

AN ORDER OF FAREWELL TO A PASTOR OR DEACON

June 22, 2023

The pastor and congregation may release one another with these or similar words.

Pastor: I thank you, the members and friends of Community United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,
and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere.**

We express our gratitude for your time among us.

We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.

**Your influence on our faith and faithfulness
will not leave with your departure.**

Pastor: I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you,
trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

I release you from turning to me and depending on me.

I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new *pastor*.

*The pastor may pray extemporaneously, or the pastor and congregation may join in the
following prayer:*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you
thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new
directions.**

Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Farewell Song

Shalom My Friend

Shalom my friend, Shalom my friend. Shalom, Shalom.

God's peace be with you, God's peace be with you. Shalom, Shalom.

Shalom my friend, Shalom my friend. Shalom, Shalom.

Till we meet again, till we meet again. Shalom, Shalom.