

## Litany of Release and Blessing

Church Council Chair Harlin:

As sisters and brothers in a covenanted faith community, today we give thanks for your 13 year ministry among us, Corey. 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 Corey:

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 Chair Bill:

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 Corey:

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 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.

Conference Minister Clarence Rempel:

As you, the people of Tabor Mennonite Church, bless Pastor Corey as he leaves this congregation, do you now release him from his pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

Congregation:

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

Conference Minister Clarence Rempel:

Corey, 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 Corey:

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.

Conference Minister Clarence Rempel:

May God bless and guide you, Corey, on the next steps of your journey. May God bless and guide your family as you leave Tabor and form relationships in a new community. 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 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.