

Recognition of the Ending of an Authorized Ministry

Moderator: Beginning November 2017, the Congregational Church of Weston called the Revs. Richard and Jill Edens to serve it as Designated Term Pastors.

Revs. Richard and

Jill Edens: *We thank the Congregational Church of Weston, its members, and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to us these last 3 years. We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made. We are grateful for the ways our leadership has been accepted. As we leave, we carry with us all the cherished memories of our experience here.*

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer our forgiveness, accept that you now leave being the pastors of our congregation. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask for your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

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

Moderator: Do you, the members and friends of the Congregational Church of Weston release Jill and Richard Edens from the duties they shared as Pastors, Teachers, and Leaders in this congregation?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you, Richard and Jill Edens, release this congregation from turning to you or depending on you?

Revs. Edens: *We do, with the help of God.*

Moderator: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and your relationship with the pastor or pastors who will come to serve here in the future?

Revs. Edens: *We do, with the help of God.*

Moderator: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God, whose everlasting love for all your people is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. In our time together as your people we shared laughter and tears, disappointments and hopes, struggles and growth in our faith. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, always seeking to be faithful to Christ's vision of love, justice and a holy unity that binds our lives in You. Amen.