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Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe
Senior Minister

Rev. Matt Bauhoff
Associate Minister

James P. Riggs
Minister of Music & The Arts

Leslie Szalay
Director of Christian Education

"My house is a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7) • An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 21, 2019

My dear friends,

It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that I write to let you know I have been called to be the Senior Minister of The Peoples Church in East Lansing, Michigan. After conferring with Gloria Sturghill (President of Council) and Brian Grube (Vice President of Council), we've decided that my last day at Plymouth will be Sunday, September 29, 2019.

It has been a singular privilege and pleasure to be your pastor. Since I came to Plymouth, almost 12 years ago, this congregation has grown and changed in remarkable ways. The membership is younger and more diverse; the mission and outreach have evolved to respond to the changing needs of the community; we have become careful stewards of our facility and our financial resources; and Plymouth has gained a reputation as a congregation that is authentically warm and welcoming. Plymouth Church is a vibrant community of faithful people committed to serving others in Jesus' name. I am so proud to have been part of your story, and my time at Plymouth will always shape my ministry in holy and wonderful ways.

I am grateful for all the times you have encouraged and supported me and my ministry – as well as the times you have challenged and corrected me. This congregation has cared for me and my whole family in every stage of life, and you have allowed me to be part of your lives. We have worked together and worshipped together, laughed together and cried together, celebrated the good times and endured the hard times. In every moment of this journey, God's abiding grace has been with us, *for God's steadfast love endures forever!* (Ps 136)

It is not easy for me to leave Plymouth Church, but I know God has called me to The Peoples Church, just as God called me to Plymouth so many years ago. And after eight years of being apart, I am looking forward to living with Neil once again.

I will always hold you in my heart and in my prayers. I hope you will do the same for me.

With faith, hope, and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shawnthea Monroe'.

The Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe
Senior Minister