

Litany of Transition

To be used when a member of a congregation has moved to a facility and is unable to be present among the congregation at worship.

This litany may be conducted by a facility chaplain or other staff. Representatives of the congregation, such as a council chair or congregation president, may wish to be present. A facility may wish to have a representative present. Family members are encouraged to be present as they are able.

L: We gather in community to worship God and to support and uphold one another in community: our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows, our beginnings and our endings. Today we mark an ending and a beginning for *N.* as s/he has moved to (_____) and makes this place (his/her) new home.

In Genesis we read: "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.' So Abram went, as the Lord has told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran."

N., before these people now assembled, representing your new community, we now ask you: Will you, like Abram, enter into this new phase of life, trusting in God to walk with you and show you the way? If so, answer, "I will, and I trust God to help and guide me."

R: I will, and I trust God to help and guide me.

L: Will you make this place your home? Will you receive graciously the help that is given? Will you live among your new neighbors, and rejoice in this beginning?

R: I will, and I trust God to help and guide me.

To representatives of the congregation, if present (if none present, proceed to the next exchange):

L: People of God, will you support *N.* in his/her new home? Will you continue to provide care and love as you faithfully have done? If so, say, "We will, and we trust God to help and guide us."

R: We will, and we trust God to help and guide us.

To representatives of the facility, if present:

L: People of God, will you support *N.* in his/her new home? Will you love and serve *N.*, and in so doing answer the call of Christ? If so, say, "We will, and we trust God to help and guide us."

R: We will, and we trust God to help and guide us.

L: Let us pray. God of all creation, God of endings and beginnings, you have sheltered us under your wings and walked with us along our journeys. Watch over *N.* with tender care as s/he begins this part of (his/her) life in this new home. May it be the doorway to richness and new meaning in his/her life. We pray these blessings upon *N.* in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

A representative of the facility may come forward and present the resident with a plant, throw pillow, room blessing plaque, or other token. The representative may say:

N., receive this (*item*) as a token of our love and care. May it represent for you in your new home a reminder that you are a cherished part of this place, a vital member of this family, and our beloved brother/sister in Christ. Thanks be to God!