



Layreader Covenant - Diocese of Fredericton

Name of Layreader: _____

Name of Incumbent: _____

Parish: _____

Description of 'The Covenant'

A covenant is a 'working agreement' between the **Layreader-in-training, the Parochial Layreader** or the **Diocesan Layreader** and the incumbent outlining areas of responsibilities.

This covenant will be in effect for two years or when a Layreader-in-Training completes training and becomes a Layreader (Parochial or Diocesan) in which case a new covenant is signed. The covenant should also be reviewed and revised according to the direction layreader ministry is evolving within the parish. The covenant will be signed by both the incumbent and layreader.

The covenant reflects the understanding of duties, roles, responsibilities and expectations in the areas of liturgy, ministry in the parish and diocese, and participation in layreader training events.

Description of 'The Ministry'

The ministry that Priest and Layreader share is a team ministry. It is recommended that a Covenant between the clergy in charge and the layreader be signed at the time of the installation of the Layreader-in-Training or the Layreader.

"The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be and , according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church". (Excerpt from the *Ministry Discernment Handbook, Diocese of Fredericton* page 4)

Layreader Covenant

We, _____ and _____ by the help of God as team ministry members of the Parish of _____ in the Diocese of Fredericton, agree to hold to the teachings and practices of the Anglican Church of Canada as found in the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and the Canons of the Church. We agree to the Rule of Life found on page 555 of the book of Common Prayer. We acknowledge all members of the Church as ministers of Christ but that the ministry of Clergy and Layreader must be of a close relationship and particular function. We agree that a Covenant relationship between Clergy and Layreader must be open to review in terms of changing needs of the Parish, the help required by the Clergy and the growth of the Layreader.

The Layreader in supporting the Clergy must remember that the Clergy is in a unique position of ministry and must not discuss matters which violate their role. The Clergy will acknowledge the unique position of the layreader and help him/her to develop a ministry to the Glory of God through liturgical, visiting, teaching, or other activities to which they are called in God's service. In this ministry the Layreader agrees to participate in the following activities (check all that apply):

- Assisting ordained clergy during the Eucharist and other sacramental services, as needed and directed
- Leading Morning and Evening Prayer, as directed especially in the absence of a priest
- Reading lessons
- Leading Prayers of the People, as directed

Other areas for which the layreader may be called include, but do not preclude the desire or licensing to be a layreader (check all that apply):

- Acting as Chalice Bearer, as trained and as directed
- Preaching, as trained and directed
- Leading services in other parishes
- To be in God's service within and outside the church community (Sunday School Leader or Youth Group Leader; Mission Leader, etc.) Agreement of other types of service include:

The Layreader also agrees to continuing education pertaining to whatever their current needs are as assessed and mutually agreed upon.

Layreaders Signature _____

Incumbent's Signature _____

Date _____