

## Central Presbytery Exit Interview with Session

The goal of this process is to help the Session to manage the departure of their Minister well, to share any information or concerns they have for the context as the Minister departs, and to ensure that COM is doing whatever it can to support both the Minister and the ministry context in this transition.

The COM representative(s) doing this interview is/are:

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*Open in prayer-* use this one or your own:

God of our past, our present, and our future: We come to you as this relationship is ending. This time overflows with many thoughts and feelings and it is appropriate to share them at this time. Give us clarity of thought, the ability to listen well, space to feel the hard feelings that come and to celebrate the joy we share. Be with us in this meeting and make this a holy space where we partner together for the betterment of the ministry being done, and where we support (church name Session) in what is next for them as your church. Amen.

### **Exit Interview Conversation guide:**

Considering the call to be God's church in this time and place, to live into and sustain the ministry of God's church in this place, and to try our best to live into this call every day, please respond specifically to how you have lived out the Great Ends of the Church together in ministry with your departing pastor (Book of Order F-1.0304). The great ends of the Church are:

the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;

the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;

the maintenance of divine worship;

the preservation of the truth;

the promotion of social righteousness; and

the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Reflecting over your time with \_\_\_\_\_ :  
What are you proudest of in your time in ministry with them?

In hindsight, was there an opportunity to serve the Lord with (Minister name) that either was missed or wasn't fully explored?

Reflecting on financial realities at \_\_\_\_\_ :  
Looking forward, do you feel the ministry has the financial resources to achieve it's vision?

Do you feel the leadership has been good stewards of the gifts (time, talents, and treasures) given to the church?

Please share with us some reflections of your time with (Minister name).

Are there concerns you have with your ongoing ministry as your Minister departs that the COM should know about?

How might COM support the congregation in the days ahead?

Close in prayer.

Eternal God, whose church we profess to be, we are grateful for the time to reflect upon our past and to grow in our understanding of your call to (church name) and to all of us. We seek your direction in helping us to be faithful as the future unfolds. Although our hearts are heavy, as (Minister name) departs as leader for this ministry, we pray that your Spirit will continue to guide them in new paths of service. We pray that you would show us the way as we work with (ministry/church name) to face the next steps for their life as a community and in finding new leaders. Let us not become complacent or discouraged, for you are with us. We pray in the Name and Spirit of that One who has promised to be with us always, now and forever.

Amen.

FOR THE COM TEAM

What if any actions or follow up needs to happen following this exit interview?

What reflections do you have on your time with this Minister? This might include how they seemed (were they well, energetic, upset, tired) or on anything that stood out to you in the conversation but was not highlighted by the Minister.