The Exit Interview Agenda

Praise and Prayer.
  Read Scripture of affirmation and praise.
  If appropriate sing.
  Two persons pray: one a prayer of thanksgiving, the second for guidance and the presence of God in the meeting.

Moments of Affirmation.
  Each person present shares an affirmation of the pastor’s ministry; that is one aspect of the pastor’s ministry for which the person is thankful.
  The Pastor will share an affirmation of each person’s ministry for which he is thankful.

Response to Questions from the Pastor and the Board.
  Questions are shared in a dialogical manner between the Pastor and Board members. All questions should have been shared ahead of time so good thought could accompany the responses.

Closing Summary and Prayer.
  Gather in a circle. Ask two persons to begin a prayer of praise and empowerment to the pastor. Ask the pastor to end the time with a prayer of empowerment for the congregation and wisdom in selecting a new leader.
A Concert of Prayer

Pastoral transition is a very sensitive time for congregations. Having a time when the congregation can pray together for the future is very important. You might not be familiar with the “concert” idea of prayer. Think of it like a musical concert except the selections are selections of prayer and scripture. There are solo’s trios, quartets and even choirs. The possibilities are limitless and make for an interesting evening. The subject of the concert is the pastoral transition, and specifically selection of the new pastor. The following outline is a common concert of prayer outline. It comes from Confirming the Pastoral Call, page 109.

Suggested Concert Format

I recommend starting with a thirty-minute time for food and fellowship, then welcome, announcements, introductions, and overview.

1. Praise in songs.
2. Prayers of thanksgiving (short prayers). You might want to invite four or five people to begin this prayer session.
3. Testimonies (short illustrations of answered prayers). Keep the testimonies short; do not allow exhortation or one person to dominate this session.
4. Scriptural declarations. Invite one person to begin this session with a relevant passage, open the time for others to stand and read or quote a relevant passage.
5. Exhortation on repentance; (brief Scriptures on the need for brokenness before the Lord).
6. Season of repentance prayers - kneel, come to the altar, etc. for a private time of prayer. Ask someone to close after a reasonable time (announce who will close this section of prayer when you invite the group to kneel for their private prayers).
7. Declaration of cleansing - quote appropriate Scriptures and stand in praise. You could use scriptures such as: II Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 33:3; Zephaniah 3:9; 13:9; I John 1:9.
8. Devotional teaching (maximum fifteen minutes on some aspect of prayer).
9. Intercessory introduction (three to five minutes explaining the plan for prayers of agreement).
10. Intercessory groups of three (pray for the needs of the church, specifically in pastoral selection).
11. Praise (regroup to exalt the Lord use music and testimony).
12. Intercessory groups of seven (pray for needs in the congregation, homes, school, the ministry, and pastoral selection).
13. Praise (regroup to exalt the Lord, testify to what God has just done).
14. Intercessory groups of 12 (pray for the city and worldwide evangelism)
15. Victory circle (one large group joining hands to bless those on either side, then all praying at once over the forces of darkness, then the shout of victory and praise).
16. Closing announcements (short reminders while remaining in circles)
17. Fellowship time (finish remaining food and converse in an encouraging, spiritual atmosphere).

Note: This format can be utilized from an hour to a three-hour session. Simply expand or contract the various components as the Lord leads. If you think time will be an issue, plan how much time you will allocate for each section of the concert.