

February 2018

Staff Re-alignment News

In recent months, Plymouth Church experienced the departures of two clergy people, Carla Bailey and Jeff Sartain. As your Moderator and as your clergy and staff leaders, we want to bring you up-to-date on ministry responsibilities during this time of transition.

Currently, Paula Northwood, Beth Faeth and Seth Patterson are collaborating as a leadership team. They are committed to making everything run as smoothly as possible to meet the needs of the congregation. They bring their accomplishments and their gifts to the work. Along with the Deacons, they believe the congregation is strong and vibrant and is open to new models for ministry. The future of Plymouth Church is bright with possibilities. During this transition, we have discovered that in order to meet expectations of our community, clergy roles need to be re-aligned.

Paula, as acting senior minister, is the team leader and holds accountability for the life of the church (the buck stops with her). She oversees finances and budgeting and takes part in Stewardship directives. She also has community engagement responsibilities. Through participation in the interfaith Downtown Clergy group, for example, she fosters connections with the broader community. In addition, she has taken on the oversight of our outreach work.

Beth continues as the primary minister for congregational care, coordinating and tending members' pastoral care needs. She continues as the clergy liaison for the Board of Community Life, and has also become the liaison to the Board of Worship, the Mortality Project and the Strobel Drop-In Center. Beth also adds coordinating and planning worship services to her portfolio. The Deacons are working closely with her on her current transitional status and call.

In addition to administrating the children, youth and family programs, Seth is taking on Paula's previous leadership role in spiritual formation and spiritual exploration. His professional background makes him the perfect one to coordinate our theater programs. He will also be the liaison to the Racial Justice Task Force. The Deacons are working with Seth as he continues the process toward ordination.

As we move through a season of change and new beginnings at Plymouth, flexibility in clergy roles will be necessary. We look forward to welcoming to the team an interim minister with specific responsibility to help guide us through this time of change; Paula will continue as acting senior minister. As always, we appreciate your support and the many ways you are involved in the life of the congregation.

Claire Kolmodin, Moderator

Paula Northwood, Acting Senior Minister

Beth Faeth, Transitional Minister for Congregational Care

Seth Patterson, Director of Spiritual Formation and Theater

