




Wishing for a Thousand Ways to Say Thank You


During these final months serving as Hope's minister, I keep looking for different ways to express all my gratitude. Your generosity has taken so many forms, my thank yous must as well. This monthly newsletter


is only one of many ways I hope to let you know that I love each of you. I love this church. I want it to thrive. I wish for each of you to thrive.

Thank you for:


-  Taking a risk with a novice minister back in 2013.
-  Welcoming my family. You embraced Joe with love. You allowed my daughter Alice to teach the Youth for a year.
-  Forgiving my mistakes. Accepting my apologies.
-  Being courageous enough to apologize for your own mistakes.
-  Giving me a beautiful space and time to work, read, think, write, teach, and preach.
-  Teaching me in countless ways. (The church is the curriculum.)
-  Allowing me to serve in your life passages: child dedications, weddings, memorials, and more
-  Sharing freely your experiences, ideas, heartbreak, and joys.
-  Being willing to try out new things, from ACTION to new committees.
-  Becoming more open to possible wisdom and support from our Unitarian Universalist Association and Southern Region.
-  Paying me with your hard-earned resources and pledges.
-  Being willing to collaborate in new ways. Your voices and support now are integral to our Sunday worship.


 Allowing me to surround myself with a spectacular staff. Do you know how great they are?


 Reclaiming dormant committees and taking joint charge of church, and not following a single, strong personality.


 Mentoring, supervising, serving on the Committee on Ministry, serving on the Board of Trustees, and working hard as Committee chairs or Committee members.


 Supporting an intern.

 Returning after taking a break from Hope, or simply coming some Sundays and sitting in back. It all matters.

 Celebrating with meals, parties, dances, and more.

 Supporting my time to connect with the community and region.

 Allowing me to part this ministry with your grace and love.

 Bringing an accredited interim into your next phase of ministry.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Peace,



The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Volume 25, No. 7 July 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Sermons p. [2](#)

Music p. [3](#)

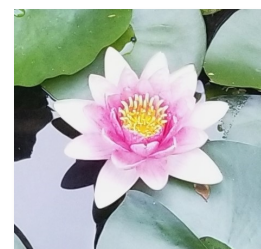
Adult Forum p. [3](#)

Religious Education for
Children & Youth p. [4](#)

Outreach p. [5](#)

Events p. [6](#)

Birthdays p. [7](#)



Sunday Services

July

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Wise Effort

July 7

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Wise Effort, sometimes called Right Diligence, is the sixth part of the Eightfold Path of Buddhism. If you've been following along in this sermon series it won't surprise you that the Buddha has a list of four suggestions to develop wholesome qualities and release unwholesome qualities. We will explore what makes wise effort. I'll connect it to our theme of Freedom and Responsibility.

Wise Mindfulness

July 14

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh says that Wise or Right Mindfulness is at the heart of the Buddha's teaching. When Right Mindfulness is present all the teachings are present. So we will explore what mindfulness might mean or look like in our daily lives and in our church community.

Wise Concentration

July 21

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

The Pali word translated into English as "concentration" is *samadhi*. The root words of *samadhi*, *sam-a-dha*, mean "to bring together." Concentration is a slowing down of our mental activity through single-pointed concentration. In our day and age of great distractions, this skill and teaching is invaluable.

Time Flies: Celebration of Ministry Together

July 28

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

We've done much fine ministry together since 2013 when I first set foot inside Hope Church as your minister. We will celebrate all the seeds we have planted together and say goodbye with love and joy.

July's Theme



One of my minister heroes is the Rev. Dana Greely. He was a Unitarian minister in the middle of the last century, the last president of the American Unitarian Association, and, upon its merger with the Universalist Church in America, the founding president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. He knew quite a bit about freedom and its balance, responsibility, shepherding us into the merger of two denominations. He writes:

We each have a measure of freedom to do as we will. We can debase our life or dignify it; we can fill it with doubt or faith, and with hate or love. We can disavow our heritage or proclaim it. In as much as we are free to think and act, we may seem to have broken away from nature. But I believe that is part of nature's design. Wholly within nature, human nature is in the making. It has risen above the beast, but its destiny is nearer to the stars.

