

# Search Committee for Minister for Spiritual Formation & Theater

## Slate of Candidates

to be voted upon by the congregation  
August 25, 2019



**Plymouth**  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**Bill Davini** is a past member of the Plymouth Church Board of Deacons and was chair of the Spiritual Enrichment committee from 1998 to 1999. He then assumed the chair of the board of Deacons in the 2000–2001 church year. Bill was active in the Plymouth Center during 2006 and 2007.

For the past 17 years, Bill has led the Plymouth Keyboard Music Group, a group of amateur pianists who meet approximately every six weeks. He organizes piano volunteers at Whittier School and literacy volunteers for both Whittier School and Reading Partners. He is currently active on the Mortality Project at Plymouth, which creates opportunities to explore and discuss issues around community support of aging, death and dying for Plymouth members and the wider community.

Bill is a retired information technology specialist who now pursues his passion as a classical pianist. As an IT specialist, he spent 21 years at Honeywell. Prior to that he worked in a number of alternative energy businesses. Bill has an undergraduate degree in philosophy and a Masters of Business Administration from Carlson School of Management. He and his wife, Ruth, joined Plymouth Church in 1988.

**Ryan French** is Associate Vice President of Advancement at the University of St. Thomas, overseeing development, alumni engagement and campaign operations. Prior to St. Thomas, Ryan was Director of Marketing and Public Relations at the Walker Art Center, and, before that, he held leadership roles at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, including Director of Corporate Relations and Director of Alumni and Board Relations.



He has directed marketing efforts for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and a number of Twin Cities nonprofits. He holds an MBA with an emphasis in marketing and nonprofit management from the University of Minnesota and a BA in Music from St. Olaf College. Ryan has sung with many of the leading vocal ensembles of the Twin Cities, including the Rose Ensemble, the Dale Warland Singers, and, for 15 years, as a member of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. Ryan lives in Saint Paul with his wife, Jenny, and their two children, Tilda and Margot.



**Jane Gerber**—I have been a member of Plymouth since 1986. I have enjoyed watching our program offerings grow, and I want to support this effort by hiring a competent, enlightened and energized presence for the Minister for Spiritual Formation and Theater.

My career paths were varied but always included awareness of, and concern for, the other, whether as a psychiatric nurse or human resources professional or in the financial services arena. Retirement in January 2014 gave me the gift of time. I can enjoy my granddaughter, daughter and son-in-law, my husband and our dog. I travel, write and volunteer.

If elected, I pledge to work with the committee to select a candidate who will help us embrace our open and progressive faith community with programs that offer acceptance as well as challenge so we might effectively live our mission to be authentically spiritual, loving, relevant and transforming.



**Renée Macomber**—Almost 40 years ago, Gary, our two young daughters and I came to Plymouth. The following church experiences are a few of the ones that have enriched my life: The Plymouth Women's Retreats, held at the ARC Retreat Center, were always energizing creative times. I have been volunteering at Lydia Apartments ever since it opened in 2003. It is one of my favorite places to hang out. Serving on the Committee for Children, Youth and Families has brought me back into the delightful world of kids and their parents (in addition to my five grandchildren). This fall, I will also begin serving on the Board of Spiritual Formation.



**Emily Moses-Thomsen**—I graduated from St. Olaf College in 2017 with a BA in English and Psychology. I have grown up at Plymouth Congregational Church and am thrilled at this opportunity to give back. I am happily returning to work with middle school students for a second year at Plymouth, as well as continuing my Special Ed TA position at an elementary school.

This was my fourth summer as a YMCA day camp counselor, and I also worked a year with lower-income youth through AmeriCorps. I've participated in Plymouth Theater Playshop for seven years and took theater classes in both high school and college. I'm so excited to

be working with all of you, and I feel very honored to be a part of this process.



**Mary Kay Sauter, chair**—Mary Kay is a retired UCC minister who graduated from UTS in 1995 and was called to do interims. Her interims included one with the UCC Minnesota Conference, where part of her time was working with a variety of ministerial search committees. She has been a part of Plymouth since her retirement, when she and her husband Orv joined their daughter Carrie, son-in-law Mike and granddaughters

Sophia and Rowyn.



**Anne Seltz**—As a long-time member, I have served as a Deacon, as chair of the former Board of Stewards and as co-chair of the Deacons' Chapel Committee when we updated that space. I developed and have coordinated the Compassionate Communication program for the past 10 years. In addition, I am currently a member of

the Spiritual Exploration Committee.

I want a well-educated and creative leader in this position so that the spiritual life of our members, from birth to death, will be strengthened by our educational programs. As a retired Audiologist, I support clear communication.