

Recognition of a Pastor's Retirement

It is appropriate that this service be used during a presbytery meeting. This liturgy may be used alone or included in worship for the day, in which instance it would follow the sermon and precede the celebration of the Eucharist.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

The moderator or other appropriate presbytery officer or staff leads the presbytery:

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or the land and the earth were born,
From age to age you are God.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all God's benefits.**

Who forgives all your sins
And heals all your infirmities.

**Who redeems your life from the grave
And crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness.**

Who satisfies you with good things,
And your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The minister is asked to recount their ministry.

(NAME), you have completed your active service as a minister of Word and Sacrament.

We praise God for the grace that has filled your ministry,
We give thanks for your faithful service to Christ's church,
And we rejoice at the work of the Holy Spirit in you.

Now this presbytery confers upon you the status, Honorably Retired.

We value the gifts and experience God has bestowed upon you
And we welcome your continued participation
In the life of the church.
You remain a colleague in ministry,
And we will continue to seek your wisdom and your fellowship.
We pray that you will find new opportunities

To fulfill your baptismal calling,
As one marked by the Holy Spirit, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bring joy and peace to your life,
Just as you have blessed the church with your ministry
And proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ.

Amen

PRAYER

The moderator or presbytery representative may say one of the following prayers:

Eternal God,
Through all the years of our lives
Your love protects and guides us.
By your Spirit you call us to varied ministries
In the service of Jesus Christ.
We praise you for your gifts to your servant (NAME),
For *his/her* faithful proclamation of your word,
His/her administration of the holy sacraments of Jesus Christ,
And *his/her* pastoral care and leadership in the church.
Grant to (NAME)
Time for refreshment and rest,
Reflection and rejoicing,
And the fullness of your peace.
Through your Holy Spirit
Bless each of us
That we may remember the love of Jesus Christ,
Which unites us in the service of our Lord.
In the name of Christ we pray. AMEN.

God of grace,
We thank you for the gifts of Christian ministry
Given in your servant (NAME).
We celebrate the years of *his/her* labor
In the fields of the Lord.
We rejoice in the blessings so many have received.
Give *him/her* a sense of fulfillment and completion,
A time of refreshment and rest, and new opportunities
For living the good news of your love in Jesus Christ. AMEN.