

## VOWS OF RELEASE

Representative: In September of 2016, First United called Alicia Reese to serve as your Director of Youth Ministry, and then in August of 2018 you called her to serve as your Minister of Youth and Congregational Care.

*Alicia: I thank First United Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last seven years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted and the growth opportunities that I have been given by this church. As I leave, I will carry with me all that I have learned here.*

**All: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave 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.**

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

Representative: Do you, the members and friends of First United Church, release Rev. Alicia Reese from the duties of Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry and Congregational Care?

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

Rep: Do you offer your encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

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

Rep: Do you, Alicia, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

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

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

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

## WITNESS OF THE CONFERENCE, PRESBYTERY, & CONGREGATION

Rep: On behalf of the Presbytery of Chicago and the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of gratitude, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our Presbytery and Association hold each of you, the church leadership, and Pastor Alicia in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Officers: **Thanks be to God!**