

*June 5, 2020*

## **Church Update**

This past week we have witnessed many people expressing their righteous anger about systemic racism and other tools of oppression that continue to divide our nation. The murder of George Floyd calls us to increase our work around racial justice most fervently. While we will never condone violence, at Plymouth Church we continue to work on the side of justice and equity. Many Plymouth members have been among those who demonstrated. Many others have given time and resources toward the clean-up. Others have supplied groceries and food. The church building has functioned as a medical aid and supply station. We are all working to find ways to demand that our city and country live into the ideals that we proclaim: liberty and justice for all.

One way to support the communities affected by the unrest in our city, following the police killing of George Floyd, is to give to the Minneapolis Interfaith Relief Fund (MIRF), established by the senior clergy of the downtown interfaith congregations. An Allocation Team of senior clergy will disburse funds to agencies and partners in communities of color and in the indigenous community that are working directly with those most affected. Westminster Presbyterian is serving as fiscal sponsor for MIRF. Should you choose to donate by check, please make it payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, write "MIRF" in the memo line, and mail to Westminster Presbyterian Church (1200 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis MN 55403-2419). Gifts will be tax-deductible. The link to give to the Minneapolis Interfaith Relief Fund (MIRF) is here:

<https://www.westminstermpls.org/stewardship/stewardship/mirf/>

In Plymouth Church news, we are happy to announce the calling of Seth Patterson as Minister for Spiritual Formation and Theater. This call was voted on at a Special Meeting on May 31. Seth has been a valuable member of our staff and ministry team for four years. Plans are to hold an ordination service on June 28 via Zoom conferencing. More details will be coming soon.

Our Business Administrator, Annette Abel, announced her engagement and future marriage including a move to Wisconsin. She has submitted her resignation effective June 24. We congratulate Annette and wish her well. Annette has accomplished a great deal in her three years at Plymouth and we will miss her.

And finally, the Deacons along with clergy have decided we will not be opening the church to in-person worship or other large gatherings until at least December 1, 2020. This recommendation was brought forth from the Board of Worship to the Leadership Council, which affirmed it and sent the recommendation to the Deacons for approval.

Amid the pandemic and community unrest, we sense God's presence and know that we are being called upon, now more than ever, to do the work to create a more just and peaceful world. We also know that many of you are feeling angst and uncertainty, and we hold you all in prayers that love, not fear, will rule your heart.

*Paula, Beth and Seth*