Join us for the first Sunday in July and beyond to explore Freedom and Responsibility in words and experience together. The children and youth will spend the month looking at this theme as well. Join a small group monthly discussion of Freedom and Responsibility with InReach.

About Monthly Themes

Our monthly themes express Hope Unitarian Church's openness to theological exploration. They are not an endorsement of any particular creed or belief. Instead, they provide a monthly opportunity to examine in common a religious doctrine or idea. Hope Church is a questioning community. It is a safe place to bring doubt and new ideas. Join us!

Minister's Office Hours

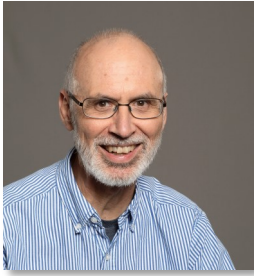
Make an appointment with the Rev. Cathey Edwards during the following times:

Tuesday afternoons 3:30pm–5:00pm

Thursday afternoons 1:00pm–2:00 pm

Friday mornings 9:00am–10:00am

You can schedule a time to meet with **Rev. Cathey** by contacting **Molly Brower**, molly@hopeuu.org or with **Rev. Cathey** directly at cathey@hopeuu.org. You can also call the church office at **918-481-0999**.



Music Notes

During July we will have the opportunity to hear from guest musicians, and later in the month the choir will also begin rehearsing to prepare to sing for Cathey Edwards's final service as our minister, which will take place the last Sunday in July. This moment will be both celebratory in remembering a wonderful collaboration and beautiful relationship between minister and congregation, and also to send Cathey off with love, thankfulness, and encouragement. We are grateful to Cathey for her visionary, compassionate, and thoughtful leadership during the last several years. Sad but happy feelings will accompany us as we say farewell to her ministry and welcome a new one. The seasons of life flow past us, as everything is transitory, and we must hold and cherish each moment while it is ours. The lovely song by John Bucchino, "This Moment," says it very well: "This sadness! Aching, reaching, looking on. . . at this moment, present, distant. . . Shining bubble, touch it, lose it. . . Happy, laughing, perfect, golden . . . gone."

Joseph Rivers, PhD



Care Team Corner

Support for the LGBTQ+ Community

We, our children, grandchildren, and family members have access to several established organizations of support in Oklahoma. Two of these are the **Dennis R. Neill Equality Center** and **PFLAG** (formerly Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), which both have a wide variety of programs to assist youth and their families with gender issues. These organizations can provide support for a wide range of issues as well as social opportunities and activities.

<http://www.pflag.org>

<http://www.okek.org> OKEQ - Oklahoma's resource for LGBT persons and their families.



Board of Trustees News

It is an honor to serve as the new president of the Hope Board of Trustees. This spring I had one-on-one conversations with about a third of the congregation.

I hope to speak to the rest of you in July and August. Sign-up sheets will be available at the church every Sunday morning in July.

July is a month of transition for Hope. Rev. Cathey will end her ministry & we have some new Trustees. The new board will be available to answer your questions & take your suggestions during Adult Forum at 10am on July 21. Also, please plan to attend Cathey's very special final service at Hope on July 28.

During Rev. Gregory Stewart's two-year interim ministry at Hope, the Board of Trustees will work closely with him to assure that this time of transition goes smoothly. This fall we will begin the process of finding a settled/called minister.

The Board of Trustees meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the church. You are all always welcome to attend the meetings.

In accordance with the church by-laws, I now announce that the Board of Trustees will elect three members to the church nominating committee at the July 23 Board of Trustees meeting. If you'd like to be considered to serve on the nominating committee, please send a message to James Donovan at tulsauus@yahoo.com no later than July 21.

James Donovan

President, Hope Board of Trustees

Adult Forum

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Learning is the work of a lifetime. On Sunday mornings you are invited to attend our regular adult forum that meets in the sanctuary and covers a wide range of topics.

Upcoming Adult Forums

July 7: Generosity recipient: Resonance

July 14: Report from the UUA General Assembly

July 21: Meet the new Board of Trustees

July 28: To be determined

For more information, see each week's *Highlights* newsletter, which comes out on Fridays. If you don't already subscribe to *Highlights*, you can sign up at <http://hopeuu.org/blog/newsletter/>.



