

Litany of Transition *(courtesy of the Rev. Beth Woodard)*

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 our 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 had 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? 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.

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!