

## AN OUTLINE ORDER FOR MARKING AN ENDING OF AN APPOINTMENT IN WORSHIP

The following is a possible outline order for marking the ending of an appointment. It should be adapted according to the particular circumstances, in the light of all the guidance above. Within a service, the appropriate place for this will usually be after the sermon. Any or all of items 6, 8 or 9 may alternatively take place at the end of the service, before the Blessing or Dismissal.

Elements of this order are drawn from the service *Praying our Farewells* in *Celebrating Common Prayer* and used by permission.

**1 The minister says:**

Today we mark a turning point in our journey with God together, as the ministry of *N* as [*role or office held*] (*in this place*) comes to an end.

We are the Body of Christ:  
**each of us is a member of it.**

There is one ministry of Christ:  
**in this ministry we all share.**

There are different ways of serving God:  
**it is the same Lord whom we serve.**

**2** *N* responded to God's call to serve in this appointment.

In love and praise, we give thanks for *her/his/their* offering of *herself/himself/themself* within the life of *this church*.

**3** The minister and/or other representative(s) of *the church/circuit/etc* may outline the nature of the role undertaken, and offer testimony to how the church's life and mission has been enriched by the person's service.

**4** The person whose appointment is ending may offer some reflections on their time in the role, and give testimony to how God has been at work in their life during this period of service.

**5** The minister leads this or some other prayer(s) of thanksgiving:

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God,  
that you called *N* to share in the ministry of your Son Jesus Christ,  
as [*role or office held*] among us,  
and moved *her/him/them* to accept your call.

We thank you for sending upon *her/him/them*  
the grace of your Holy Spirit  
for this work and ministry,  
and for sustaining, guiding  
and enabling *her/him/them* in this service  
by your life-giving power.

We thank you for the ways in which  
N has enriched the life and witness of *this church*,  
and for the ways in which, through *her/his/their* ministry,  
your name has been glorified.  
Sometimes this has been easy,  
at other times, challenging:  
we thank you for your grace, your patience  
and your redeeming love;  
in the name of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
in whose life, death and resurrection we all share.  
**Amen.**

- 6 The person whose appointment is ending, and the minister and/or other representative(s) of *the church/circuit/etc*, make confession for any falling short in their discharge of, or support for, the appointment that is ending; ask for forgiveness; and reaffirm their commitment to Christ; using these or other words (appropriately adapted if, for whatever reason, the person whose appointment is ending is not present):

Minister and/or representative(s) of *the church/circuit/etc*:

As you journey onward,  
we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;  
we give thanks for all you have given us;  
we assure you of our love and prayers.

The person whose appointment is ending (if present):

As I move on, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you;  
I give thanks for all that you have given to me;  
I assure you of my love and prayers.

Minister and/or representative(s) of *the church/circuit/etc*:

As you experience the challenges of change,  
and the insecurity of moving on,  
we pray that you may also experience  
the blessing of inner growth.

The person whose appointment is ending (if present):

I know that God is with me.

Minister and/or representative(s) of *the church/circuit/etc*:

Whatever life brings you next,  
as you walk through good times and bad,  
we pray that you shall always know  
the shelter of God's loving arms.

The person whose appointment is ending (if present):

I know that God is with me.

Minister and/or representative(s) of *the church/circuit/etc*:

As you ponder this change in your life,  
and wonder over the fruits of your labour,  
we pray that the peace of Christ  
may reign in your heart.

The person whose appointment is ending (if present):

I know that God is with me.

7 Further prayers for healing and renewal may be offered.

8 The minister says:

We praise and thank you, God of the journey,  
for *N* as *she/he/they* journeys on.  
As we release *her/him/them* from *her/his/their* service  
as [*role or office held*] (*in this place*),  
we entrust *her/him/them* to your loving care,  
knowing that you are always with us  
as our faithful companion on the Way.  
Shelter and protect *N* from all harm and anxiety.  
Grant *her/him/them* the courage to meet the future,  
and grace to let go into new life;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

9 The person whose appointment is ending, or the minister or another representative acting on the person's behalf, may approach the communion table and set down upon it, or at the foot of a cross, a suitable object to represent their letting go from the appointment that is now come to an end. (See the accompanying guidance, above.)

10 Silence

11 The minister says:

'See, I make all things new,' says the Lord.

Gracious God,  
as we turn this corner in our life together,  
we pray that you will continue to renew us all  
in your grace.

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on *N*,  
and on the whole of your Church . . .

**As we all journey on,  
may we continue in your service,  
steadfast in faith,  
unwavering in hope,  
and united in your love:**

**for the life of the world,  
and to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

- 12 A certificate or some other item may be presented to them, as a sign of what they take with them. (See the accompanying guidance, above.)
- 13 Hymn
- 14 The service continues.