Gracious and loving God,
We ask your blessing today on your servant Donald, who has ministered so faithfully as leader at CTU.

We thank you for the times when he, like holy Ruah, hovered over chaotic waters, bringing forth light and life, with your Creative Spirit.

We thank you for the times when he, like Abraham and Sarah, courageously set out for unknown territory, leading us to new places of grace and prosperity.

We thank you for the times when he, like Moses and Miriam, led us in liturgy, singing and proclaiming Your faithfulness and care for us, both in moments of desert crossings and in times of expectant hope.

We thank you for his willingness to say yes to this ministry of leadership, when, like Jeremiah, and Job, he would have preferred not to be the one, but, like our mother Mary, he allowed your Spirit to overshadow him and empower him for the impossible.

We thank you for the times when, like Your Son, Jesus, he quelled stormy seas, and sometimes seemed to walk on water, always assuring us not to fear, but only have faith.
We thank you for his great pastoral care
   of each individual at CTU,
as, like the good shepherd,
   he sought to keep any from becoming lost.

We thank you for the ways in which he, like Woman Wisdom,
went out into the highways and the byways, night and day,
   inviting all to the table,
   making friends and bringing into dialogue
people from so many different traditions and places,
building bridges that lead to peace.

We ask you to bless him now, with joy and satisfaction,
let him hear the words of Jesus as spoken to him,
“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

We ask you to continue to bless him with good health and energy
   for your mission.
May his days of sabbatical be filled with rest and refreshment.
Like You, Creator God, may he exclaim “Ki tov! How Good!”
   as he rests from his labors of leadership.

May your vivifying Spirit continue to enliven him
   for the next phase of his ministry,
and may he know Your peace deep within,
Your gift to those who are ever bound to you in love.
With hearts filled with gratitude, we pray,
Amen.

Barbara E. Reid, O.P.
June 23, 2013