

Appendix 2E: Sample Liturgy: Installing Your Interim Pastor

- L: Christian friends, today we give thanks to God for the ministry that God has given to the people of _____ Lutheran Church. We ask God's guidance as this new part of the journey, this interim time, begins. Let us pray together.
- C: Gracious God, you have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter this in-between time. Bless us and guide us as we prepare for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen
- P: I have been chosen by your leaders as your interim pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time until you call your next pastor. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the Gospel among you: I will pray for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this transition period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.
- C: And we, the people of _____ Lutheran Church, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the Gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service, and stewardship.
- P: May God bless us and lead us as together we embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's Spirit instructs us and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.
- C: Thanks be to God.
- L: Our Congregation Council has met with Pastor _____ and we have agreed to an interim time of ministry for our congregation. We now publicly recognize this ministry among us and heartily welcome him/her in our midst.
- 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; will you preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church; will you love, serve, and pray for God's people; will you nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, leading them by your own example in the use of the means of grace, in faithful service and holy living?
- P: I will and I ask God to help me.

Seven Checklists for Congregations in Transition

- L: And you, people of God, will you receive this messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him/her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God? Will you pray for him/her, help 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?
- C: **We will.**
- L: By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as interim pastor of _____ Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

