishop through our Archdeacon in one year's time and thereafter on a bi-annual basis. We covenant to carry out our ministries in partnership with the Bishop and the whole Church as the People of God in the Parish of Christ Church. Together, and on behalf of the Parish Council and Parish Family, we make this Covenant commitment on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

Signed:  (Date: 2019/05/15)  
Jim Graham, Sr. Warden, Christ Church

Signed:  (Date: May 15 / 19)  
Christine Hoehne, Christ Church

Signed:  (Date: May 15 / 19)  
Captain Steve Smith, Christ Church

Signed:  (Date: May 15 / 19)  
The Rev. Kyle Wagner, Rector, Christ Church