

PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE
Committee on Ministry

INTERIM PASTORS: SERVICES OF WELCOME AND DEPARTURE

The brief examples provided here are intended to represent a beginning, elements that could be molded into a Service of Welcome or of Departure for an Interim Pastor. Expanding these into celebrations for these two events should be the goal. For creative ideas please refer to Interim Ministry Resources Network, Inc., P. O. Box 21251, Baltimore, MD 21228-0751. 410-719-0777.

SERVICE OF WELCOME

Leader: We are pleased to welcome _____ who has been chosen to serve as Interim Pastor of our church. We have developed an agreement that our interim will provide continuity in leadership while our church is in transition, help maintain the health of our congregation, and support us as we select a new pastor.

Do you agree to assist in this task?

Interim Pastor response: I do.

Leader: Do you further affirm that you are not and will not become a candidate to fill the open office of pastor of this congregation?

Interim Pastor response: I do.

Leader: The session has promised that our congregation will support the Interim Pastor and will assist in carrying out the activities and programs of the church. Do you, the congregation, now promise to support and uphold _____ in this Interim Ministry?

Congregational response: We do.

Leader: May the Lord who has brought us together as pastor and congregation give us courage and determination to carry forward in this period of transition. May we love and care for each other, sharing our gifts and talents, that together we may serve Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITANY OF DEPARTURE

Leader: God of continuity and of change, _____ has served our church as an Interim Pastor. For the ministry and accomplishments of this period we offer our thanks and praise.

People: We give thanks, O God, for our time together.

Leader: We pray that the seeds of hope that you have planted in our church family may continue to grow.

People: O God, expand our understanding and our love.

Leader: _____, as you leave this place, do you promise to hold us in your prayers and to maintain your commitment to the ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ, wherever you are led?

Interim pastor response: I do.

Leader: And do we, the members of this congregation, hold _____ and his/her work here in our hearts as he/she goes to serve in other locations?

People: We will. And may the Blessings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with _____ and with all of us from this day forward and forever more. Amen.