

March 6, 2020

The Seth I Know

One of the great privileges of working for Plymouth Congregational Church has been the relationships I have developed with colleagues over the years. Because we often go through a variety of experiences, from the death of congregants to church conflicts and overnight lock-ins, we develop deep bonds.

It is with relief and delight that I received the news that the Search Committee working to fill the position of Minister for Spiritual Formation and Theater was presenting Seth Patterson as their candidate.

If you only come to church on the rare occasion or only attend worship services, you experience only a slice of our clergy's personalities. And while being in the pulpit is different from performing, it is a very public part of our personalities. You may not know all there is to know about Seth.

I want to introduce you to the Seth I know. The Seth I know wept at his Ecclesiastical Council, in front of God and all the dignitaries, when he talked about the birth of his daughter and was surprised by his emotion. The Seth I know made sure two little girls walking into the Sanctuary late got their miniature cup of juice, so that they experienced the hospitality and inclusion of this community. The Seth I know camped out in the courtyard on a cold night with a dozen Plymouth teenagers who wanted to raise money for homeless teens. The Seth I know has created a theater experience that truly invites people of color to share their stories and our space. The Seth I know has a great sense of humor and plays practical jokes: When I returned from France, I was greeted by a zombie holding a welcome sign in French! The Seth I know listens patiently and respectfully to folks dealing with delusional thoughts who walk in off the street and then attends to their needs. The Seth I know is passionate about justice and not afraid to speak his truth. The Seth I know enjoys good food and a sip of Irish whiskey, and I do, too. The Seth I know cares about the people of Plymouth in ways you may never know but I hope you will!