Religious Education for Children and Youth

Tennille Wilson, Director
tennille@hopeuu.org

A Typical Sunday

10:00 a.m. Art & Play

11:00 a.m. Religious Education

The first Sunday of the month the children attend the first part of the service before returning downstairs for RE.

Loving childcare is provided for infants through age three.

Most Sundays include outdoor activities. Please make sure your child is wearing sturdy shoes and clothing so they can enjoy being with nature.



Michelle



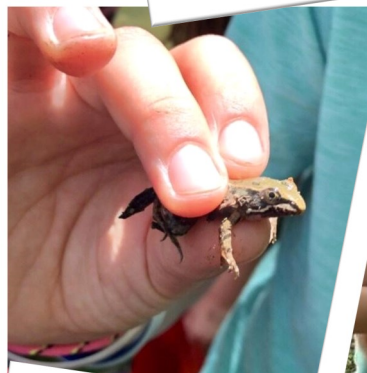
Windsor

Our New Childcare Staff

Please welcome our new childcare staff, **Michelle Styve** and **Windsor Aniol**! They both bring a wealth of skills, creativity, and experience to RE. Stop by and say hi!

Borrowers Camp 2019

In June, Hope partnered up with our friend Margaritte Arthrell-Knezek of Under the Canopy to have a nature camp based on the series of books (and movies) about tiny people called Borrowers. Campers hiked the trails, made Borrower houses, and got up close and personal with some wildlife!



Camp Memories

Outreach

Generosity

Each Sunday, we give away ALL of the undesignated funds from our Offering. The Outreach Committee chooses organizations that support the mission of Hope Unitarian Church in efforts to expand beyond our community.

The Outreach Committee welcomes suggestions from church members of not-for-profit groups for Hope Church's Generosity recipients. Contact **Mary Newman** or **Anita Ward** to offer suggestions. Thank you for being the generous church that you are!

July Generosity Recipient

Our July Generosity recipient is Resonance. Resonance is a non-profit which provides model reentry services for non-violent offenders returning to Tulsa and the surrounding area. They also offer outpatient, recovery-oriented treatment to women struggling with substance abuse.

Feed the Homeless Program

We served more than 100 people at the Day Center for the Homeless on June 15.

Joe and Mary Newman did the shopping, and **Mary** did the Friday pre-cooking.

Saturday cooking and preparations were done by **Linda Tracy, Brandy Morgan, Cynthia Heifner, Rich Jackson, Lana Larkin, and David Lynn.**

Judy and Guy Sims, Gail Hawk, Marge Carrison, Joe and Mary Newman, Cynthia Heifner, and Janet Nobles served at the Day Center on Saturday.

Thanks to everyone who helped out in June! If you're interested in helping out, please sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen or call the church at 918-481-0999 to be added to the list.

The next Feed the Homeless date is Saturday, July 20

Volunteers Needed!

We still need people to cook at Hope at 2:30, and to help serve at 5:00 pm at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

You can sign up on the board next to the kitchen or call the church at **918.481.0999**.



Cereal Sunday Sunday, July 14

Please bring a box or two of cereal (preferably not Cheerios) for the homeless. There's a cereal basket in Fellowship Hall.

This cereal, along with several gallons of milk, is taken to the **Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless** on the third

Garage Sale Update and Thanks



The garage sale was a big success this year. Even without some of our traditional top-selling items, we met our goal! Thanks to organizers **Anita Ward** and **Janet Nobles** for all their amazing work putting it together this year, and a big thanks to all our fabulous garage sale volunteers:

**Robert Billings
Lavon Boeck
Marge Carrison
Elaine Dodson
James Donovan
Diane Dudley
Ada Galli
Elke Goodman
Paula Haight
Nancy Hamill
Gail Hawk
Lenny Hope
Jo Ann Howse
Elke Johnson
Rebecca Jones**

**Carmen Kinsey
Christy Levine
Meredith Miller
Joe Monroe
Mary Newman
Joe Newman
Mindy Paschal
Kim Rauh
Marcia Schaefer
Maggie Scott
Guy Sims
Judy Sims
Margo Stepp
Lynn Walters
Sherrill Womeldorff**

Correction: In last month's Focus, the Green Sanctuary report said "Attendees were RF 100 leader Gary Allison, Hope Outreach Committee co-chairs Mary Newman and Rich Jackson, and All Souls Green Team Chair Karen Harris." It should have read "Attendees were RF 100 leader Gary Allison; Hope Outreach Committee co-chair Mary Newman; Rich Jackson; and All Souls Green Team Chair Karen Harris." Apologies for any confusion regarding our Outreach Committee officers!

