

Presbytery of Arkansas Dissolution of a Pastoral Call

This liturgy is to be included at the end of the regular service of worship on the last Sunday of a pastor's call. A representative of Presbytery, ordinarily either the General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, or a member of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, should be invited to represent the Presbytery of Arkansas in the service.

Clerk of Session

The church of Jesus Christ is constantly changing. Our church is changing as well. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends die. Newcomers join our community and our church. Others leave, moving on to new places and new opportunities. It is important that we recognize these times of change.

Today we say farewell to one who is leaving our fellowship. On _____, this congregation called _____ to serve with us as pastor. Today that call comes to an end.

Clerk Let us pray for the saving presence of our living God: In your world,

All be present, Lord.

Clerk In this congregation,

All be present, Lord.

Clerk In this community,

All be present, Lord.

Clerk In the homes and hearts of all your people,

All be present, Lord.

Pastor Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord: For work begun but not completed

All Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For expectations not met,

All Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For wounds not healed,

All Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For promises not kept,

All Lord have mercy.

Clerk Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place: For friendships made, for joys celebrated, and for times of nurture and growth,

All thanks be to God.

Clerk For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept,

All thanks be to God.

Clerk For fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God which has sustained us,

All thanks be to God.

Presbytery Representative

Do you, the members and friends of the _____ Presbyterian Church, release _____ from service as your pastor?

All We do, with thanks to God.

PR Do you, _____, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

Pastor I do, with thanks to God.

Presbytery Representative

Let us pray... Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

Representing the Presbytery of Arkansas, I witness these words of thanksgiving, forgiveness, and release. The presbytery rejoices with you in the ministry you have shared, and we pledge to you continued support and prayer.

With thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation, and the ministry of God's servant _____, and with hope of God's abiding grace in the months and years to come, this pastoral relationship is now dissolved.

With God's help and love may your lives be blessed and your labors fruitful as you offer yourselves gladly in the service of our common Lord.

Pastor Benediction

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