

**A Covenant between Stow Presbyterian Church and Eastminster Presbytery, May 13, 2008**

In recognition of our mutual desires to further the peace, unity, and purity of the larger church, the living body of Christ, and to fulfill our respective roles and responsibilities towards our Presbytery and our Congregation, we, Eastminster Presbytery and the Stow Presbyterian Church, enter into this Covenant, foregoing any and all claims which one may have against the other, for any and all property rights, actual, asserted, beneficial, vested, or future.

In furtherance of this covenant, Eastminster Presbytery shall ecclesiastically dissolve the Stow Presbyterian Church as a congregation within the Presbyterian Church (USA). This ecclesiastical action will have no effect on the corporate entity known as Stow Presbyterian Church. Eastminster Presbytery recognizes that a Community of Faith shall continue to function as a church under the name of Stow Presbyterian Church. Stow Presbyterian Church shall make no claims of membership in the PC (USA), and shall be entitled to no benefits of association with Eastminster Presbytery or the PC (USA), including insurance coverage under the agreement between Eastminster Presbytery and Church Mutual.

For historical purposes, a photocopy of baptisms, membership, and ordination verification from the period of time that the church was part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) shall be made available to the Eastminster Presbytery Office. Original records and the Stow Presbyterian Church name are understood to be retained by the Stow Presbyterian Church. Nothing in this Covenant prevents a new PC(USA) church in Stow from using the words “Stow” or “Presbyterian”. The building, property and assets of the Stow Presbyterian Church shall be considered disposed of to, and held by the continuing Community of Faith.

The Stow Presbyterian Church will provide direct on-going support for several outreach programs including: Eastminster Presbytery's Dakota Presbytery Outreach, First Presbyterian Church of Akron Community Outreach, First Presbyterian Church of Barberton Community Outreach, Joseph Badger Meadows, and/or other Presbytery mission projects the Stow Session chooses to support. Stow Presbyterian Church will provide a minimum of forty thousand dollars towards those missions, which shall be given within a five-year period. Support for the listed missions and/or other mission projects of Eastminster Presbytery may continue beyond the five-year period. To assist in Eastminster’s budgeting process, annually by January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Stow Presbyterian Church will name to Eastminster Presbytery’s Mission Committee the individual missions of Eastminster Presbytery it plans to support during the year and the amount of that support. It is our mutual understanding and intent that the support be recognized as gifts to those programs. The support is to further the good works done in these outreach programs and is a good-will expression of appreciation by Stow Presbyterian Church for the gracious manner in which their congregation's severance from the PC(USA) has been handled by Eastminster Presbytery.

This serves as a written covenant agreement between Eastminster Presbytery and the Session of the Stow Presbyterian Church, and is understood to be binding on any succeeding governing body. Each person signing on behalf of each entity represents that he/she has authority to bind that entity with his/her signature.

Eastminster Presbytery:

Stow Presbyterian Church:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elder John Benedik, Clerk of Session  
On behalf of and with approval of the  
Stow Presbyterian Church Session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elder Robert Gillette, Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date