

Ministerial Search Committee Slate of Candidates

to be voted upon by the congregation
April 28, 2019



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

From the chair of the Search Committee

I'm happy and excited to share that the full search committee slate has been approved by the Deacons, and will be voted on by the full congregation after worship on April 28.

You will be voting to approve:

Lani Bennett

Peg Birk

Chris Bohnhoff

Peter Eichten

Deb Fowler

Kelly Huginin

Jasper Jonson

Rob Reinhart

Anne Savereide

The group is diverse in age and life experience, Plymouth tenure and chosen avenues of involvement. We share a dedication to honoring our rich tradition while opening ourselves to what God has in store for us in the future. Our path is made so much clearer by the years of groundwork already laid by our amazing church leadership, as well as the Transition and Growth Task Forces.

Expect regular communication from us throughout the initial phase and opportunities to provide your thoughts and input.

Our target is to post the position and begin to proactively seek out applicants by Rally Sunday.

In Peace and Community,

Chris Bohnhoff

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Lani Bennett—Lani is looking forward to joining the search committee as our Plymouth community continues to transition and transform. In recent years, she has been involved in groups that identified Plymouth’s core words (Spiritual, Loving, Relevant and Transforming) and that wrote The Purposes of the Church—spiritual exercises that distilled and articulated the essence of Plymouth and envisioned our possibilities. Lani will bring a strong sense of



our history and aspirations to the search committee’s deliberations. In addition, she served on the task force that established our current governance structure. Currently she serves on the Personnel Committee. Outside of Plymouth, Lani has participated in other leadership searches, such as finding a new superintendent of schools during her tenure on her district’s school board.

Over the years, Lani has served as a Trustee and as a Sunday school teacher. She was one of the early organizers for Camp Plymouth almost 30 years ago. Lani and her husband John live in West St. Paul and have three adult children who have grown up at Plymouth. Most recently you may have seen her at church serving coffee or carrying her baby granddaughter Hana.

Peg Birk—Peg has served in several leadership positions at Plymouth in the last decade. She is currently a Deacon and has also been the interim chair of the Racial Justice Initiative and a member of the Boards of Worship and Spiritual Formation. After a career as an attorney, she became the Founder & CEO of Interim Solutions, a Minneapolis-based consulting firm that works with foundations, nonprofit organizations and associations undergoing management and organizational changes.



She identifies herself as a “professional interim executive” with 15 years of change management expertise and executive experience, including serving as Transitional General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, interim President of the McKnight Foundation and Interim President for the Fund for Theological Exploration. Prior to founding Interim Solutions, Peg was senior vice president and general counsel for Federated Insurance; city attorney for the City of

St. Paul; general counsel for AIG's U.S. insurance business; and senior government affairs counsel and senior corporate counsel for The St. Paul Companies. Peg has been involved in numerous executive search committees and would be honored to bring this experience to the discernment process of calling Plymouth's next lead minister.

Chris Bohnhoff—I attend Plymouth with my wife, Johanna Schussler, and our second-grade son, Heiko. We live in South Minneapolis. Plymouth has nurtured all three of us for years, and we hold dearly the relationships that started in the pews and classrooms, in Guild Hall and Jones Commons. Plymouth is our home. In my professional life, I run a video production studio, where my primary task is to listen then help organizations express their mission through visual storytelling.



Entering the role of committee chair I see three responsibilities: to foster a safe environment where everyone on (and off) the committee has a way to share their gifts, to encourage spiritual grounding within the group and to pay attention to process so that communication flows and the congregation feels personally invested in the outcome of our search. By focusing on these areas, I'm confident we will simultaneously build up the health of our community and attract the best possible person as our Lead Minister.

