



The Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
SENIOR MINISTER

The Rev. Matthew Bauhof
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Jim Riggs
MINISTER OF MUSIC & THE ARTS

Leslie Szalay
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDU.

April 27th, 2022

Beloved,

It is with joy and sadness that I write to let you know that I have been called to serve as an Oncology Chaplain at the Seidman Cancer Center, University Hospitals. I have never known such a bittersweet moment in all my life. I am excited about this new job, but I am sad about leaving this church and all of you. After conferring with Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, we have decided that my last Sunday at Plymouth will be June 5th, 2022.

The decision to take this job was not done because I was unsatisfied or yearning to leave. I was not actively looking for or applying to jobs; I was and remain in love with this church and community. However, I was invited to apply to this job and it is an opportunity that I ardently believe God is calling me to at this point in my life. I loved my time as an oncology chaplain before I arrived at Plymouth and have always believed returning to chaplaincy might be part of my future ministry. I am looking forward to expanding upon that experience, growing my pastoral care skills at Seidman, and learning what full-time chaplaincy feels like as a part of my growing vocation. Still, my discernment over whether to accept this job was difficult because of my deep love for Plymouth.

Plymouth was my first call and the role into which I was ordained. Since I was called to this church in August of 2017, you all have affirmed my ministry and allowed me the space to flourish and grow as a minister. We all have made it through so much together and I know how lucky and blessed I am that this church – you – were my first call. I could not imagine a better community and church to have worked for and with as I learned to become a minister. Your support has been incredible. Working with this staff has been an immense joy. Paul, Kathryn, Linda and Rose have supported and guided me. My time worshiping, dreaming, playing, and being goofy with Matt, Jim and Leslie has been a gift to my soul and has equipped me to handle what is next. As I leave, I know what good hands you are in with Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster. It has been a privilege working with him over the last 8 months, and I am sad that I will not have more time working alongside of him. His skills of listening, deep wisdom, and knowing how to speak truth and light to any situation are inimitable. I am confident about the future of ministry here at Plymouth.

I am so grateful for the ways you have supported me and my family. In all the ways that I hope I have ministered to you over these last five years, you all have equally ministered to me and my family. You have loved me as well as Mary Pat, Francis, and even the new baby on the way. You have allowed me the sacred privilege of being a part of your lives and you are always part of mine. I will miss you.

Please remember that you are the church. Ministers receive this most sacred privilege of journeying and ministering to and with a community for a period of time, but our hope is the church carries on long after we leave. I am looking forward to seeing the ways God will continue to move through you as you minister to this world.

May God's love, presence, and hope be with you this day and always.

Rev. Matthew Bauhof
Associate Minister