



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 27, 2022

Dear Members of Friends of Plymouth Church,

With heartfelt thanksgiving for his ministry over the past five years, we have received and accepted Rev. Matt Bauhof's resignation as a called minister of Plymouth Church.

As his letter explains, Matt has been called to serve in ministry as an Oncology Chaplain at Seidman Cancer Center, University Hospitals. Knowing Matt's gifts as we do, we are confident that he will have a valuable ministry with the diverse group of people who are patients, their family members, and staff members at the Center. We trust that God has called him to a setting where his pastoral presence is needed.

At the same time, there is grief for the ending of his ministry with Plymouth Church. This grief is a sign of all good things that Matt has shared with us, and of the love that has grown over these years. Matt has been a steady and creative minister during times of change and difficulty. As he served in ministry through the transitions of the senior minister, and two years of the covid19 pandemic, Matt's steadfast faithfulness, honesty, humor, and prophetic voice have helped our community to grow in faith. Matt has ministered with genuine kindness and grace at times of celebration and of sorrow. He has met our young people with gracious acceptance and transformative love, sharing with them in times of fun, service, and learning—from the Krumbine Room to retreats and week-long service projects. He has walked with this year's high school graduates since they began the eighth grade. During these years, we have also been blessed to know Mary Pat, and to celebrate the birth of their son Francis.

Since Matt's new ministry will be local, we expect that our paths will continue to meet. In the short term, it will be appropriate for the church to give him space as he invests in his new calling, and as Plymouth discovers what is in store for us. Matt has been, and always will be, an integral part of our Plymouth family. We are grateful for the ways in which his new ministry will continue to touch our lives, whether directly or indirectly.

Matt's last Sunday at Plymouth will be June 5, which is also Pentecost Sunday. On June 5 we will also offer blessings to graduates within the church, and enjoy a festive church picnic. It is a fitting day to give thanks for Matt's ministry, both during and after worship.

This weekend, April 29-May 1, Matt will be leading the confirmation retreat, and will not be leading worship this Sunday. However, the retreat group will return to church this Sunday in time for coffee hour after worship.

As we look to the future at Plymouth, planning for this transition is already underway. Church Council reviewed the immediate plans yesterday evening, April 26. Plymouth's leadership has initiated planning with the Living Water Association, United Church of Christ, for support to identify interim pastoral coverage in the near term. We will be sharing more information with you, and asking for your input as we discern the next chapter in Plymouth's ministry. Throughout this process, it will be vitally important for all of us to do all that we can to support Plymouth Church, our members, and our community.

It is sad to say farewell, and change is hard, but we know that you will join us in giving thanks for Matt's ministry with Plymouth, and wishing him and his family God's blessings as they begin this next chapter in their lives.

Yours in faith,

Matt Wooster
Senior Minister

Mary Bright
Council President

Val Arbie-McClelland
Council Vice-President