



Liturgy of Beginning for an Interim Ministry

L: In Holy Baptism, we are called by the promise of God into a relationship of faith toward God and love toward one another. This relationship finds expression in our gathering as congregations of the church to hear God's Word, eat and drink at the Lord's Table, and minister to the needs of our community and God's world. As Lutheran congregations, we call pastors to leave and assist us in our ministry; to teach, challenge, and admonish us according to the gospel; to counsel, comfort, and guide us in the love of God; and to oversee the events and activities of our common life. The interim period between a former pastor leaving and a new pastor coming affords us an opportunity to reflect on our past, evaluate our present, and dream toward our future as God's people.

L: In partnership with the Central States Synod and congregational council, Pastor _____ has agreed to be the interim pastor at _____ .

P: I commit myself to this new trust and responsibility. I promise to fulfill my responsibilities to the best of my ability in accordance with scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and Constitution of this congregation. Will you, as a congregation, receive me as your pastor and partner in ministry as we seek God's call for us in this interim period?

C: We will.

L: As a member and leader of this congregation, I ask you to join me in support of Pastor _____ ; to pray for them/her/him, to help and honor them/her/him for their/her/his work's sake, and in all things to strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ. Will you join me in this support?

C: We will.

L: Welcome, Pastor _____. We now officially begin our partnership in this interim ministry in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you call your people in baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we be renewed daily by the gift of your Holy Spirit and may we be especially aware of your leading during this interim period. Grant us faithfulness and peace in all that we do so that you may be glorified among us. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.