**INTERIM PASTOR DEPARTURE LITURGY**

**Interim Pastor:**

Last\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date/month), I took on the responsibility as your Interim Pastor. I was responsible for worship and all services of this church, for pastoral care of this congregation and for assuring Christian education of these people. Will you release me from these responsibilities of Interim Pastor?

**People:**

We will.

**Interim Pastor:**

Together we have sought to maintain the life of this church and to grow in love and understanding and faith. Will you continue on this path?

**People:**

We will, with God’s help.

**Interim Pastor:**

As your Interim Pastor, I took on a leadership role as you reviewed your history, explored needed leadership changes, resolved old conflicts, explored new directions in ministry, and prepared to move forward with new pastoral leadership. Will you, with me, give thanks to God for the hard work we have done?

**People:**

We will, with God’s help.

**Interim Pastor:**

You have grown in readiness for a new Permanent Pastor. Will you be patient as your new pastor begins his/her ministry among you and support his/her efforts?

**People:**

We will, with God’s help.

**Interim Pastor:**

Will the (council/consistory) please come forward (all stand)? You are the elected leaders of this church. Will you ensure that the responsibilities I carried be carried on?

**Leaders:**

We will, with God’s help

**Interim Pastor:**

Will all of the members of the congregation support the elected committee members of this Church?

**People:**

We will, with God’s help

**Interim Pastor:**

I return to you the keys (and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) you gave me when I came last (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). I thank you for that trust.

**Moderator/President:**

I receive them as the representative of these people. We express to you our gratitude and love for your wise and faithful leadership during this transition time.

**Interim Pastor:**

My prayers will be always with you.

**People:**

And ours with you.

**Interim Pastor:**

Let us pray (Prayer)