



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Goodbye to Member

Preliminaries Distribute objects.
Member leaving leads Responsive Reading

Opening *Leader:* Today we are saying goodbye to [name]. She (he) will be missed, and we acknowledge that this will change our circle. However, as the Taoists say, you cannot dip your toe in the same river twice: we also acknowledge that all live is change, and we can only go forward. Our empty chair reminds us that our circle will gain new members in the future. Today let it also remind us that [name] is no longer here.

Sitting in Silence I invite you to join me in a moment of silence, and to think about what you will take with you from [name's] participation.

Responsive Reading
Mispah (adapated)
by Julia A. Baker

Go thou thy way, and I go mine,
Apart, yet not afar;
Only a thin veil hangs between
The pathways where we are.
And "God keep watch 'tween thee and me";
This is my prayer;
God looks thy way, and looketh mine,
And keeps us near.

I know not where thy road may lie,
Or which way mine will be;
If mine will lead thro' parching sands
And thine beside the sea;
Yet God keeps watch 'tween thee and me,
So never fear;
God holds thy hands, and claspeth mine,
And keeps us near.

And though our paths be separate,
And thy way is not mine,
Yet in the unbounded sands of time,
My soul will meet with thine.
And "God keep watch 'tween thee and me,"
I'll whisper there.
God blesseth thee, and blesseth me,
And we are near.

Ritual Take a moment to silently bless the items that were distributed, with a private wish or prayer for the person who will be leaving.

Take a moment for everyone to hand their item to the person who will be leaving, giving them an opportunity to say one thing that they will remember from that person's participation in the group.

Now the member who is leaving may share what this group has meant to him/her.

Closing:
Unison Reading Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again. Blessed be.