

Liturgy for When a Staff Member Moves On

Heavenly Father,

Our family is changing. Not in nature, but in composition. Our dear friend, our spiritual sibling, one of our leaders will no longer take up the same space, carry the same burdens, and care for us in the same ways that they have so well and for so long.

We bless their next season, wherever you might lead them, and we celebrate the journey we've shared together, and all the ways your love and mercy graced our fellowship.

We've shared tears and laughter.
We've shared victories and defeats.
We've shared stories and questions.
We've shared worry and purpose.
We've shared mistakes and plans.

Most of all, we've shared each other ... we've shared life with you, our Heavenly Father. We thank you that our status as an eternal family will never change. Yet when someone who has loved us and led our church as well as they have moves on ... we lament.

We lament that their voice will not be heard in strategic meetings.
We lament that their gifts will no longer shape all the ways we take care of our neighbors.
We lament that their love will not guide our collective impulses.

Moving on is hard. Yet we trust you. We trust that you will care for them. We trust that you will care for us. We trust that you know what's best for those who remain and those who move on and those who stay but not in the same way. We trust that your Fatherly love still surrounds us. We trust that the compassion of your Son still compels us. We trust that the fellowship of your Spirit still holds us.

With sorrow, we thank you for this staff member.
With celebration, we thank you for our friend.
With hope, we look forward for our good and your glory.

Amen.