

## RITE OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED FOR A PASTOR AND HIS/HER FAMILY

1. *To be used before the Benediction.*
2. *The congregation is seated.*
3. *A representative of the congregation comes forward and addresses the congregation.*

R \_\_\_\_\_ (Pastor) \_\_\_\_\_ (and his/her family) is/are leaving our congregation. We wish now to bid him/her/them farewell and Godspeed.

4. *The same or another representative of the congregation may make brief comments about the pastor and/or the family, recalling the important events which have been shared with the congregation.*
5. *A representative of the congregation then offers this summary statement, affirming the pastoral ministry offered during the pastor's tenure.*

R Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of call) \_\_\_\_\_, we called you to be our pastor. We asked you to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you (and your family) have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community. God has blessed you in your ministry among us, and God has blessed us through you.

6. *The representative addresses the congregation.*

R Do you, members of \_\_\_\_\_ congregation, release (him/her) from the duties as pastor?

**C We do, with God's help.**

R Do you offer encouragement for (his/her) ministry as it unfolds in (his/her) new (congregation)?

**C We do, with God's help.**

7. *The representative addresses the pastor.*

R Do you, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, release \_\_\_\_\_ congregation from turning to you and depending on you?

P I do, with God's help.

R Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

P I do, with God's help.

R Let us pray.

C **Eternal God, we thank you for (pastor's name), and for our life together in this congregation and community. As he/she has been a blessing to us, so now send him/her out to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

8. *Closing farewell comments may be made by the departing pastor and/or family members at this time.*

**STAND**

9. *The service continues with the Benediction*