Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ is seeking candidates for a 27-month, salaried residency program to begin on or around June 1, 2022. Applications are due on February 4, 2022.

We are looking for a recent or soon-to-be seminary graduate who is ordained or eligible to be ordained. Ideal candidates should feel called to congregational ministry and have a “teachable spirit.” Residents will be Associate Pastors and will be expected to perform all the functions of the other pastors on the staff—weddings, funerals, pastoral care, preaching sermons, teaching, and leading worship. Residents will also be expected to work with Plymouth members of all ages – children, youth, young adults and older adults. Salary and benefits are offered in accordance with Conference guidelines.

In addition to performing all of the activities of congregational ministry, the Residents are actively supervised and mentored. Residents will work alongside Plymouth’s Senior Pastor, Pastor of Care, Pastor of Education, other professional staff, as well as experienced and dedicated lay leaders. Residents are supervised by Plymouth’s Director of TiM Programs. Throughout the program, the Residents will be encouraged to learn, review, and reflect as they live and grow into their calls.

Plymouth Associate Pastors are integrated into the staffing patterns of the church quickly. Each Associate has an opportunity to preach, offer pastoral care, teach, and lead as well as some freedom to pursue projects of interest that also meet the needs of the congregation and community. The Residency is designed to be an intensive learning experience within a congregation that is both supportive and demanding. The congregation is also actively and creatively exploring how to be the church in this interesting, pandemic time. Although much is uncertain in churches at this moment, we are confident this Residency experience can provide a tremendous growing experience, leaving Residents enriched in their faith and better equipped for a long and fruitful career in ministry.

Plymouth’s Transition into Ministry (TiM) Program was established in 2006 in partnership with the Lilly Endowment. In 2018, Plymouth members raised funds to continue funding the program through at least 2030. It is a beloved part of our church community. Plymouth Church is located in Des Moines, Iowa, a vibrant and affordable medium-sized city. Residents will be able to afford quality housing in a safe, interesting neighborhood or downtown.

For information go to https://www.plymouthchurch.com/transition-into-ministry/ or contact Karen Quance Jeske, Director of Transition into Ministry Programs, 515-255-3149 or kjeske@plymouthchurch.com.