**LITURGY FOR THE BLESSING OF THE INTERIM**

**CONGREGATIONAL LEADER:** Dear Christian Friends: Baptized in the priesthood of Christ, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today we give thanks to God for the Ministry that God has given to the people of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Church, and for the faithful service of its members and former pastors, most recently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And now we begin a new part of the journey with our interim pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We ask God’s guidance for our ministry as we join together in prayer.

**ALL:** 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. Comfort us as we grieve the past or look anxiously to the future. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we might be prepared 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.

**INTERIM PASTOR:** As we begin this interim time together, we begin new relationships. I have been called as your interim pastor, to be God’s servant among you during this special time, until that time when you call a settled 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 interim period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

**CONGREGATION:** And we, the people of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_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.

**INTERIM PASTOR:** May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God’s spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

**A HYMN MAY BE SUNG**