

Litany of Closure



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In recognition of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. John Monroe, First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, and the Presbytery of the Coastlands, this covenant of closure is formed, effective November 1, 2022.

The covenant is established in order that the way be clear for the next pastor, temporary or installed, to fully develop the deep and significant relationships with the congregation and the community it serves without the unintentional interference of the former pastor. The covenant recognizes the importance of providing for the transfer of the pastoral leadership fully to the next pastor. The importance of this transition in pastoral leadership transcends any need the former pastor may have and the grief and discomfort of members of the congregation that comes with the change in pastoral presence and leadership.

With this Covenant of Closure, the Rev. John Monroe acknowledges that his role as Pastor to the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson has ended.

Leader: Pastor John, do you agree not to involve yourself in any pastoral or leadership role in the life of this congregation?

Leader: Do you agree not to intervene, support, give advice or opinion regarding the dynamics or business of this congregation?

Leader: Will you refer requests for pastoral services made by members and friends of the congregation to the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson and communicate that referral to the pastor?

Leader: Do you agree not to officiate any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, and any special congregational events, regardless of location, unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session?

Leader: Do you agree that the covenants made for in-person relationships shall apply to social media interactions with the congregation, limiting communication to matters of friendships?

Leader: Do you agree not to use church email, contact lists, or mailing lists to disseminate information regarding events, programs, and groups that you will be leading or participating in, agreeing only to provide such information for any future Moderator/Pastor to share with the congregation at his or her direction?

Leader: Do you agree not to invite or include members of First Presbyterian Church of Rumson in online studies, discussion, or chat groups that you initiate?

Leader: Do you agree to make yourself available to assist succeeding Pastors/Moderators only when invited by them to do so?

Leader: Do you agree to continue to pray for the developing ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Rumson and its Pastor?

This Covenant of Closure does not affect or require the termination of friendships with individuals in the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, but it does expect that relationships and interactions of a pastoral nature will be discontinued.

With this Covenant of Closure, the Session and the Congregation acknowledge that the Rev. John Monroe's relationship as Moderator and Pastor has ended.

Leader: Do we, the Session and Congregation, agree to work with, support, and pray for the ministry of the Congregation as it lives into new pastoral leadership, to support fully the new pastor in their ministry?

Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you for the ministry of this congregation which spans 161 years. We thank you for those who have come before and those who will come after, that we may continue to grow in the knowledge and love and service of Christ who alone is Head of the Church. We thank you for the loving service of John and Rosanne as we release them with our blessing. May your blessing be upon them and upon us, as we dedicate ourselves again to you and to the worship and work of your church. All glory be to you! Amen.