**A COVENANT BETWEEN**

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**St John’s Anglican Church**

**New Westminster Diaconate Ministry Group**

**AND**

 **The Reverend Juanita Lillian Clark**

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This Covenant describes the ministerial relationship between the Parish of St John’s Anglican church, located within the Deanery of North Vancouver, Diocese of New Westminster; and, the Reverend Juanita Lillian Clark.

Overview of Juanita’s Ministry

*I am fortunate to be loved and supported by the clergy and parishioners of two faith communities: St John’s the Evangelist (North Vancouver); and, St James (Vancouver). Although their style of liturgy, culture and outreach are different, they compliment each other and enhance my diaconal ministry; they ground me; feed me; and equip me to be a visible sign of Christ, at work, within the greater community.*

*I have a strong sense of being called as a* ***Gatherer;*** *one who* ***welcomes*** *the stranger through* ***outreach*** *and offers* ***hospitality****;**to be an* ***inspiration and role model*** *for others in their* ***Christian Formation****. This is what gives me the greatest joy: to be Christ’s hands and feet within the world; to offer a guiding light to others; to make this the primary focus of my ministry.*

*I recognize that I also have gifts in the areas of* ***pastoral care****,* ***music****,* ***working with seniors****,**and**with* ***Indigenous peoples****. I see these God-given gifts and talents as being interwoven into my primary ministry, enhancing my work as a Deacon; enabling me to share God’s love in the world.*

**Statement of Vocation of: Juanita Clark**

* We understand that the ministry of a deacon is to:
* make Christ and his redemptive love known, by my word and example, to those among whom I live and work and worship.

* interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.
	+ enable and support the people of God in carrying out the baptismal ministries to which God calls them;
	+ be visible as a deacon and perform the liturgical functions of a deacon as set out in the liturgies of the Anglican Church of Canada: and
	+ assist and support the rector.

**Ministry and Relationship with the Parish**

* **Parish Ministry**

**a) Worship, Gathering & Welcoming**:

Public Worship: (3 hours per week)

Perform the liturgical functions of a Deacon by: serving as Deacon of the word and sacrament at Sunday Eucharist. This would involve (varying with style of liturgy): leading the Biddings; introduction of Affirmation of faith and Prayers of the People; reading of the Gospel [occasionally chanting]; leading the Psalm [occasionally cantering]. Assist and support the priest by: preparing and presenting a sermon every 6 to 8 weeks; setting and clearing the Lord’s Table; assisting with the administering of Communion; assisting with baptisms, the anointing with oil; and, giving the Dismissal.

Gathering & Welcoming: (2 hours per week)

Connect with parishioners (by phone or in-person), on an ongoing rotational basis, to gain a sense of their personal and spiritual well-being and to assist and support the priest. Relay prayers, needs or concerns, as appropriate to the priest, in the prayers of the people; or, for Deacon’s follow-up.

Quiet Days/Workshops: (total of 4 days for planning and leadership per year)

Organize and lead 2 Quiet days/workshops that bring people together to address a common need; to enable and support the people of God in carrying out their baptismal ministries in which God calls them.

*As time permits,* attend church committee

*As time permits*, support St John’s choir at concerts and other special musical events.

**b) Christian Education**:

Pathways to Meditation: (2.0 hrs per week)

Offer an introductory, drop-in, meditation practice group for the North Vancouver Deanery. The group will explore the various pathways to guided meditation (ie: seated, walking; by synchronized breathing, singing bowls, chanting, audio or lectio devina) to enhance their experience of the Holy. Intertwined in its teachings will be the benefits of living a grounded, disciplined spiritual life; the concepts behind the Rule of Life, daily offices, how to use ecumenical prayer beads, working with icons to enhance their meditation practice. By introducing and equipping participants with the art of meditation and other prayer tools, I am visible as a Deacon in the community; enabling and supporting the people of God in helping them with their spiritual practices. Timeslot to fall – ideally - in evening, or on weekend, to accommodate both working and retired people’s schedules.

Organize an annual silent retreat for the North Vancouver Deanery.

**c) Pastoral Ministry**

St John’s Pastoral Ministry: (1 hour per week)

Visit St John’s parishioners who are in Lion’s Gate hospital or North shore hospices, to support & assist parish priest; be present for parishioners; hold them in prayer; look for signs of God at work in their lives.

St John’s Caring Ministry: (2 hours per month)

Visit and take the reserved sacrament - directly from Sunday service - to parishioners in care-homes as per St John’s *Caring Ministry* schedule. This ministry reaches out to those who are unable to attend church due to age or disability. It operates with 4 ‘care’ teams, on a rotational basis, covering off 4 - 5 North Vancouver care facilities/private residences per month. Each team visits one facility per month and offers in-home communion.

*As time permits, p*articipate in monthly *Caring Ministry* meetings (or send electronic updates if not able to attend in person) to report on well-being and spiritual needs of recipients of the *Caring Ministry* program.

By serving in both the of above ministries, I believe Imake Christ and his redemptive love known to the parishioners I visit; I am a visible sign of Christ at work in the Community, as I live out my Diaconal covenant and inspire others that I encounter on my journey to live into the Baptismal covenant. As appropriate, I bring the needs or concerns of individuals back to the priest, the altar; to be included in the Prayers of the People, to be held up by the faith community.

**d) Diocesan Ministry**:

Participate in Deanery events (eg helping to organize interfaith gatherings; participating in St John’s Choir-to-Go events) and Clericus meetings, *as my schedule permits.*

Participate in Diocesan events (eg Vocations Days, Retreats) and clergy days, *as my schedule permits*.

