

Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

At the end of May, I proposed to Church Council a process to create a developmental plan for the next chapter of ministry at Plymouth Church, and I hope that the entire church community will be engaged in a process of discernment and hope.

Developmental planning, also known as long-range planning, seeks to build on the church's shared sense of identity and purpose to envision what we feel called to do next. Starting with the mission of the congregation, printed below, this process will gather information about where we are now, and the opportunities for what we feel called to be. With a vision in mind, we will identify options for what we need to learn or do in order get there.

Our Mission

Plymouth Church is a Christ-centered community led by the Holy Spirit that supports the spiritual journey of all who strive to boldly live out their faith in the world in service to God.

The whole congregation will be invited to participate by giving input and sharing ideas. A planning committee of four to six church members will be appointed by Council to shepherd the process and to create planning recommendations. I expect that opportunities for congregational input to be planned for the fall of this year.

In the meantime, the planning committee needs to be formed in order to guide this intentional process. If you are interested in serving on this important committee, or have a recommendation, please contact me or the President of Council, David Turner. The qualities of planning committee members include an openness to what God calls the congregation to be in the future; willingness to learn new things and think new thoughts; comfort with discussing ideas without rushing to conclusions; willingness to put time, energy, and prayer into this effort.

The process and theological grounding for this planning are well described in the book *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann of the Alban Institute. This book has been a trusted guide for me over the years, and much of what I've shared in this letter is based on their insights.

Plymouth Church has a tradition of meaningful worship and ministry, and I am excited to discover together what our future will hold.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister

