

**PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Guideline for a Litany of Farewell

- (Name): On _____ (date) _____, upon recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee, our congregation voted to call (name) to become the (Pastor, Associate Pastor, Co-Pastor). (Name) came at a time of great transition in the life of our church and we were grateful for (his/her) courage and sense of call in coming to us.
- (Pastor Leaving): I thank (church name), its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last (number) years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.
- People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave [to minister in a new place] [to retire]. We pray that you will be aware of the Spirit's guidance on your journey. We express gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will be long lasting.
- (Pastor Leaving): I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our parting is pleasing to God.
- (Name): Do you, the members and friends of (church name) release (pastor leaving) from the duties of (Pastor, Associate Pastor, Co-Pastor)?
- People: We do, with the help of God.
- (Name): Do you offer your encouragement for (his/her) ministry soon to begin [as (Pastor, Associate Pastor, Co-Pastor) at (name of new church and location)] [in retirement]?
- People: We do, with the help of God.
- (Name): Do you, (pastor leaving), release this congregation from turning to you as pastor?
- (Pastor Leaving): I do, with the help of God.
- (Name): Do you offer your encouragement for their continued ministry here and for the relationship with others who will come to serve?
- (Pastor Leaving): I do, with the help of God.
- (Name): Let us pray:
- All: God of grace, 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, disappointments, and accomplishments. Confirm in us these treasured memories, even as we move in new directions, until that promised time when we will be completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.