

## A LITURGY OF FAREWELL TO OUR BRIDGE PASTOR

CHAIR OF DEACONS: *God continues to renew and change the church of Jesus Christ! New people come to us through birth, with a moving truck, or on the wings of renewed faith. And people leave: friends die, and dear ones move. Today we share a time of farewell with Sherry Baer.*

BRIDGE PASTOR: I Thank you for your love, kindness, generosity and support. You have revealed God's grace to me in our time together. I am so grateful that my leadership was accepted. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for any mistakes I made, and for any expectations I did not meet.

I recall with joy the many things we accomplished together. My memories of our shared life will continue to enrich my life.

**CONGREGATION: We receive your thankfulness, we offer you our forgiveness, and we give thanks for what we all have accomplished. As you leave us, we ask you to accept our gratitude for what we all have accomplished. We ask you to forgive us any shortcomings. Your influence here will remain, even though you must leave us.**

BRIDGE PASTOR: I forgive you any shortcomings and I accept your gratitude. I trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

CHAIR OF DEACONS: *Do you as members of this congregation now release Sherry Baer from her duties as Bridge Pastor?*

**CONGREGATION: We do, with God's help.**

BRIDGE PASTOR: I return to you the keys you gave me when I came last September. I thank you for your trust.

CHAIR OF DEACONS: *I receive them as the representative of these people. We express to you our gratitude and love for your wise and faithful leadership during our time of transition.*

BRIDGE PASTOR: My prayers will always be with you.

**CONGRGATION: And ours with you.**