Hope's July Events

Need childcare? Email childcare@hopeuu.org at least 48 hours in advance to secure a spot.

NO Breakfast on the Hill

Breakfast on the Hill is on summer break! We'll start back up in October.

Threads of Hope

Threads of Hope is on summer break too! Catch up with us again in the fall.

Movie Night

Movie Night is also taking a summer break for June and July. Join us again in August!

Brown Bag Lunch

Every Thursday, 11:30 am–1:00 pm

This group gathers for fellowship, exchanges of ideas, and lunch each Thursday at 11:30 to 1:00pm. Free during the day? Looking to make new friends? Share your thoughts. Laugh? Dispel loneliness? This is the church event for you.

Usually Rev. Cathey leads Brown Bag on the first Thursday of the month, but since this month the first Thursday falls on July 4th and the church office is closed, we'll meet the **second Thursday, July 11**. We'll eat our lunches, watch Jason Rosenthal's TED talk "The Journey Through Loss and Grief," and celebrate our years together with a treat.

Thursday, July 11

Women of Hope: Salad Supper

Social time 6:00 pm • Potluck 6:30 pm

During the summer we meet in our homes and enjoy potluck salads and desserts. Since the first Thursday in July is the 4th, we'll meet on July 11 at the home of **Barbara Witt**. We'll gather at 6:00 for libations and dine at 6:30. Please join us for a relaxing social evening.

Saturday, July 13

Memorial Service—Alton Schultz, 1:00 p.m.

Farewell Party for Rev. Cathey, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 14

Cereal Sunday

Wednesday, July 17

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 20

Feed the Homeless

Tuesday, July 23

Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24

Focus Deadline

Sunday, July 28

Walking Meditation, 9:00 a.m.



Farewell Party

July 13, 2019 | 5:00 p.m.

Join us to wish Rev. Cathey a fond farewell!

Food and drink will be provided,
but please bring a lawn chair or blanket
for our indoor/outdoor picnic.

Walking Meditation Sunday, July 28 9:00 a.m.

One of the most useful and grounding ways of attending to our body is the practice of walking meditation. Walking meditation is a simple and universal practice for developing calm, connectedness, and embodied awareness. On the last Sunday of the month we gather by Hope's cabin before church begins, when the woods are quiet, for walking meditation.



Key Person Schedule To be determined

Please call the church to find out who is on key duty for your event.

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone attending your function can open the building.
2. Find out if the church will be open/closed for another event at the same time as yours.
3. If no one is available and you need entry, contact a Key Person or the church a few days in advance of the



New Member

Jane Firth joined Hope at the BBQ in May. Please welcome her when you see her!

Members' Birthdays July

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Larry Knoles | 2 |
| Annie Simpson | 4 |
| Elke Johnson | 5 |
| Leah Walker | 6 |
| Mary Gardner | 7 |
| Barbara Richardson | 18 |
| Andy Scott | 20 |
| Wade Ezell | 24 |
| Gary Van Winkle | 31 |

Did you enjoy the poems at the June 16th service?

Look out for copies of those poems and some of Rev. Cathey's favorite sermons on tables in the Fellowship Hall throughout July.

Are you receiving our communications?

If you aren't receiving *Highlights*, *Focus*, *Touchstones Journal*, or churchwide announcements by email, you might be missing out!

You can sign up for any of these email communications on our website here:

<http://hopeuu.org/blog/newsletter/>

You can also call the church at **918.481.0999** or email us, **hopeuu@hopeuu.org**, to be added to any of our email lists.



