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

Dear Members of Plymouth Church,

The Pastoral Transition Team met on the evening of Monday, September 30, 2019 with Rev. Nayiri Karjian from the Living Water Association, Ohio NE, UCC to discuss the work of our committee. All members of the committee were in attendance except Jeannie Clarkson who had a scheduling conflict. Gloria Sturghill and Brian Grube were also present at the meeting in their church leadership capacities.

What is the work of the Pastoral Transition Team? The members of the Pastoral Transition Team will endeavor to be sensitive to the congregation's thoughts and feelings during this time of transition; assist the interim minister in acclimating to our church; and help to prepare the members of this church for new long-term pastoral leadership.

The team will use three questions to guide the congregation's discernment process during the transition period:

1. **Who are we now?** This question will require us to listen to you, and hear your concerns and hopes regarding who we are to become. We will need your help to identify Plymouth's strengths and gifts that can be built upon in the future. To this end, we will hold a series of small lunch meetings after worship on Sundays to solicit your feedback. We are working on finalizing the dates for these gatherings.
2. **What is God calling Plymouth Church to be and do?** This question will also require us to listen to you. What is God calling the congregation of Plymouth Church to be? What is our unique responsibility, role, and possibility in the Shaker Heights, Greater Heights, and Greater Cleveland communities?
3. **Who are our neighbors?** We will need your help with this part of the process too. We will be thinking and talking about the changing religious landscape, and how it might impact our church. We will need help with reaching out to various community leaders and representatives to find out what are their impressions of Plymouth Church, and how our congregation can be in relationship with all of our neighbors.

Change is never easy, but it is a necessary, and often, invigorating part of the human experience. We, like you, believe that God is Still Speaking, and that God seeks to use us to bring our congregation, community and world closer to living in a Beloved Community.

The members of the Pastoral Transition Team look forward to speaking with you. Please reach out to us as the Spirit moves you.

Sincerely,

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