

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WINDSOR, VERMONT**

**The Ending of an Authorized Ministry**

**Tom:** 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 to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of ending and beginnings. Today we share the times of farewell with The Reverend Amanda Lape-Freeberg, fondly known as Mandy.

**Recognition of the End**

**Tom:** On July 16, 2000, the Old South Church called Mandy to serve as Pastor and teacher.

**Mandy:** I thank Old South Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last seventeen years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me my memories of you and all I have learned here.

**People:** **We receive your thankfulness, and offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave here to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

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

**Vows of Release**

**Pam:** Do you, the members and friends of Old South Church, release Mandy from the duties of pastor and teacher?

**People:** **We do, with the help of God.**

(Continued on other side)

**Pam:** Do you offer your encouragement for Mandy's ministry soon to begin as the Senior Pastor of The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College?

**People:** **We do, with the help of God.**

**Pam:** Do you, Mandy, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

**Mandy:** I do, with the help of God.

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

**Mandy:** I do, with the help of God.

**CHORAL BLESSING**

*I Thank My God*

(McDermid)

**Witness of the Windsor-Orange Association of the  
Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ**

**Pam:** On behalf of the Windsor-Orange Association and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, 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.**

**Prayer**

**All:** *Gracious 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 different 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.*

**Pastoral Benediction**

**Congregational Benediction**

**All:** *Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*