

What Plymouth Church Offers You

Plymouth UCC offers Pastoral Residents a significant experience in the core activities of ministry. Residents will have distinct opportunities for program development in a collegial environment, including the opportunity to work alongside truly skilled and experienced practitioners. Residents will also work with the Transition-into-Ministry Pastoral Residency Coordinator, who administers the program and coordinates the integration of the Residents into the ministries of Plymouth Church. Additionally Plymouth is a strong and healthy congregation with gifted lay leaders who have vision and passion to call, nurture and support new pastors.



ABOUT US

Plymouth Church

Plymouth UCC has a vision for the Transition-into-Ministry Program: To identify and recruit the best young prospective pastors and enhance their preparation for ministry in ways that will impact Christianity for the arc of a generation and beyond.

Plymouth is a progressive, dynamic congregation of 3,000 people in Des Moines, Iowa, serving a 30-mile radius from its central city location. Plymouth is staffed by five ministers and a professional program staff. Plymouth has a rich heritage of community involvement, a position of being open and affirming, and a long-standing tradition of ecumenical activism.

The ethos of Plymouth Church includes: collegial staff relationships, empowerment of the laity for leadership and decision-making in the church, ongoing discussions of difficult issues, wide-ranging community involvement, and long pastorates that lend continuity and stability to pastoral leadership.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To Apply:

1. The first step is to submit your Letter of Intent, found at www.plymouthchurch.com. Click on "About Us" and scroll down to "Transition-into-Ministry Program." At the bottom of this screen, click on the link, "Letter of Intent" to download the form.
2. For UCC graduates, arrange to have your ministerial profile (if available) sent to:
Iowa Conference Office
ATTN: Plymouth UCC
4126 Ingersoll Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312

Or

For non-UCC graduates, send a copy of your resume, a seminary transcript, two letters of recommendation (one from a seminary professor and one from a field-work supervisor) and a cover letter detailing your interest in the TiM Program to:

Frank Thomas,
Pastoral Residency Coordinator
Plymouth United Church of Christ
4126 Ingersoll Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312
Phone: 515.255.3149

Timeline

- February 4Applications postmarked
- MarchFinal candidate interviews in Des Moines
- AprilResident selection
- June 1-15Pastorates begin

TRANSITION-INTO-MINISTRY Program



Plymouth

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.plymouthchurch.com



We Agree to Differ. We Resolve to Love. We Unite to Serve.

Welcome to the JOURNEY!

This is a REAL JOB...for two years.



Senior Minister David Ruhe meets weekly with TIM Associate Ministers Stephanie Haskins and Jeanette Brodersen.

Plymouth is looking for someone who is ready, willing and able to engage in a full range of ministerial duties with energy, skill and enthusiasm. The right candidate is someone who wants to be part of an intensive learning environment, working alongside seasoned professionals in a wonderfully supportive – and appropriately demanding – congregation.

A Plymouth pastoral resident receives the title of Associate Minister and is a fully authorized pastor, ordained or eligible for ordination.

A Plymouth Associate Minister is compensated with full benefits, at a level competitive with salaries for recent seminary graduates, in accordance with Iowa Conference guidelines.

If you are eager for a growing experience that will leave you better equipped for a long and fruitful career in ministry, then the Plymouth Transition-into-Ministry Program might be for you.

I invite you to check us out at www.plymouthchurch.com/about_us.

Sincerely,

David Ruhe, Senior Minister



Transition-into-Ministry (TiM) Program at Plymouth Church

Program Purpose

Plymouth UCC has established a Transition-into-Ministry (TiM) program for recent seminary graduates. This is a 27-month program for two individuals beginning in June of each selection year. The purpose of the program is to strengthen potentially outstanding pastors by providing them with tools and experiences in a congregational setting.

The Plymouth TiM program challenges participants to refine their individual under-standings of the pastoral vocation and to develop patterns of reflective practice that will serve them throughout full and productive careers in ministry.

Key Components of Residency

Pastoral Residents review and reflect on their activities during a weekly seminar with the Senior Minister. Additionally, Pastoral Residents continually engage in core areas of the residency educational program:

1. worship leadership and preaching,
2. pastoral care.

Pastoral Residents also enjoy some latitude in designing their own ministerial experiences. In addition, Plymouth residents will benefit from twice-monthly meetings with their TiM Iowa cohorts, who are at serving solo pastorates in rural environments, as well as guidance from a rural minister mentor.

Living the Questions

Faithful ministry requires clearly articulated objectives and deeply integrated practices. It demands that ministers wrestle at a deep level with what, precisely, God is calling them to do and to be in a variety of settings. It requires heartfelt and personal answers to questions such as:

- When I am leading worship, what exactly is it that I am trying to do and how do I know when I am doing it?
- How do I discover, refine, trust and test my pastoral instincts and abilities?

- How do I read and work with the culture of a congregation?
- What is the relationship between mission and task in ministry?
- How and when do I experience resistance in ministry and what does it mean?
- What does it mean to be a center of theological integrity for a congregation?

God is Still Speaking