

Keys

K. I return these keys, the symbol of my leadership among you, and I will pray for your discernment going forward.

All: We will care for our building and the heritage it represents as we discern our way forward.

Release Vows

T. Do you, *Karen Ptolemy-Stam.*, release this pastoral charge from the vows and promises made at your covenanting?

K. I do, God being my helper.

T. Do you, the members and friends of St. Paul's. United Church, release *Karen* from the duties of ministry among you?

All: We do, God being our helper.

S. (*Lighting a candle from the Christ candle*).
We invite you to accept this candle to remember us.
Remember that God's light always burns within you.
Go now, surrounded by our love
and led by God, the Christ, and the Spirit.

All: Amen

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Go in Love"

—*The Reverend Teresa A. Burnett-Cole is minister at Glebe-St. James United Church in Ottawa, OK.*

Decovenanting Ritual

(K. Karen, S. Sue Dorion, T. Todd MacDonald)

Statement of Purpose Todd

When a minister comes into a church we covenant with one another;
we promise to journey with one another caring and being cared for.
While God's covenant never ceases, our covenants with one another do.
Today we mark the ending of the covenant between *Karen Ptolemy-Stam.*, and St. Paul's United Church/Pastoral Charge, and Shining Waters Regional Council.

Return of Ministerial Symbols

K. When I came among you, to serve with you in the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care you gifted me with some symbols that I now return to you:

Bible

K. The Bible is a symbol of the ministry of the Word among us.
May God's Word continue to challenge, nurture, and inspire us.

All: We will continue to place scripture at the centre of our life. The Word of God lives among us.

Preaching Stole

K. This stole was a gift from the Karen church still in the refugee camp in Thailand. It was given to St. Paul's as a gift of gratitude. Take this stole and may you continue to hear the call of God in the preaching in this place.

All: We will continue to proclaim the good news and discern God's call to service in our community.

Water (*Pour water into font; place pitcher nearby.*)

K. The font is the symbol of our baptism, the place of our birth into the body of Christ. May you continue to welcome new members through the living waters of our faith.

All: We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism: the font of blessing welcomes all.

Bread and Cup (*Place bread and cup on communion table.*)

K. The table is the symbol of our communion in Christ, the source of nourishment and strength. May you continue to welcome new members through the living waters of our faith.

All: We will continue to break the bread and share the cup. The table invites us to taste and see that God is good.

Towel and Basin

K. The towel, pitcher and basin are symbols of our calling to justice and service, following the example of Jesus, who washed the feet of his friends. May you continue in the way of Christ.

All: We will continue to serve others and to work for justice, following in the way of Jesus, Friend and Servant of all.

Empowering Symbols

I also have some gifts to offer you as you begin your process of discernment:

Hymn Book

K. During my time I was fed by singing in the choir. Hold this, our theology in song, in trust that it may continue to nurture your spirits.

All: We will continue to sing and cherish our hymns.

Photo Directory

K. During my time I have come to love this community. I have seen people come and go. Hold this, the people of this community of faith, in love that you may continue to care for one another.

All: We will continue to care for one another, bearing both our joys and sorrows together.

Walking Stick

K. During our time together, we have sought to travel the way of Jesus in this community.

All: We will continue to follow the way of Jesus, travelling as companions on the journey.

Plant

K. During our time together, I watched you grow and mature in your faith. Continue to grow!

All: We will continue to grow in our faith.

Duct Tape

K. During our time together, there were challenging times when we weren't sure what was coming next. Take this duct tape as a symbol of your ability to stick together and get things done.

All: We will continue to stick together to accomplish the ministry of our community.

Slinky

K. Finally, I want to gift you with this Slinky. Take it as a symbol of the joy you have as a community. May it remind you to be flexible and joyful always!

All: We will refrain from rigidity, exercising our flexibility and rooting our faith in joy!