

Gracious Partings: When A Pastor Leaves a Call

As a pastor, leaving well may be one of the most important things you do in ministry. In leaving well, pastors create space for new leadership, new dreams, new relationships and new ministry for whomever God calls to fill that space. In leaving well, you allow for the ministry to go on following Christ, instead of making the ministry about your own work and ministry.

In order to create this space for new ministry, you must go through the process of parting. This process of parting may be a mixture of joy and sorrow, but you must step out of the role of pastor for those you have served and let go of the ministries you have created, worked for and built up entrusting them to God, who is faithful and just to bring all good things to completion.

Declaration of Intent:

As a colleague respecting my fellow ministers, and their desire to do ministry once I have left a call, I understand that:

- It is vital that I exclude myself from the life of the congregation in every way.
- I will not be a sounding board for any complaints and concerns about new leadership or issues in the congregation.
- I will not accept any pastoral responsibilities including: weddings, funerals, or baptisms within the life of my former congregation, even if those events are not at the particular church; unless I am explicitly invited by an invitation that originates from the moderator of session (G-2.0905).
- I will be sensitive to my ongoing relationships, including social media. If I stay in touch I will be sure I do not step back into any pastoral role, either in person or online.

As a Teaching Elder and Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the service of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA), I agree to leave well by creating the space for a new minister and the congregation to continue the work of Christ together. I will abide by the principles and guidelines above as I transition out of this call.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

As the session of _____ we understand the need to look toward the future and will not ask or inquire of _____ to fulfill any pastoral duties.

Signed Clerk of Session: _____ Date: _____