

Litany of Release and Blessing

Deacon Rosie: Karen, as sisters and brothers in a covenanted faith community, today we give thanks for your 10-year ministry among us. We say farewell to you and your family, and we bless the journey ahead - for you and for this congregation.

Congregation: All praise be to our God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. There is one Body, one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Pastor Karen: We have shared worship and work, happy and sad occasions, committee meetings and projects. We had Wednesday night suppers together and enjoyed fellowship meals on Sunday noon. We met in funeral homes, at the hospital and in homes.

Deacon Rosie: This is a time of many feelings: sadness, joy, anticipation, loss, satisfaction. Farewells are difficult, but we have accomplished much during these years together, and we give God thanks for you and your ministry.

Pastor Karen: I leave as your pastor with cherished memories of our times together. You have shaped my faith, ministered to my family and me, and helped me see and seek God's presence in my life and in the community. Thank you for your care, your creativity, your encouragement, and your hope.

Congregation: God has blessed us richly through your ministry. We now bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life journey.

Pastor Phil: As you, the people of Tabor Mennonite Church, bless Karen as she leaves this congregation, do you now release her from her pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

Congregation: With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for Karen's faithfulness and acknowledge this transition in the life of our congregation. We will pray for God's continued guidance in Karen's life.

Pastor Phil: Karen, do you release the congregation from its loyalty to you as a pastor? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Pastor Karen: With the help of God, I do. When we meet in the future, I will be your friend but not your pastor. I will no longer perform pastoral duties among you. I will keep the congregation and its ministries in my prayers.

Pastor Phil: May God bless and guide you, Karen, on the next steps of your journey. May God bless and guide your family in this time of transition. May God bless and guide this congregation as it continues kingdom work and seeks new leadership. May God bless and guide each of us in the new relationship that we now will share.

Congregation: To God's gracious mercy we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace both this day and forever. Amen.