

## **A Session Covenant for Providence Forge Presbyterian Church**

**Attendance** – I will make attending the Session meetings and other church events a high priority in my schedule.

**Confidentiality** – I will keep confidential discussion which is not part of the public record of the Session, especially business conducted in executive session.

**Mutual Respect** – Recognizing that the Presbyterian Church upholds the belief that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” I will respect the right of other elders to disagree with my position (“we agree to disagree”).

**Respect for Time** – I will respect the time of others by being on time to the Session events and by endeavoring to facilitate the expeditious movement of business at our meetings. However, if I believe something is important, I will bring it to the attention of the Session, despite time restrictions.

**Follow Through and Accountability** – I will follow through on the Session and committee tasks given to me or let someone know the reason this cannot be done. I will be held accountable for the performance of the work to which I commit myself.

**Supporting the Church** – As an elder, I will support the Church by being an advocate for its well-being and by attending church-wide activities, as my time permits.

**Supporting Each Other** – I will make myself available to support other elders in their Session work and on a personal level.

**Christian Conduct** – Recognizing that the church-at-large holds its leaders to the highest standards of Christian conduct, I will endeavor to demonstrate the love of Christ in what I say and what I do, especially in my relationships with other church members.

**Being “Proactive”** – Having vowed to serve the church with “energy,” I will actively set goals for myself and for my work on the Session. Through prayer, Bible study and conversation with others, I will attempt to discern God’s will for our church and to communicate that in my work on the Session. I will resist a stance of only passively reacting to the ideas of others or to events in the life of the church.

**Openness and Honesty** – I will be open and honest in my dealings with other session members and church members. I will not leave a session meeting with “bottled up feelings” which haven’t been aired (and if for some reason I feel I must, I will share them the next day with the pastor or another elder). I will ask questions when I don’t understand.

**Spiritual Discipline** – As an elder, I understand that I am called to be a spiritual leader. To nurture myself spiritually, I commit to pray for myself, the Session and the church on a regular basis, to participate in worship and to take advantage of opportunities for study of the Bible and other helpful subjects.