

Leaving and Marking the End of the Field Placement

The end of any piece of work is a transition. Relationships change and connections are shifted. Even if there will be continuing association with the field placement, the facilitator and/or mentor, it is important to acknowledge the learning and say thanks, to evaluate the experience and bring closure to this aspect of the affiliation.

When leaving your field placement: (April)

- Make a list of those people in the setting whom you need to thank/say good-bye to and make plans how you will thank them/say good-bye (a note, a lunch, simply a verbal thank you,...)
- Consider what you would like to say to the setting as a whole (what has been good, some wishes you have for them, some things you wished could have been different,)

Possible Ritual to Mark the End of a Field Placement

(This ritual is intended to be used in for the last session with a learning facilitator or vocational/diaconal mentor or local committee. Please adapt as seems suitable to the context.)

Student:

(Name(s)), back in September, we came together in covenant agreement. At that time, I covenanted with you and others to share in the life of the congregation/parish/ministry setting of (name of field placement), to minister and to be ministered to, to learn and to encourage learning, to challenge and to be challenged. As we began our relationship of student and mentor/facilitator/local committee, we covenanted to meet regularly, focusing on the experiences of my ministry during the field placement and my attempts to reach my learning goals.

Mentor/Facilitator/Member(s) of the Local Committee:

(Student's name), over the past 8 months, as your mentor/facilitator/local committee, I/we have offered you support and encouragement, as well as challenges and assistance in theological reflection and field placement experiences.

Student:

Now, as this field placement component of my education comes to an end, it seems appropriate to meet here today, celebrating this covenant relationship. But it is also most appropriate to acknowledge the end of the field placement and take this time to formally release one another from this covenant commitment.

Mentor/Facilitator/Member(s) of the Local Committee:

(Student's name) I/we thank you for this time we have had together and acknowledge the importance of this relationship. I/we release you from the covenant we have made together. *(a time for reflection, if desired)*

Student:

(Name(s)), I thank you for this time we have had together and acknowledge the importance of this relationship. I release you from the covenant we have made together. *(a time for reflection, if desired)*

Together:

We give thanks for this experience and this relationship. As we affirm all it has meant to us and bring it to a close, we ask that we might continue to offer one another support and encouragement in love. We pray God's continued guidance and strength for the work of ministry. Amen.

(adapted from a ritual designed by Nancy Corrigan and Marilyn Carter)