**COVENANT OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

(by David Lee Jones in *The Presbyterian Outlook* publication)

Once ordained by this congregation, I understand that I have been selected to govern because my fellow members affirm my capacity for mature behavior, wisdom and leadership. I understand that I will be expected to vote my conscience in all matters. At times that means that I must stand with the prophets and take unpopular positions. Because I take seriously the ordained office that I hold, in both my personal life and ecclesial office, I am open to being held accountable for how well I model the following spiritual capacities. I covenant to do my best to:

* Define myself clearly;
* Take appropriate stands based on my conscience;
* Base my decisions on well-defined, spiritual principles;
* Remain calm and non-reactive when others disagree with me;
* Effectively monitor and manage my anxiety;
* Commit myself to direct communication with others by using “I statements”;
* Not engage in “blaming” behaviors;
* Not participate in gossip and secrets;
* Demonstrate appropriate spiritual balance so as not to over-function or under-function;
* Facilitate “person-to-person relationships”;
* Maintain healthy boundaries;
* Learn to “de-triangle” – i.e., not get seduced or “hooked” by others’ reactivity;
* Manage my need to be right;
* Demonstrate “mutual forbearance” with all who disagree with me;
* Remain connected to all persons in the system.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_