**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**An Authorized Lay Worship Leader and Rostered Mentor Annual Covenant**

**For the Upper Susquehanna Synod**

**For the period January 1st, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through December 31st \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*The term “authorized” in regard to the Lay Ministry Institute lay leader programs of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, carries a distinct meaning, and does not automatically apply to all LMI program participants. Those participants in the programs of the LMI who do so for the purpose of making their skills and gifts available as resources to the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod seek, at program’s end, the authorization of the bishop in addition to a certificate of completion. Authorization by the bishop assures congregations that these people have been adequately prepared, continue to develop their skills, and are accountable to the larger church.*

“Statement of Commitment – Authorized Lay Leaders”

In order to share our God-given gifts as contribution to the mission of Christ’s church, to preserve good order, and to facilitate accountability to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, we make this covenant with each other and the Bishop to uphold the ministry of Authorized Lay Worship Leaders of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.

We have reviewed the Authorized Lay Leader’s Code of Practice (*Lay Ministry Institute Handbook*) and agree to abide by its expectations.

We agree to meet together (*please circle one*) monthly/quarterly/semi-annually to review ministry experiences, to discuss strengths and growing edges, to review at least three (3) written sermons over the course of the year, and to ensure the completion of the following as required by the Bishop:

Six (6) continuing education contact hours annually, with at least four (4) contact

hours related to the study and proclamation of the Holy Scriptures

 Certificate of boundary training completed every five (5) years

 First priority be to Sunday worship leadership in the home congregation, then to the

needs of other synod congregations.

 Provide an annual report to the Bishop listing continuing education participation

We agree to respect one another, privately and publicly, as we are called to live in accordance with the eighth commandment and to bring concerns to each other in ways that reflect a healthy relationship and as guided by Jesus in the 18th chapter of Matthew.

If, at any time, either of us cannot continue with this covenant relationship, we will inform each other and the Bishop so that another mentor relationship can be established.

Specifically for the Authorized Lay Worship Leader (*initial each in agreement*):

*As an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod…*

\_\_\_\_\_ I will continue to live out my baptismal covenant as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will continue my participation as an active, communing, contributing member of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church of the Upper Susquehanna Synod in (town)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, PA.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will carry out my ministry in accord with the Holy Scriptures and Creeds of the Church, and accept and adhere to the Lutheran Confessions as true and faithful expositions of the Gospel.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will spend adequate time in study of the appointed lessons and the liturgical season’s themes, in order that my sermons will be true to the Gospel and Lutheran doctrine.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will lead an ethical and moral life in accordance with the standards described in the ethical documents of the Upper Susquehanna Synod and of the ELCA.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will willingly serve in response to the needs of the synod.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not use my position as an Authorized Lay Worship Leader to seek or accept undue influence within a congregation, but will seek always to be a servant leader in the style of Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I should be approached by a member of the congregation seeking pastoral care, I will gently remind them that I am not a pastor and encourage them to seek their pastor’s care.

\_\_\_\_\_ In agreement with the role of an Authorized Lay Worship Leader, I will not preside at baptisms (non-emergency), funerals or weddings in any circumstance.

\_\_\_\_\_ In agreement with the role of an Authorized Lay Worship Leader, I will not lead worship at any non-synod congregation without the Bishop’s permission.

*I promise to do these things, and I ask God to help me.*

This covenant will be reviewed annually in order to receive a renewal of authorization.

*Signatures:*

ALWL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bishop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Return to the Synod Office by January 31.*

ALWL’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Record of Continuing Education for the calendar year of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 *Please include the number of contact hours for each item.*

Cont. Ed. related to the study and proclamation of the Holy Scriptures:

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Other Cont. Ed. studies:

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Boundary Training date of completion: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ALWL signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Mentor’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Return to the Synod Office by January 31.*