

Members for Senior Minister Transition Team

Christine Bretz – Christine joined Plymouth Church in 2004. She has held a plethora of positions here at the church including Evangelism & Growth chair, Treasurer, Foundation chair (current and in years prior), Chancel Committee co-chair, and SERRV. She is married to Paul Qua and has two sons, Ben and Adam Hershorin, and bonus daughters are Sarah Qua Nickodem and Megan Qua Vedda. They also have 2 cats, Melbourne and Sydney, and one grand-dog St. Bernard, Charlie. Her interests outside of Plymouth Church, UCC range from gourmet cooking to making her own limoncello, gardening, enjoying concerts & blues music, nightly Jeopardy contests with Paul, and seeing her sons as often as possible.

Jeannie Clarkson – Jeannie has been a member of Plymouth for 28 years. She is delighted to be serving on the Transition Team, in addition to teaching Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) to middle school students this year and serving as Vice Chair of Children & Youth for the fourth consecutive year. Jeannie has worked as a member of Evangelism & Growth, coordinating Connection Groups for six years, as well as a member of the Caring Department. She was an usher for twenty years, worked with new members, helped lead Plymouth's program with the homeless, first called Interfaith Hospitality Network and then later Family Promise. She is a retired kindergarten teacher after 30 years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and has co-taught Confirmation, volunteered with Senior High Youth Group for many years, was a Christ Care leader for tenses, and has taught OWL for the past 5 years to all grade levels at Plymouth. She was married at Plymouth six years ago to her husband, Loren Bruns.

Lee Makela – Lee (and his wife HEIDI) have been members of Plymouth Church since 1974. Over the years, he has served the church in multiple capacities, everything from Youth Group advisor and Deacon (back in the day when communion was served in the pews) to Church Council secretary to Chair of Christian Education to Co-Chair of the committee considering the choice of a new hymnal. Currently he sings tenor in the choir, helps host Plymouth Arts events, helps out at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and participates actively in Fossil Fuel. Retired after forty years of teaching Chinese and Japanese history at Cleveland State University, he continues to accompany groups of Smithsonian Journey travelers on tours to Japan (completing his 42nd trip in October 2019). Other interests include photography, gardening and keeping abreast of technological innovation. He maintains his instructional interests in Japan, writing book reviews and through classes and presentation series for the Association of Continuing Education at CWRU, Asian Studies classes at Shaker Heights High School, Plymouth Lunch Club and Fossil Fuel.

Janet Neary – Janet has been a member of Plymouth since the 80s', serving as chairs on multiple departments including Vice-President of Council, Finance chair, Stewardship chair, 2 capital campaigns, Interfaith Hospitality Network chair, and many others. She is part of a "University of Michigan" family and has 4 married children and 12 grandchildren. Her special interests outside of Plymouth Church, UCC include the Great Lakes Theater and the Natural History Museum—where she has been a trustee most of her life. Her beloved husband Bob passed away in 2017.

Tracy Williams – Tracy Glover Williams has been a member of Plymouth Church since 2006 after attending services off-and-on for many years prior to that with her husband, Reginald D. Williams, and their children, Grace, Brynn, and Shane. Family connections (her mother-in-law, Norma Nelson has been an active and enthusiastic member of Plymouth for many years) are what first brought Tracy and her family to Plymouth. Tracy works at Shaker Heights High School as an administrative assistant, and co-advisor for the Minority Achievement Committee Sister Scholars program. She is an avid reader who aspires to spend more time writing this year.