

Final Words

In any church, there are always those members who have special bonds with the pastor, sometimes through friendship, sometimes because the pastor was there when a loved one died, or any number of reasons. One temptation churches have when a pastor leaves is to ask that pastor to come back for significant events - weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. Our denomination has a very clear ethics polity that everyone serving a church is expected to abide by. Included in this is the understanding that I will not be coming back to do weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc., unless there are extenuating circumstances, and even then, ONLY upon the express invitation of the pastor or moderator of session. This is because when former pastors return for these significant events, they hinder the ability of the current pastor to effectively be the pastor of the congregation. All of which means, if you ask and I say no, don't take it personally! I still love you, I just can't marry you.

I wish you all the best for the future, and may God go with you.