

A Service of Celebration and Farewell

Sample Service D

[These resources may be used as part of the first Sunday morning worship when a new pastor arrives, or they may become part of a special service. They also can be adapted when another staff member joins the staff of the congregation.]

Hymn [Choose a hymn familiar to the congregation to begin this part of the service. Possible choices from the *United Methodist Hymnal* are #328, *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*; #398, *Jesus Calls Us*; #451, *Be Thou My Vision*.]

Service of Welcome

Lay Leader: Dear friends, today we welcome [Name],
who has been appointed to serve as our pastor.
We believe that [Name] is well qualified
and has been prayerfully appointed by our bishop.
[Name], you have been sent to live among us
as a preacher of the Word of God;
a minister of the Sacraments;
and a sustainer of love, order and discipleship of the people of God.

New Pastor: Today I affirm my commitment to live faithfully among you
as your pastor, depending on God's grace and power.

**Congregation: Blessed are those whose trust is in you,
O Lord, our God,
for in your presence is fullness of joy.**

Lay Leader: People of God, will you do your part as we begin a new chapter of our ministry in this place?

**Congregation: We reaffirm our commitment to support this congregation with
our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

**ALL: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
O God,
for a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

New Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries
together. Give to all of us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for
one another and challenge one another that together we may follow Jesus
Christ. Help us to live together in love and offer our gifts and talents in
your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Prayer #2195 (*The Faith We Sing Hymnal*) *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*
Pastoral Prayer
Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Message "For A New Beginning: Give Thanks!"

***Hymn of Response** #383 (*UMH*) *This is a Day of New Beginnings*, stanzas 1–3

Our Response through our Tithes and Offerings

***The Doxology**

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** #383 (*UMH*) *This is a Day of New Beginnings*, stanza 4

***Postlude**

*All who are able may stand.

Litany of Welcome is adapted from resources from Yoke of Christ liturgy in East Ohio Conference "A Guide to a Good Move for Pastors and Families," United Methodist Book of Worship #595 "An Order for the Celebration of an Appointment," and Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, "A Sample Service of Farewell and Godspeed." Used by permission.

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