

## Validation Of Calling By Faith Community

*Minister not able to perform duties due to cancer, but ...*

I heard that a colleague in rural ministry had to leave his remote pastoral charge because of a recurring bout of cancer. Then I found his name on a church bulletin board on the edge of the city.

The church secretary told me he was now their minister and would be taking part in a covenanting service the end of the month. Indeed, she said there were major concerns for his health and she directed me to the web-site his support team had set up which allowed family, friends and congregants to read his blog-journal and stay in touch.

While the journey through endless weeks of further chemo and tests will not be easy, it is wonderful to see the way people are validating his calling, and he and they are able to offer each other mutual support.

Arrangements are being made for provisional replacement, but it is evident my friend will not be left alone to face what lies ahead. His ministry, and that of his congregation, continues.

*(notes by Joyce Sasse, October 2009)*