

A Liturgy to Mark the End of the Pastor's Sabbatical

September 2, 2018



Opening Words

Jean Bowman

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God for the work God gives this congregation, and for the leadership Pastor Doug provides.

We ask God's blessing on us and on Pastor Doug as he returns to us from this Sabbatical time.

We give thanks to God for using this intentional time apart for growth and rest both for Pastor Doug and for our congregation.

We give thanks to God for bringing Pastor Doug back into our community safely and we look forward to the new things that God is doing in our midst as we seek together to Glorify God with our gifts to serve all people.

Congregation: We rejoice that God has brought you back into our presence refreshed, and we welcome you with open arms.

Doug: It is good to be back among God's people at Federated Church! During this sabbatical time, I've completed a significant portion of my thesis and journeyed to new places. I've also experienced rest and renewal. I am grateful to the congregation for this sabbatical time.

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Congregation: We thank the Lord for this time apart and for this time of returning!

Doug: I thank God for our shared ministry over the past 15 years. I am committed to the mission and ministries of Federated Church, to God's people in this community, and to the future that God has planned for us.

Returning the Pastor's Stole

Mark Rodning

The primary and unique symbol for Pastors is their stole. It points to their being set apart by the Church for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

We now place Pastor Doug's stole on his shoulders to mark the end of this intentional Sabbatical time and to indicate his return to active ministry among us.

Congregational Laying on of Hands

Mark Rodning

Congregation turns to center aisle; place a hand on the shoulder next to you

Eternal God, you fill us with every good thing and your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for Pastor Doug, his family, and for our life together at Federated Church. As we return from Sabbatical time, enfold us all back into the life and ministry on this congregation in this community; fill us with your Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

Pastor Doug

The peace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

Hymn #343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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Passing the Peace

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The peace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

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