**Liturgy for Departure of a Pastor from a congregation**

(at the end of worship, before the benediction and sending hymn)

The Pastor (P), a representative of the Synod designated by the Synod, and a Representative/s of the Congregation (Rep) come forward – Tony Baumgardt (Council President)

**Rep:** Pastor Karen Pahl, on December 10, 2017, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection called you to be our Pastor.

You were called to proclaim God’s Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to

announce God’s forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. With the gospel

you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys

and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to

this community.

**Rep:** Pastor Karen Pahl, you served Lutheran Church of the Resurrection faithfully for Four and a Half years. You

are now leaving our midst to serve at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Mukwonago. As your fellow members of

this congregation, we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new

endeavor, bringing closure to your ministry with us.

**Pstr:** I thank the members and friends of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection for the love, the kindness and

support shown to me and my family, during active ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the ways I have

sinned against you. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all

that I have learned here.

**Cong:** We receive your thankfulness. We accept that you now leave for Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Mukwonago.

We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against

you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

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

**Synd:** Do you, members, and friends of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, release her from the duties as Pastor?

I invite the congregation to respond: We do, with God’s help.

**Cong:** We do, with God’s help.

**Synd:** Do you offer encouragement for Pastor Karen as she begins a new chapter in her ministry. I invite the

congregation to respond: We do, with God’s help.

**Cong:** We do, with God’s help.

**Synd:** Do you, Pastor Karen, release Lutheran Church of the Resurrection from turning to you and depending on

you?

**Pstr:** I do, with God’s help.

**Synd:** Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here at LCR?

**Pstr:** I do, with God’s help.

**Synd:** On behalf of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, I witness to the words spoken here: words of thankfulness,

forgiveness, and release. We will hold you, Pastor Karen, in our prayers as you begin your new ministry. We

pledge our support and love to you and wish you God’s blessing.

**Pastor Kelly:** Let us pray…..

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 our disappointments.

We give you thanks for the countless ways our lives have been woven together as your Church. Guide us as

we hold these cherished memories, but move us forward with our visioning process, until that time to come

when we are completely one with you and with each other through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Cong:** Amen.