**Consent for Release of Medical Information**

**& Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care**

Rationale

We bind ourselves to the members of the community, trusting in their faithfulness to support us.

Definitions:

**Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) for Health Care**: I someone you appoint to be your health care agent (sometimes called an attorney-in-fact for health care, health care proxy, or surrogate) to make any necessary health care decisions for you and to see that doctors and other health care providers give you the type of care you wish to receive.

**Consent for Release of Medical Information:** This form pertains to the **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** which provides federal protections of personal health information held by covered entities and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information, limiting how and with whom information is shared. The Consent for Release of Medical Information is used only in emergency situations or with sister’s permission.

Process:

1. **Each sister is expected to complete a DPOA for Health Care. In the event that the sister is not able to make her own decisions, these documents will be used:**
	1. To allow the designated health agent to receive information about a sisters’ condition, and to grant permission for treatments and procedures that serve the best interest of the affected sister.
	2. To guide her health care in the event herattending physician determines that her condition is terminal and current treatment is only serving to prolong the dying process.
	3. **It is expected that the primary health care agent will be a member of the congregation.**
2. **Each sister is expected to complete the Consent for Release of Medical Information (HIPAA) form.** This allows designated community members and health care staff to talk with physicians about health issues and process medical billing as necessary. This does not give these individuals permission to discuss a sisters health issues with anyone other than those involved in providing care. A sister can add or delete names from the standard form as appropriate.
3. Copies of the DPOA and Consent for Release of Medical Information forms are kept on file in the Provincial Administrative Office. In addition, the sister is encouraged to provide her designated health agent and her primary physician with copies of these documents.
4. These documents are available through the Provincial Administrative Office and should be reviewed and updated annually by the sister.