On June 13, Rev. Cathey participated in an interfaith blessing of new facilities at the Ronald McDonald House. Here she is (in the back row) with other participants and RMH personnel.

For current events, visit the Hope Calendar at:

<http://hopeuu.org/blog/calendar/>

or our Events page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/HopeUnitarianChurch/events/>

Focus Submissions

Send all input with **"Focus"** in the subject line. For the August *Focus*, the last day for submissions is **July 24**. Exceptions may be made when more information is needed.

Submissions may be made in the body of an email, or in Word or a similar text format—no PDFs, please. Please remember to keep the content short enough to fit on half a page or less within a newsletter. All content is subject to revision and formatting. Send submissions to **hopeuu@hopeuu.org**.

Thanks to all of our terrific *Focus* contributors! It wouldn't exist without you!



8432 S. Sheridan Rd
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133-4137
(918) 481-0999
hopeuu@hopeuu.org

FOCUS v.25,no.7, July 2019 by Hope Unitarian Church,
8432 S. Sheridan Road, Tulsa OK 74133-4137

TO:

Hope Unitarian Church is an inclusive, affirming congregation

*Seeking Hope, Love, and Justice—
Together in Community*



Our Staff

The Rev. Cathey Edwards, Minister,

cathey@hopeuu.org

Tennille Wilson, Director of Religious Education, Ten-

nille@hopeuu.org

Molly Ives Brower, Administrator, molly@hopeuu.org

Dr. Joseph Rivers, Director of Music, joseph.rivers@hopeuu.org

Rebecca Jones, Accountant (off site), rebecca@hopeuu.org

Chris Powell, Pianist

Susan Michael, Nora Potter, Michelle Styve, Windsor Aniol, Childcare, [child-](mailto:child-care@hopeuu.org)

care@hopeuu.org

Our 2018-2019 Board Members and Trustees

Cate Potter, President

James Donovan, President Elect

Rick Eagleton, VP of Finance

Christy Levine, VP of Programs

Marcia Schaefer, Treasurer

Joan Scheulen, Secretary

Ken Jones, Past President

Trustees: **Rick Paschal, Annie Simpson, Lynn Walters, Ryan Saylor**

Hope Unitarian Church

8432 S. Sheridan Road

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

(918) 481-0999

www.hopeuu.org

hopeuu@hopeuu.org

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/HopeUnitarianChurch)

HopeUnitarianChurch

Office Hours

Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–3 p.m.



A note from Rev. Cathey **Can We Still Be Friends?** *Not really.*

We teach that love is infinite, not a limited resource. Love takes many forms. Our joint task as parting minister and congregation is to love each other *from afar*. Our separation is most like helping a young adult leave the nest to discover their own identity. A parent always loves a child yet knows allowing them to fly and make their way is right and healthy.

Hope congregation, we release each other. Fly!

We will always be friendly. To all who have asked for an exception and to stay friends with me, in brief, no. (You can read the minister rule of ethics on the other side of this page.)

Why?

As your minister I have been granted a privileged position in your lives, in the dugout and not just in the stands. Over our six years together, I have aimed to treat this honored access and confidentiality with respect. Now I must let this generous intimacy go.

As the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed said in the [180th Berry Street Lecture](#) to colleagues about the steep cost of doing ministerial change effectively, “It is a Faustian bargain we’ve struck. We receive all the perks of ministry—a life full of meaning, invitations into the most intimate moments of people’s lives, the righteous glow of justice work and immortality through the institution’s survival. The cost? At the end you must quit the community in which you have invested your life. Quit it. Leave it. Let it go. Trust that it will survive without you and you without it.”

This cruel irony of ministry means I must “love my

parishioners with all my heart but never befriend them. I shall die to the congregation so that the ministry might live.” Technically, I should also leave Tulsa. Ministers usually move away from their communities. The fact that Joe Perrault and I will remain in Tulsa means all of us will navigate tricky waters from time to time. Yes, we can say hello when we see each other in the grocery store. I likely will stay off social media and unfriend people for a time.

The point of this new boundary is to grant your wonderful incoming minister, the **Rev. Greg Stewart**, the same privileged spot in your lives. Move over and make room for him in the dugout. Greg and I will meet once he is settled in to discuss a covenant between us. He will have a sense of what are the healthiest boundaries to keep for Hope Church to thrive.

