

Liturgy of Farewell and Celebration of Ministry

Church Representative:

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born and baptized. Children grow up and go through confirmation. People commit themselves to each other. Loved one 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.

Today we recognize one such time, a time of ending and new beginning. Today we share a time of farewell with Rev. Dave Shackle who is leaving.

Association Representative:

On October 1, 2004 Rev Dave Shackle with Brecksville United Church of Christ and Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast United Church of Christ entered into a three way covenant for the call to serve as pastor and teacher of Brecksville United Church of Christ. After 15 years of ministry that covenant of ministry comes to an end.

Exiting Pastor:

I take a moment to thank you, members of Brecksville UCC for your love, friendship, and partnership in ministry these last years. We shared a chapter of our life journey together, a journey in covenant relationship with God, with one another and the wider church. We shared moments of ministry and celebration, love and alienation, accomplishment and failure, joy and sadness, hope and disappointment. Through it all we have known God's Grace, which has brought us to this time and place.

As we part ways I thank God for all the joyful, loving moments we shared, and I offer to God all the hurtful and broken moments when we wounded one another. May God transform those moments of brokenness into moments of transformation, healing and learning.

Church Representative:

Do you members and friends of Brecksville UCC release Pastor Dave from the duties of Pastor and Teacher?

If so please say – we do.

Congregation: We do.

Do you offer your encouragement as he takes leave and prepares for a time of retirement and rest?

If so please say – we do.

Congregation: We do.

Church Representative:

Do you, Dave, release the Brecksville UCC from turning to you and depending on you?
If so please say – I do.

Dave: I do.

Church Representative:

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of Brecksville UCC and on the relationship with another pastor who will come to serve?

If so please say – I do.

Dave: I do.

Association Minister:

On behalf of the Living Water Association of the Ohio Conference United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken, words of thankfulness and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We promise our love, support and care to you in this time of transition.

Association Minister: Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you for our life together as your people in this community of faith. We thank you for times remembered and for moments shared in worship, learning, meetings and service. We thank you for each gift shared, for each heart changed, each mind transformed, for each hand that touches another in love and care.

We thank you for Dave Shackle and his service here in Brecksville, UCC. We pray that he will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he moves into retirement, and that the members of the Brecksville UCC, will trust the future to your care. Guide and encourage us all as we walk into our endings and beginnings, so we may continue to walk as your people of Love and Grace in the world. Amen.