

Appendix 7C – Sample Liturgy: Farewell and Godspeed for Your Interim Pastor

L: Leader; P: Pastor; C: Congregation

- L: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church's 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 term as our interim pastor is coming to an end.
- P: Today I thank _____ Lutheran Church, its members and friends, for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me (and my family) these past months. I give thanks for the understanding and forgiveness shared between us as together we walked new paths. I am grateful to God that so many here graciously accepted my leadership, and I recall with deep joy the things we have been able to accomplish in this short time. As I leave, I carry with me many good memories.
- C: **We, too, are thankful for what God has done through all of us during this time, and for our renewed mission and ministry. We acknowledge your departure from this congregation's ministry and we accept that you now leave us as our interim pastor. We are grateful for your time among us. Your influence in our lives will not leave us, even though you depart from us as our interim pastor.**
- P: Let us trust that this team ministry together, and our parting, are pleasing to our gracious God and to the Christ we are called to serve.
- L: Do you, the members and friends of _____ Lutheran Church, now release Pastor _____ as interim pastor? Do you offer your encouragement and support to Pastor _____ in the next step of her/his journey?
- C: **We do, with God's help.**
- L: Do you, Pastor _____, release _____ Lutheran Church from turning to you and depending on you?
- P: I do, with God's help.
- L: Let us pray.
- C: **O God, whose everlasting love for us is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time when we were together here in your name saw our tears, laughter, disappointments, and hopes. Guide us as we hold close these cherished memories, even while moving in new directions, until that time when we are completely one with you, and with each other. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.**
- L: 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.
- C: **Amen.**