

A SERVICE OF FAREWELL

Selma Naccach-Hoff: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Kevin who is leaving.

Rev Slater: On November 1, 2015, First Congregational Church of Manchester New Hampshire called Rev. Kevin Pleas to serve as pastor and teacher.

Rev. Pleas I thank First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last six years. 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 and accept that you now leave to serve God elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Rev. Pleas I accept your gratitude, trusting that both our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Rev. Slater: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church release Rev. Pleas from the duties of pastor and teacher?

People: We do, with the help of God.

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Rev. Slater: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church release Rev. Pleas from the duties of pastor and teacher?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Slater: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Slater: Do you, Rev. Pleas, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Rev. Pleas: I do, with the help of God.

Rev. Slater: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come here to serve?

Rev. Pleas: I do, with the help of God.

Association Representative: On behalf of the Hillsborough Association of the New Hampshire Conference, and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

People: Thanks be to God.

Association Representative: Let us pray together.

All: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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