

RITE OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED FOR AN INTERIM PASTOR AND HIS/HER FAMILY

Rubrics:

- 1. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this order is used following the Prayers or the Post-Communion Prayer.*

SIT

- 2. A representative of the congregation comes forward and addresses the congregation.*

_____ (Pastor) _____ (and his/her family) are leaving our congregation, having fulfilled the interim ministry needed at this time. We wish now to bid him/her/them farewell and Godspeed.

- 3. 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.*
- 4. A representative of the congregation then offers this summary statement, affirming the pastoral ministry offered during the interim period.*

Pastor _____ (name) _____, on _____ (date interim ministry began) _____, we engaged you to be our pastor for this interim period in the life of our congregation. 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 with his Spirit in fulfilling this interim ministry, and He has blessed us through you.

Let us pray.

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.

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

STAND

- 6. The service continues with the Peace or the Benediction.*