Peter Eichten—Peter was a Parish Administrator for 26 years in Catholic and Lutheran parishes and he has been a high school teacher, counselor and coach. He has also worked in Catholic Campus Ministry. He has been elected to a public-school board and has served on the board of directors of two non-profits. Presently, he teaches part-time in the Masters of Public and Nonprofit Administration program at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. He has been the chair of the Plymouth Church Racial Justice Initiative and is presently the chair of the Board of Outreach. Peter and his wife Jane are returned Peace Corps Volunteers (Iran 1970-1972). They live in the Midtown Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis—one of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the Twin Cities. They have five adult children and five grandchildren.



Deb Fowler—Deb has been a Plymouth member for nearly 20 years.



In her professional life, she helps senior executives and teams create sustainable change with high-impact and results-focused consulting. She helps teams at the top zero in on strategy, lead significant organizational transformations, enhance leadership skills and successfully collaborate with key stakeholders. With an artful balance of intuition and acumen, challenge and support, she helps leaders leverage their strengths and enhance their effectiveness and impact.

It has been a pleasure serving on the Leadership Council over the past two years and being part of the transformational process underway at Plymouth. The search for a new lead minister who is able to build on the important work currently underway and take us forward is a critical next step. I hope that my time on the Leadership Council and my leadership development consulting work will be helpful to the process and the committee.

Kelly Hugunin—I am married to Eric Hugunin and we have two



girls, Lucy (6th grade) and Clara (3rd). We live in Southwest Minneapolis. We became Plymouth members in 2017 and have been welcomed into leadership opportunities early on—Eric on the Fine Arts Board and I on the Growth Task Force. This work has helped to accelerate our understanding of the church and allowed us to work with church leaders and to contribute our respective skills and experiences.

As a career strategic marketer, I see marketing as playing a role in the search both internally and externally; internally, as we clearly communicate the process and progress of the search to our community; and externally, through an outreach campaign driving awareness of this compelling job posting at Plymouth.

I believe success for the search committee will come from listening to our Plymouth community throughout the process. I look forward to these conversations, the learnings and the opportunity to support the future of Plymouth for my family and for the Plymouth community.

Jasper Jonson—When people dream about the future, they never paint a picture that emphasizes frustration and disappointment. A dream is something that we cherish and continually aspire for . . . the ideal. What is Plymouth's dream?



There have been times in Plymouth's history where we would be looked at by many progressive Christians in the Twin Cities as an ideal church:

An organization that fights for the equitable rights of others, creates solutions for causes throughout the world and supports those closest to the church . . . its congregation. I do not believe that we are that place right now, but we have the potential to get there.

My dream for Plymouth lies in the importance of relationships: people of color & whites, children & adults, local community & church, and lay people & staff. Everyone needs to feel as though they are truly welcome at Plymouth. Through this process, I will strive to make sure that happens.

Rob Reinhart—Raised in the Congregational tradition in the Chicago area, I met my wife Beth at Northwestern University and moved to Minnesota 46 years ago, where we've raised three daughters and have since been blessed with four grandchildren. Since discovering Plymouth 10 years ago, I've found opportunities to serve the church as a Deacon, Chair of the Board of Finance and Administration and Co-Chair of the most recent capital campaign. I'm now largely retired from a career as a lawyer specializing in human resources and employment issues, including those around employee selection, development, motivation and retention. I continue to work some as a mediator. My volunteer activity in the community has tended to center on social services, cancer research funding and interdenominational church-related activities, including human resource advice. Hopefully, my life experience will help guide a useful contribution to a search process that will seize the exciting opportunity before us to launch a fresh chapter in Plymouth's inspiring life story.



Anne Savereide—I have attended Plymouth and sung in the choir since moving back to the Twin Cities in 2016. I studied chemistry and religion at Concordia College. I live in St. Paul with my partner. I feel invested in and optimistic about the future of Plymouth. In addition to formative experiences at Plymouth, my outlook has been shaped by poets like Mary Oliver, who reminds us of the primary importance of what we direct our attention to and that “paying attention without feeling is just a report”; by Krista Tippett, who embodies her principles of generous listening and humility in each conversation she has; and by the theology of Dorothee Soelle, who wrote that mystical experiences open our eyes so that we might see and respond to the suffering of the world.



