**RITUAL OF WELCOME,** adapted from a similar ritual found in the United Church of Christ's *Book of Worship*:

Words from the Moderator
Today we celebrate a new beginning in the life of our congregation. By welcoming [Intern] as our pastoral intern, we are opening ourselves to a new experience of God’s power and presence in our midst. [Intern] has some clear goals she wants to achieve in our time among us – including leading adult Bible Study, learning about what a visitation is, participating in ecumenical partnerships, and to experience ministry in an Open and Affirming congregation. We do not know all the ways that this relationship will be lived out between now and May, but we move into this new relationship with joy and excitement, looking forward to the ways God is still speaking to us through this experience.

Words of the Covenant
Moderator: As a representative of the board, I covenant to help [Intern] grow in her gifts and skills for ministry. We promise to provide her genuine opportunities to do pastoral work, to offer her appropriate feedback when requested, and to help guide her and her supervisor, Pastor LiturgyGeek, as they learn and grow together.

Pastor: As the pastor of this congregation, I covenant to mentor [Intern], to guide her towards growth in ministry, to pray with and for her regularly, and to offer her appropriate feedback. I promise, with the help of God, to lead by example and to model faithful ministry work in this congregation. I also recommit myself to my own covenant with you, the congregation, and promise to continue to labor alongside of you in the ministry of reconciliation and extravagant welcome to which we have been called.

Intern: I covenant to work faithfully to the best of my abilities, to offer you myself and to receive you as brothers and sisters in Christ. I covenant to be accountable to the work of pastoral care, worship leadership, ecumenical work, and Bible study, and to learn and grow in faith. I promise to take on the authority of my position as pastoral intern with grace and humility, and to receive your feedback as faithfully as possible.

Congregation: We covenant to learn from you, [Intern], to introduce you to others in our community and to the story of who we are, to open our hearts to what you have to teach us. We covenant to offer loving and gracious feedback to you in order to help you grow. When we offer criticism, we covenant to do so only when asked and with appropriate care. When we offer praise, we covenant to do so honestly and generously.

We give thanks for the ministry [Intern] begins in our midst this day.

ALL: May God surround all of us with grace to accept the gifts of this new stage on our journey, and the courage to act in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!
Prayer of Blessing

Source: LiturgyGeek blog

http://liturgygeek.blogspot.com/2009/05/rituals-of-welcome-and-farewell.html

Accessed 5.8.17

**RITUAL OF FAREWELL** for an intern, again adapted from a similar ritual found in the United Church of Christ's *Book of Worship*:

Opening Words
Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities.
It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with a friend who is leaving.

Ritual of Parting
Pastor: This past fall, our congregation welcomed [Intern] as a pastoral intern, inviting her to share her gifts with us, to help to lead us, and to grow in skills and faith. She has done so with grace and wisdom. But now it is time to say good-bye, to release her from her pastoral obligations and to bless her as she seeks a call in the United Church of Christ.

Intern: I thank you all for the love, kindness and support you have shown me over the past year. 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 go now to serve another congregation. 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 us with your departure.

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

Moderator: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Red Oak release [Intern] from the duties of pastoral intern?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you offer your encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Congregation: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you, [Intern], release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Intern: I do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

Intern: I do, with the help of God.

Prayer of Blessing
God, in whom we find everlasting love and trustworthy care, help each one of us to keep faith in the future that rests in your arms. The time we have shared with [Intern] saw our laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments, learning and growing. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new and different directions. Let your Spirit guide [Intern] as she moves to new and unknown places, and let your Spirit also guide us as we move forward in our own journey as a faith community. Help us to hope for the time when we are all completely one with you and with each other, as Jesus our Savior so taught and lived. Amen.

Source: LiturgyGeek blog

http://liturgygeek.blogspot.com/2009/05/rituals-of-welcome-and-farewell.html

Accessed 5.8.17

**COVENANT OF COMMITMENT FOR A MINISTERIAL INTERN**

By Michelle Buhite

http://www.uua.org/worship/words/ritual/covenant-commitment-ministerial-intern

*This has been published with "they" pronouns; please use the most fitting pronoun in your own setting.*

**Minister:**
I call (intern name) to the pulpit.
Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of (name), we have begun a new thing by bringing (intern) into our midst, to learn the practice of parish ministry and to stretch and grow with us. As we assume the mantle of a Teaching Congregation it is up to each of us to offer (intern) support and compassion as she grows into the visionary minister they have been called to be. It is up to us to create the safe container where they can succeed and fail, where they are free to create a ministry here with you.

Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of (name), will you give generously of your time, wisdom, and compassion? Will you trust yourselves and (intern) and dare to engage fully in this internship? Will you keep hearts and minds open to the gifts they bring to this congregation? If so, please answer with an enthusiastic “We will!”

Will the internship committee please rise in body or spirit?
Thank you for your commitment to (intern) and to the process of growing a minister in our midst. Will you give generously of your time, wisdom, and compassion? Will you mentor (intern) as they grow into the visionary minister they have been called to be? Will you help us to create a safe container where they can succeed and fail, where they are free to create a ministry here with us? If so, please answer with an enthusiastic “We will!”

May we enter into this relationship with humility and compassion, openness and curiosity. May it be so. Amen.

**A LITANY OF FAREWELL TO AN INTERN**

By Kayle Rice

http://www.uua.org/worship/words/ceremony/litany-of-farewell-to-an-intern

**Minister**: The life of our religious community is fluid, ever changing with new lives, new visions, new possibilities and new ministries. *[Length of time]* ago we welcomed our intern minister, *[Name]*. And we have been changed. Today we say farewell to *[Name]*, who has successfully completed *[her/his]* internship.

**Intern**: I thank the members and friends of the *[Church]* for my experiences of the past two years. I thank you for your love, kindness and support. I was challenged; stretched and my experiences gave me good tools with which to do ministry. I was given freedom to create a ministry with you and I thank you for your acceptance of my ministry among you. I celebrate the things we were able to do and I have sadness there were things I could not achieve. *[The intern can be encouraged to write her/his own words here.]*

**Congregation**: *[Name]*, we are grateful that you came to learn the practice of ministry among us, growing into the compassionate and visionary minister we know you to be. Even though you'll no longer be with us, your influence will not leave us. We bless you in completing your studies and look forward to great excitement when you are ordained in your home congregation.

**Minister**: I ask the members of the Internship Committee to please stand. (They do so) *[Names]*—thank you so very much for mentoring *[Name]* into ministry. Will you trust that the work you did with *[her/him/them]* will serve *[her/him]* well in *[her/his/their]* ministries to come?

**Internship Committee**: We do.

**Minister**: You may be seated. Do you the members and friends of the *[Church]* now release *[Name]* from *[her/his/their]* role as intern minister?

**Congregation**: We do.

**Minister**: Do you *[Name]*, release the *[Church]* from turning to you for ministry and guidance?

**Intern**: I do.

**Minister**: Will join with me in blessing *[Name]*?

**Congregation**: Spirit of Life and Love, we have been moved by *[Name’s]* presence and work. We are grateful for *[her/his]* special gifts which *[she/he]* will take with *[her/him/their]* and by which we have been changed. We bless *[Name]* as *[she/he/they]* completes *[her/his/their]* journey to being a fully fellowshipped and ordained minister. Spirit of Life and Love, we trust that whatever ministry *[she/he/they]* undertakes in the future will be done well with great love, compassion and a heart open to learning from all that *[she/he/they]* does. *[Name]*, go with our blessings and love.

**Minister**: *[Name]*, surrounded by our love, and our hopes for your future in this wonderful faith we share, you are hereby released from your internship. Blessed be and Amen.