

# Blessing – Releasing Congregation From Area Conference

## Introduction

We acknowledge with regret that the formal relationship between [Conference] and [Congregation] has ended.

We acknowledge with hope that friendships, interaction and cooperation will continue.

## Prayer

We offer you thanks, our God, for [Congregation].

We thank you for the many years that we have journeyed together.

We lament that relationships do not always function as we had hoped.

We know that you meet us in our incompleteness.

Speak to our sadness and touch our pain with your gentle hand of healing.

Give us the collective ability that will allow [Conference] and [Congregation] to continue sharing in your work as opportunities arise.

And now as we release [Congregation] from [Conference], we ask that you bless them on their way.

May each step they take be filled with your abiding presence.

May each person they serve encounter your abundant love.

Protect them with your embrace,

give them affiliations that will energize and inspire them,

and give them joy and peace as they continue being faithful in their community.

Amen.

Jerry Buhler (Canada), 2005. Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

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