

Dear Friends,

In the life of a congregation, there are tender moments when decisions are made that are not unanimous. Yesterday, in a historic moment for Plymouth, in which petitioners convened a congregational meeting challenging a decision of the Leadership Council, 189 members voted in favor of a revised action plan, while 372 voted against. This affirms the Leadership Council Embroidery Implementation Plan.

First and foremost, we hold up our covenant to be a loving community that is committed to walk together as we discern the future. We live in a changing world. Our commitment to racial justice and our desire to be inclusive of all people's history require new ideas, creativity and innovation. We may differ on how that can be done, but the shared commitment has been visible at Plymouth from the beginning. Yesterday's vote is not the conclusion of our work but the continuation of work started at the inception of this church. Every generation is responsible for how this gets carried out.

As we look to the future, it is possible to hold two things in our hearts at the same time: the need to grieve our loss and the desire to deepen our relationships as we work toward healing. We are also a community that offers grace and forgiveness to each other for the many ways we have hurt each other, whether intentionally or not. Now is the time to lay aside our grudges and old wounds, to seek and ask forgiveness, and to know God's grace.

It is our prayer that this moment is seen as a gateway to who we are becoming and how we are learning to be loving, inclusive and caring people. It is our hope that we all will be invigorated to do more to welcome our neighbors, to be a comfort to each other in these uncertain times, and to embody the love of God into the world. This is what it means to be a covenant people.

Please know each of us welcomes conversation. We are your ministers and we care about you.

With humility and peace,

*Paula Northwood, Acting Senior Minister*

**Beth Hoffman Faeth, Minister for Congregational Care & Worship**

**Seth Patterson, Director of Spiritual Formation and Theater**