



THANKSGIVING AND RECONCILIATION AT THE COMPLETION THE LOAN CYCLE

Leader: We are gathered here to recall and give thanks for the experience _____ (congregation/group) and _____ (small business) have shared as neighbors in this community who became partners. On _____ (date) this congregation/group invested in this business in the form of a loan, trusting that these financial resources, along with their prayers and good will and support, would help this business flourish and better serve our community, and would be repaid according to the terms of the agreement.

Leader states briefly whether and to what extent the terms of the agreement have been met: Amount of the loan received, debt repaid according to schedule, any other specific provisions of the agreement.

Leader invites representatives from the congregation/group and the business to introduce themselves briefly, especially any new participants.

CELEBRATIONS

Leader calls on the small business owner or his/her spokesperson to share their story: How they used the money and what the impact was. Is the business better off? Have their plans worked out? What challenges got in the way? How has the community benefitted? In what ways have they gotten to know this congregation/group better?

Leader calls on one church representative to share their story: What have they learned this year from their participation in the local economy? How has their mission priority been advanced through this investment? In what ways have they gotten to know this business, business owner, and staff better?

Leader: Let's celebrate and give thanks for all the good that has come from this partnership.

People: **We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For new friends, for boundaries crossed, for signs of prosperity in our community, for faith renewed, for trust built, for the health of this business and this community of faith –

People: **We give you thanks, O God.**

CONSOLATIONS

Leader: Along with the good that we celebrate, we know there are also disappointments and frustrations in any human venture, especially one like this that is a new experience for all of us. With the best of intentions to be faithful, responsible, and gracious partners, we often fall short.

Leader: Let us pray.

God of all mercy and consolation, Come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Leader: I invite you to reflect on the ways we may have fallen short in this relationship, in the giving and receiving of the loan, in how we are stewards of your gifts.

First, please identify for yourself any rough spots in this period of time that should be corrected and that may call for confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation. We'll take a minute of silence for you to remember. Then I will invite you to share anything on your heart with the group, if you feel comfortable doing so.

Pause for quiet thought.

Leader: Invitation to share aloud.

Second, take time to name for yourself any things you did wish you had done differently, that may have caused hurt or broken trust. After a pause, I will invite you to share what's on your heart with the group, if you feel comfortable doing so.

Pause for quiet thought.

Leader: Invitation to share aloud.

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for sake of the common good; though Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the privilege of serving you and our community through our daily labor and the faithful stewardship of your gifts. We thank you for good partners and neighbors. Together with you we celebrate each small sign of your economy of abundance and justice breaking through. We ask your continuing blessing on this business, on this congregation, on this community, and on this relationship begun in you. **Amen**

Leader: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen