

Appendix A

Liturgy at the Conclusion of a Deacon's Service – ECCT

After the postcommunion prayer the deacon, the archdeacon, and wardens move to the front of the congregation. The congregation is seated.

Deacon

Deacons are placed in various ministries for a period of time to serve the needs of the Diocese under the bishop. In [Date Assignment Began] I was assigned by Bishop Laura Ahrens to NAME OF CHURCH AND TOWN in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. With God's help and to the best of my abilities, I have exercised my diaconal responsibilities and privileges here as you have entrusted them to me. After much prayer and careful consideration Bishop Ahrens and I have discerned that it is time for me to serve in another ministry setting; therefore my service as deacon among you ends this day, [Date].

Presider (Priest or Warden)

Do you the people of [Parish Name] recognize and accept the conclusion of this ministry relationship? **We do.**

Deacon present the presider and/or wardens a letter of resignation, the Gospel book, the keys to the parish, and any other symbols of ministry that have been given.

I present to you this letter of resignation signifying the end of this ministry relationship.

Presider I receive your letter.

I present to you this Gospel book that represents one of my primary roles as the deacon – to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and call the people forth to do his work.

Presider I receive this Gospel book.

I present to you the keys of this parish that were given to me in trust that the doors would remain open to all people.

Presider I receive these keys.

Prayer of Leaving

The congregation stands (as able).

Deacon

Lord, we have been bound together for a time as deacon and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place. We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared these years now past.

People: **Be with those who depart and with those who remain.**

We thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these past years and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

People: **Be with those who depart and with those who remain.**

We thank you for those who have been joined to Christ's family through Baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

People: **Be with those who depart and with those who remain.**

Archdeacon

[Deacon Name], on behalf of the bishops and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, we pledge to walk with you as you make your way to new journeys.

Deacon: Thank you. I appreciate the companionship.

Following the collect and dismissal, the deacon and archdeacon exit through the front doors together.

Concluding Collect

Presider (Priest or Warden)

O God, our loving Creator, whose glory fills the whole world, and whose presence we find wherever we go, preserve and guide [Deacon Name] who is leaving this community. Surround *her* with your loving care; preserve *her* from every danger; and bring *her* safely to the journey's end. We give thanks for *her* time with us and for all the ways *she* has supported this community. Bless *her* steps in this time of transition and remind *her* again and again of your presence and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider (Priest or Warden)

Please express your appreciation for [Deacon Name] and *her* ministry with your applause.

After the blessing or closing prayer

Dismissal

Deacon offers the dismissal after the concluding hymn.