

# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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With the retirement of Rev. Seckman, it would be understandable for the congregation to want to involve him in future events and ask him to participate in certain pastoral functions. While this is natural, it has proven to not be the best for an ongoing congregation. It is best to have a separation period for a retiring pastor so that the church can move forward with its transitional pastor and, in the future, its called pastor. As such, Rev. Seckman, Presbytery, and your Session have adopted the following Covenant for Graceful Transitions, Future Relationship and Healthy Boundaries. This Covenant was developed with Greg's approval, with his hope that Eastminster would honor the boundaries spelled out. If you have any questions concerning the Covenant, please contact either Todd Lord or Jack Hynd.

## Covenant for Graceful Transitions, Future Relationships and Healthy Boundaries: The Rev. Dr. Greg Seckman and Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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The session of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, the Connecting Our Ministries Commission (COM) and the Rev. Dr. Greg Seckman establish the following Covenant for Healthy Boundaries.

1. The ministry of the Rev. Dr. Greg Seckman concluded as August 31, 2018. As of that date, the involvement of the Rev. Dr. Seckman in the ministry and mission of the congregation came to an end.
2. As a norm, requests for participation in funerals, weddings, hospital/emergency visitation, and other pastoral care situations will be gracefully declined on the basis that the Rev. Dr. Seckman is now engaged in other life pursuits.

3. If the staff or session are contacted to request the services of the Rev. Dr. Seckman, the staff or session representative will decline based upon the need to let him be engaged in other life pursuits.
4. Any exceptions to requests for service are to be made by representatives designated by the session, in consultation with the transitional or installed pastor.
5. As social media contacts occur (i.e. being friends on Facebook), the Rev. Dr. Seckman will refrain from commenting upon the ministry of the previous congregation.
6. As personal friendships continue, either face to face or over social media, with members of the congregation, the Rev. Dr. Seckman will refrain from comment upon the current ministry and operations of the church, and upon anyone engaged in the ministry of the church.
7. The Rev. Dr. Seckman and family may attend the funerals and weddings of personal friends, including when they are held at the church.
8. The Rev. Dr. Seckman and family may attend public events hosted by community organizations that are using Eastminster Presbyterian Church as a venue.
9. The session of Eastminster Church and the Rev. Dr. Seckman covenant to pray for and bless one another. The Rev. Dr. Seckman hopes and prays that Eastminster Presbyterian Church will thrive as the congregation moves forward in ministry. The session hopes and prays that the Rev. Dr. Seckman and family are welcomed into a faith community where they will be at home.
10. The expectation is that this covenant will remain in place for three years. This is the length of time that has been found to be healthy and wise in similar situations. At that time, session and COM representatives may meet with the Rev. Dr. Seckman to determine healthy boundaries for the future. Any renegotiation of this covenant will not be considered before one year has elapsed. At that time, any renegotiation would also require the participation of the Rev. Dr. Seckman, the session, and COM. The deciding factor is the session's determination of what is best for the health of the congregation.