

Releasing Ourselves and Each Other for New Ministry

Pastors:

I am thankful for the love and support I have felt while I have ministered.
I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.
I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned.

Lay Leaders:

**We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,
and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere, in new places.
We express our gratitude for your time among us.
We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.
Your influence on our faith and faithfulness
will not leave with your departure.**

Pastors:

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you,
trusting that our time together and our parting
are pleasing to God.
I release those where I have served from turning to me and depending on me.
I encourage your continuing ministry and will pray for you and for your new pastor.

Let us pray together:

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting,
we give you thanks for cherished memories
and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions.
Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Adapted from the United Methodist Book of Worship and “An Order of Farewell to a Pastor or Deacon,” Copyright © 1992 UMPH, alt. 2015 (to include deacon in full connection) by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.