

FAREWELL LITURGY

Association Representative: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. Persons move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving to new experiences and new opportunities. It is important that we recognize these times of passage.

On June 6, 1993, this congregation called Jody Ondich to serve as Associate Minister.

Jody: I thank Pilgrim Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me these last seven years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Jody: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Association Representative: Do you, the members and friends of Pilgrim Congregational Church, release Jody from the duties of Associate Minister?

People: **We do, with the help of God.**

A.R.: Do you offer your encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People: **We do, with the help of God.**

A.R.: Do you, Jody, release this congregation from turning to you and depending on you?

Jody: I do, with the help of God.

A.R.: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here, and on the relationship with those who serve as ministerial leaders?

Jody: I do, with the help of God.

A.R.: On behalf of the Eastern Association of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken; words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of the wider church hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Let us pray: **O God, we give thanks for times when we have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Jody Ondich in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that Jody will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as she moves to a new ministry, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.