* **Workplace Ministry**

*Note: I retired from secular work (Indigenous & N. Affairs Canada) in February 2018.*

**Street Outreach Initiative (Downtown Eastside)**: 12 hrs per month (*as schedule permits)*

*(With the prior approval of Rev. Blaney)* Fr. Kevin Hunt, St James Vancouver, has extended permission for me to work with Fr. Matthew and the Street Outreach Initiative through December 2018. I was introduced to the St. James’ Street Outreach Initiative during my Diaconal Internship at St James; and, later given the opportunity to continue this work, on Fridays, over the summer

 By directly engaging with street-involved adults - those challenged by poverty, homelessness, mental illness and addictions - I become a visible sign of Christ’s hands and feet at work in the community. I am beginning to get to know, and love, street-involved people. I would like to help them to realize, by supporting and assisting the work of Fr. Mathew, that they are not forgotten, by God, or the Church of God.

 I am increasingly aware of the growing population of street-involved people in the city of North Vancouver. If allowed to continue to serve with the St James Street Outreach Initiative, I will become better informed as to what I might do – in a practical way – to assist those in my own North Vancouver parish neighbourhood. I believe God is calling me to take this opportunity; to develop valuable, transportable skills in specialized areas of Diakonia.

I am therefore voluntarily willing to give the Street Outreach Initiative – through December 2018 – up to 12 hours per month on alternative Fridays*, as my schedule allows.* This would be over and above my weekly 10 hour Covenant to St John’s. Through this Diakonia ministry, I make Christ and his redemptive love known to those living on the streets of the Eastside. This ministry would consist of:

Street Outreach Initiative:

Assist and support Fr. Mathew, by accompanying him on his street outreach, on the Eastside;

- or-

Trauma Workshop shift: (*when in session – as my schedule permits )*

Assist and support Fr. Mathew to provide staff and hospitality support at Trauma Workshops, offered through the Street Outreach Initiative, hosted at St James church.

- and -

Victory House Eucharist: (1 hour per month)

Assist and support Fr. Mathew with the 3rd-Wednesday-in-the-month Victory House Eucharist; and to interact with the members of this supported living facility.

**Accountability and Discipline**

* Deacon Juanita is accountable to the rector of St John’s in all matters pertaining to the Parish of St John’s North Vancouver.
* Deacon Juanita accepts the overall authority of the Archbishop and Archdeacon, of the Diocese of New Westminster, for Deacons.
* Deacon Juanita is accountable to Rev. Patrick Blaney in all matters pertaining to her work as a deacon.
* Deacon Juanita will adhere to the requirements for deacons as contained in the Deacons’ Handbook, including the policy and process relating to retirement.
* Through regular staff meetings and reports, Deacon Juanita will report and consult with the rector with respect to the various aspects of her ministry.
* As deacon, Juanita is a member of: St John’s Caring Committee and St John’s Church Committee.
* Deacon Juanita will participate in an annual review of her ministry and these provisions with the rector and wardens and will accept amendment of these provisions as necessary and as may be mutually agreed to by the rector, the wardens and Deacon Juanita. Evaluation of performance and competence and continuation of ministry connected to the parish.
* Deacon Juanita will attend Vestry Meetings of the Parish and submit a written report of her ministry and activities within and outside the Parish to Vestry.
* The rector and the wardens recognize and affirm Deacon Juanita 's family obligations with respect to time and energy, the need for balance in her life and the lives of her family members and the need for Deacon Juanita to take care of herself in all aspects of her wellbeing. The Parishes will, as much as possible, limit its access to Deacon Juanita to the agreed periods of time she will be engaged in active diaconal ministry.
* This Covenant has a term of one year from the date of signature. Deacon Juanita and the rector and wardens will perform an assessment of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the ministry described in this Covenant in one year’s time at which time a renewed covenant may be signed.

**Working Conditions and Support**

* St John’s Parish has no obligation to provide remuneration for Deacon Juanita's ministry. St John’s Parish will reimburse to Deacon Juanita for any out-of-pocket expenses relating to travel and supplies regarding her pastoral care ministry.
* Deacon Juanita will take advantage of continuing educational opportunities within and without the Diocese and the Parish (including EfM - year 4 - to begin in January of 2019 at Christ Church Cathedral) and attendance at the annual Clergy Conference. To facilitate Deacon Juanita's continuing education, she is entitled to three weeks’ annual educational leave. Additional educational leave may be taken as may reasonably be agreed to from time to time by the rector and Deacon Juanita. St John’s Parish will pay the entire amount of monthly contributions ($50 per month) required by Canon 12 and Regulations of the Anglican Church of Canada in respect of Deacon Juanita's continuing education to the Diocese of New Westminster Continuing Education Fund.
* Deacon Juanita will carry out her ministry in the workplace an average of 10 hours per week (St John’s); and, is voluntarily choosing to give (*as her schedule permits)* up to12 hours per month to St James. Deacon Juanita is entitled to four weeks’ vacation each year; the timing of which will be reasonably agreed to by St John’s rector and Deacon Juanita.
* At this time, it is not anticipated that Deacon Juanita will require office space for her ministry (instead, an understanding has been reached, with Rev. Blaney, to share his office space on the occasions that a private office is required). A private voice-mail box (associated with St John’s 604 986 1151) has been set up for Deacon Juanita. She will not be provided with an office cell phone. An email address of deaconjuanita@telus.net will go into effect October 9, 2018. She will monitor her St John’s voice mail-box and her deaconjuanita e-mail account during her scheduled working hours.