

Covenant of Partnership between the Presbyteries of Alaska and North Puget Sound

Article I. The purpose of the Covenant Partnership

Section 1 - An historic principle of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is that all congregations of believers are connected into one Church. (G-1.0400) Having ratified this partnership covenant, the presbyteries of North Puget Sound and Alaska have mutually indicated their desire to formalize their unity in Jesus Christ by covenanting to work together in mission and ministry to the glory of God.

Section 2 - This partnership is for the purpose of building up and expanding the mission and ministry opportunities for both presbyteries. This covenant of partnership is for the mutual benefit of both presbyteries. North Puget Sound and Alaska presbyteries will each be responsible for upholding their mutual commitments to the partnership.

Article II. “. . . speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:15-16) Because both presbyteries share the same faith in Jesus Christ and seek to build each other up in love, they share certain values. Among these values are:

Section 1 - Diversity as a gift of God; the diversity of persons and congregations in their ministries and missions, including but not limited to racial/ethnic diversity, congregational size and geographic location, theological perspectives, gender differences, laity and clergy, disabilities, etc.;

Section 2 - The promotion of healthy congregations; and outreach beyond our respective congregational and presbytery bounds.

Article III. Alaska and North Puget Sound Presbyteries mutually agree to:

(a) Regularly pray for the congregations, pastoral leadership, mission and ministries of both presbyteries; encourage congregations and members to support and participate in the mission and ministries of both presbyteries.

(b) Explore and promote the formation of “sister” congregations in the other presbytery.

(c) Send a delegate once a year to attend a presbytery meeting of the other presbytery for the purpose of learning about each others missions and ministries and to return to his/her presbytery of membership to interpret the mission of the other.

(d) Welcome inquiries from the other presbytery’s congregations and mission groups who have a passion to be personally involved in mission projects in the congregations, missions and/or ministries of the other presbytery.

(e) Help congregations and mission groups from the other presbytery plan and implement mission projects within the other presbytery as deemed appropriate by the receiving presbytery.

(f) Provide mission and ministry interpretative materials to the other presbytery in the format(s) requested for dissemination throughout the presbytery.

(g) Encourage their presbytery, congregations and members to support the ministries and missions of

the other the presbytery through giving money, sharing skills, and providing personal resources and expertise, etc. in so far as each is able.

Article IV. This partnership covenant will be reviewed every 3 years.

Section 1- The covenant review will include a consultation between presbytery designees. Any proposed changes will be submitted to each presbytery for action of governing body.

Section 2 - Termination of the covenant can be made by either Presbytery only after consultation with other presbytery at least one year prior to to the proposed termination date.