

# *Litanies of Welcome and Farewell to the Interim Pastor*

## Litany of Welcome

### For the Beginning of the Interim Journey

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 welcome with Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ whose time as our interim pastor/transition specialist begins.

Leader: Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of this congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

*Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Will you love, serve and pray for these people of God, nourishing them with the Word and Holy Sacraments and lead them forward during this important time of change?

*Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Will you lead this people of God in giving faithful witness to the word and making known the love of God through loving service among themselves and in this community?

*Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Leader: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of his Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: I ask all of you, now, people of this congregation, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him/her as a fellow servant of Christ and work with him/her in the ministry of this congregation?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: Will you pray for him/her and honor him/her for his/her work's sake and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as interim pastor/transition specialist of this congregation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Litany of Farewell

### For the End of the Interim Journey

Leader: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals and families 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 say farewell to Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, whose time as our interim pastor has come to an end.

*Pastor: I thank \_\_\_\_\_ Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last \_\_\_\_\_ months. I thank you for accepting my leadership. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together and with sadness the things we were not able to do. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for the mistakes I made and for the times I let you down.*

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgiveness for any failures. We accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. Your influence on us will not

- leave us, even though you depart from us. We express gratitude for your time among us and ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings and sometimes flagging faith.
- Pastor: I forgive you your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to the Christ we are called to serve.*
- Leader: Do you, the members and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ Church, now release Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ from the duties of interim pastor?
- Congregation: We do, with the help of God.
- Leader: Do you, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, release \_\_\_\_\_ Church from turning to you and depending on you?
- Pastor: I do, with the help of God.*
- Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here at \_\_\_\_\_ Church?
- Pastor: I do, with the help of God.*
- Leader: Let us pray.
- Congregation: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. During our time together, we have experienced laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we carry these cherished memories with us in new directions until the time when we are completely one with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, 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.

*Litanies of Welcome and Farewell are used by permission of the Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland.*