

I Remembered!

I never imagined that I would create a word document on my computer titled, "Scott's Unison Prayer," but now it exists and it is very real. This morning, I chose the opening prayer we will recite together during the "Service of Witness to the Resurrection" giving praise and thanksgiving for the life of Rev. Scott Hauser. Although I will be listed in the bulletin as the Transitional Presbytery Leader of the Presbytery of Milwaukee, I'm a member of the Crossroads church family and what the bulletin fails to mention is that I considered Scott my pastor.

By the time Scott was called to Crossroads in August, 2015, I hadn't felt that I had a pastor who cared for and shepherded me for a very long time. I had forgotten how that kind of relationship was supposed to work. It happened, in part, because I allowed myself to become so busy serving God and caring for others that I didn't seek out a pastor to help me care spiritually for myself. We're really not meant to walk alone, you know, and I take full responsibility for my mistake. The first time the two of us met together at Starbucks, I told Scott that I really didn't remember what it felt like to have a pastor but that I hoped that I could learn. In his quiet way, he said that he hoped so too. And, over time, I did! I *remembered* what it feels like to have a pastor care for, shepherd and encourage me in the faith.

Yet, because I remembered, Scott's death pains me in a way that is so raw and intense that there are moments that I can hardly breathe. I've experienced the spirit interceding on my behalf in my weakness when I don't have the words or the strength. How is it possible, I've asked myself, that I could come to love someone so much in only 18 months? And I think it's because Scott extended the kind of love that God has for us to each of the people in his life. Scott's love was patient, kind and rejoiced in the truth. It looked a whole lot like what we read in Scripture in 1 Corinthians 13. I am grateful to God to have loved deeply and been deeply loved by Pastor Scott.

In Service to Christ and the Presbytery,

Mary