

A Litany of Welcome for an Interim Pastor

Moderator or Board Chair:

(To Congregation)

A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life, pastors move on to answer a new call. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of welcome with Pastor _____, whose time as interim pastor begins today.

(To Interim Pastor)

Pastor _____, in the presence of God and this congregation, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility and promise to discharge your duties in concert with the leadership of this congregation and under the authority of the Church of the Brethren?

Interim Pastor: With God's help I will.

Moderator or Board Chair:

Will you love, serve, pray for and pray with the people of this congregation, nourishing them with God's Word and with the rites and ordinances of the church?

Interim Pastor: With God's help I will.

Moderator or Board Chair:

Will you lead these people in seeking to find and follow the mind of Christ in their personal lives, their homes, and the community?

Interim Pastor: With God's help I will.

Moderator or Board Chair:

(To Congregation)

I ask all of you now, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Pastor _____, who will lead you in continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together? Will you pray for (her/him) and regard (her/him) as a fellow servant of Christ and work energetically and harmoniously with (her/him) in the ministry of this congregation? If so, answer: "With God's help we will."

Congregation: With God's help we will.

Moderator or Board Chair:

(To Interim Pastor)

By the affirmations made by you and this congregation, you are welcomed as interim pastor of this congregation. May the blessing of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit be upon you and upon us. Amen.