And what about illness and memorials? After August 1, pastoral care and memorial services will be Greg’s to handle. I may be able to attend them but will always check with your minister before I do. This goes for any event at Hope.

Elder Olson has this poem in [Great Occasions](#) that speaks to the work we’ve done together and its inevitable impermanence.

*Nothing is lost; the universe is honest,
Time, like the sea, gives all back in the end,
But only in its own way, on its own conditions:
Empires as grains of sand, forests as coal,
Mountains as pebbles.
Be still, be still, I say;
You were never the water, only a wave;
Not substance, but a form substance assumed.*

Sad and with joy,

The Rev. Cathey Edwards

Here is the text from the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association's Guidelines for the Conduct of Ministry Standards of Professional Practice for Departing Ministers. You can see them online here: <https://www.uuma.org/general/custom.asp?page=guidelines#SoPPIV.E>.

1. In general, the future well-being of a congregation, agency or enterprise is best assured by the fully effective departure from leadership of any minister whose service to that institution has ended.

2. Congregations are especially vulnerable in periods of ministerial transition. Therefore, departing ministers should exercise particular care to minimize their influence and presence within the congregation, agency or enterprise and their interactions with members, staff and clients during times of transition.

3. There should be no intentional or ministerial contact between a departing minister and members, staff or clients of congregations, agencies or enterprises they have served until there can be a covenant expressed in a Letter of Understanding between predecessor and subsequent ministers. In those uncommon cases where personal or familial relationships persist, care should be taken to assure that those relationships do not have a negative impact on the institution or on subsequent ministries.

4. Experience has shown that over the long term a congregation and a previous minister may benefit from that minister's continuing participation as a member of the congregation after their professional leadership to that community has ended. Predecessor and subsequent colleagues should adopt covenants expressed in a Letter of Understanding defining the nature and limits of this participation.

5. Unless the departed minister chooses to suspend all contact and participation in the congregation during the period of an interim ministry, the Letter of Agreement with the Interim Minister must be understood to be limited only to the period of the interim ministry. It is the responsibility of both parties to make it known to the congregation that the agreement is limited and that the provisions of the agreement with subsequent colleagues may be significantly different.

6. The provisions of this covenant should be arrived at through conversation and negotiation with an understanding that the well-being of the congregation and the new ministry is of primary importance. When disagreements persist, Good Offices may be employed, but ultimately the judgment of the new minister shall prevail. It is the responsibility of the involved ministers to inform the congregation of this covenant.

7. If either a predecessor or successor minister believes that this covenant is not being effectively maintained, then they should engage their colleague and seek reaffirmation or renegotiation of that covenant with consideration for the delicacy of the current minister's role. Should this effort not resolve the concern, Good Offices should be consulted, and with the recommendation of the Good Officer the matter may be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Collegiality.

8. A departing minister may be expected to discontinue all contact with the congregation, agency or enterprise, its members and staff if:

- a. the former ministry involved established misconduct;
- b. the departed minister violates the UUMA Code of Conduct; or
- c. the departed minister intentionally violates the terms of the covenant with the new minister.

9. It is good practice for a minister to prepare family members to understand that a change in the minister's relationship with a congregation, agency or enterprise may affect them all, and may mean the end of ties that family members may have with that institution. It is politically wise and collegially generous for a successor minister to reach out pastorally to the family of the predecessor minister if they remain in the congregation or community.

10. When a minister is no longer a member of the UUMA, and is no longer bound by the Code of Professional Practice, the nature of the previous professional relationship with the people of a congregation or the clients of an agency or enterprise should not be exploited in the solicitation or conduct of their subsequent employment.

11. When a minister leaves a congregation for community ministry, they should not solicit members or presume upon a relationship they had with their former congregation until they have an opportunity to establish a covenant with the new minister of that congregation. In the absence of a new minister the covenant should be established with the leadership of the governing body of the congregation.

12. In all cases, ministers must continue to respect the confidences granted and the information about individuals gained in congregations, agencies or enterprises they once served.