

LITANY OF FAREWELL: INTERIM PASTOR

Leader: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Pastor _____, whose time as our interim minister ends.

Int. Pastor: I thank _____ Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last _____ months. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I have made and for expectations unmet. I am grateful that my leadership has been accepted. With joy I recall the many things we have been able to accomplish together and, with sadness, the many not accomplished. As I leave, I carry with me many memories of experiences we have shared together.

People: **We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgiveness for any failures and our thanks for all accomplishments. We accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us and ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings and sometimes flagging faith. Your influence on our lives will not leave us even though you depart from us.**

Int. Pastor: I forgive you your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God and to the Christ we are called to serve.

Leader: Do you, the members of _____ Congregation now release Pastor _____ from the duties of interim minister?

People: **We do, with the help of God.**

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for Pastor _____'s continuing ministry?

People: **We do, with the help of God.**

Leader: Do you, Pastor _____ release _____ Lutheran congregation from turning to you and depending on you?

Int. Pastor: I do with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry at this congregation?

Int. Pastor: I do with the help of God.
During this time we have sought to maintain the life of this congregation and grow in love, understanding and faith through the use of God's Word and the sacraments. Continue in this path. You have grown in readiness for a new pastor. Be patient with the new pastor who begins his ministry among you and support his efforts.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: **GOD, WHOSE EVERLASTING LOVE FOR ALL IS TRUSTWORTHY, HELP EACH OF US TO TRUST THE FUTURE WHICH RESTS IN YOUR CARE. THE TIME WE WERE TOGETHER IN YOUR NAME SAW OUR LAUGHTER AND TEARS, OUR HOPES AND OUR DISAPPOINTMENTS. GUIDE US AS WE HOLD THESE CHERISHED MEMORIES, BUT MOVE IN NEW DIRECTIONS UNTIL THAT TIME TO COME WHEN WE ARE COMPLETELY ONE WITH YOU AND WITH EACH OTHER. IN THE NAME OF JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD WE PRAY, AMEN.**

Leader: Go now, Pastor _____, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Amen.