**Litany of Farewell**

Member of Calling PNC/Clerk of Session: Our church family is constantly changing. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. For the God we serve is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Today we share the time of farewell with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who is leaving and I would ask \_\_\_\_\_\_ to join me.

**Ending a Ministry**
Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery: On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Date), through the voice of the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church and on behalf of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ began his/her call to serve as pastor/associate pastor.

Pastor/Associate Pastor: I thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Presbyterian Church, its members and friends for the love, kindness, and support shown me during these \_\_\_\_\_years. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted and for the good things we have been able to accomplish together, with God’s help. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I’ve made and for those times when I was not the pastor you had hoped I would be. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned and received from you.

**People: We receive your gratitude, offer forgiveness, and accept the fact that you now leave us to follow God’s calling to a new ministry in Christ’s name. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We, too, ask your forgiveness for the mistakes we have made when we have not been the congregation that you hoped we would be. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Pastor/Associate Pastor: I accept your gratitude, and forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

**Vows of Release**

Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery: Do you, the members and friends of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church, release \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the duties of pastor/associate pastor?

**People: We do, with God’s help.**

Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery: Do you offer your encouragement for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ‘s ministry as s/he now follows God’s call to \_\_\_\_\_brief description of where pastor is going\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**People: We do, with God’s help.**

Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery: Do you offer your encouragement for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s ministry as it unfolds in new ways and will you pray for him/her as s/he makes this transition to \_\_retirement/city of new call\_\_\_\_\_?

**People: We do, and we will.**

Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery: Do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ release this congregation from turning to you and depending on you as pastor/associate pastor?

Pastor: I do, with God’s help.

Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church and for the relationship this congregation will develop with its next pastor/associate pastor that God calls to serve in this place after you?

Pastor: I do, with God’s help.

**Prayer**

Member of PNC/Clerk of Session: Let us pray. O God, for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. For these moments we are sincerely grateful. We thank you for the moments we have shared with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in worship, in learning, in service, in prayer, in caring, and in seeking to walk together in the way of Jesus. We pray that s/he will be aware of your Spirit’s guidance as s/he moves to a new place in the name of Jesus the Christ.

**People: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments, our celebrations and our desire to grow in faith and devotion to Jesus Christ. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move now in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray.**

**Closing**

Presbyter for community life/representative from presbytery:This call is now dissolved.Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Option #2 is on the next page

**Marking the End of the Pastoral Relationship**

Statement of Purpose

 Our church, like any community, changes.

 Babies are born. Children grow up. Loved ones and friends grow old. Dear ones die.

 People move into our community and church.

 Others leave us, moving on to new places or opportunities.

Let us not forget that the ministry in this place is Christ’s ministry, entrusted to us as part of his Body. Our ministry belongs to Jesus and is ongoing.

When a pastor/associate pastor comes into our church, we covenant with one another;

We promise to walk together as God’s People, deepening our commitment to Christ and growing closer to God. God’s covenant with us never changes, but our covenants with one another do change. We gather now to mark the ending of the covenant between \_\_name\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church.

Prayer

 Member of calling PNC/Clerk of Session:

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,

In this community,

 **Be present Christ.**

In this congregation,

 In this presbytery and the whole world-wide Church,

 **Be present Christ.**

In the homes and hearts of all your people,

 **Be present Christ.**

 **Departing Pastor/Associate Pastor:**

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun but not completed,

 **Christ, have mercy.**

For expectations not met,

 For wounds not healed,

 **Christ, have mercy.**

 For gifts not shared,

 For promises not kept,

 **Christ, have mercy**.

 **Member of calling PNC/Clerk of Session:**

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made,

 For joys celebrated

 And for times of nurture and growth,

 **Thanks be to God**.

 For wounds healed,

 Expectations met,

 Gifts given and promises kept.

 **Thanks be to God.**

 For our fellowship in Jesus Christ,

 Our mission and ministry in the Spirit,

 And for the love of God which has sustained us,

 **Thanks be to God.**

Marking the End of the Covenanted Ministry

 Member of calling PNC/Clerk of Session: On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to serve as our Pastor/Associate Pastor. We now are called on to release her/him from the pastoral duties of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place and for us. Do we, the members and friends of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian release \_\_\_\_\_\_ from service as our Pastor/Associate Pastor?

 **We do, with thanks to God.**

 **Member of calling PNC/Clerk of Session:** Do you, J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, recognize and accept the completion of your pastoral ministry with this congregation?

*I do, with thanks to God.*

The witness of the Presbytery

Representing the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky,

 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 Jane,

And with hope for God’s abiding grace in the years to come,

This pastoral relationship is now dissolved.

Closing Prayer

 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.**