

### **Leadership Gifts and Style**

I am a servant-minded leader with proficiencies in worship leadership, pastoral care, conflict transformation, youth ministry, and nonprofit administration. My leadership gifts include empathy, collaboration, attention to detail, conflict resolution, and the ability to operationalize big ideas into clear, actionable steps. I strongly believe in the equality of ministry among believers – that each person's gifts have a place in the Church. This informs a leadership style that I believe is humble, empowering, and facilitative, treating all people as equal partners in ministry.

### **Aspirations for Ministry**

Throughout my journey, I've learned firsthand to never put a period where God has put a comma! I entered my discernment and seminary journeys certain that I would become a chaplain, but through an amazing church internship year I've become excited about ministry in congregational settings. Now, I am open to multiple settings of ministry, with a preference for congregational ministry or campus ministry. In whatever setting I am called, I want to be a companion to others, exploring where God is active in people's lives and how God is moving them to further love and justice in the world.

### **Spiritual Disciplines and Study**

I believe that spiritual leaders cannot care for others if they don't care for themselves – spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Outside of work, I spend life-giving moments going on walks, listening to podcasts and music, working out, and prioritizing friends and family. I consistently invest in my ministry through reflecting on Scripture, engaging in prayer, and continuing to educate myself about theology, worship, and church history.

### **Ministry Passions**

I care deeply about interfaith dialogue, ecumenism, pastoral care, social justice, and exploring diverse ways for people to continue encountering our loving God who gives us life.

## **Ecclesiastical Council November 3, 2024 – 3:00 PM Macalester Plymouth United Church**

**Introducing  
Dustin Moretz**



## **Family**

I grew up in Jackson, MI, though my family is spread throughout the country, mainly in Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. I have three brothers, one of whom is my twin! I currently reside in Saint Louis Park with my fiancé Erik and our dog, Thor.

## **Education**

I hold a BA in Religious Studies and Anthropology/Sociology from Albion College in Michigan, and graduated *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa with Albion College Honors. My passion for interfaith dialogue, which developed in college, led me to pursue my Master in Philosophy (M.Phil) in Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation from Trinity College Dublin in Ireland, which I earned with Distinction (highest honors). In May 2024 I graduated from Luther Seminary with an M.Div with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.

Additionally, in Summer 2023 I completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) through the M Health Fairview Southdale CPE Center, serving as a chaplain intern at Ridges Hospital in Burnsville. While I served throughout the hospital, my main assignments were the orthopedic-spine and medical-surgical intermediate care units.

## **Vocational History**

I currently serve as the Grant Programs Manager at Rebuilding Together, a national housing nonprofit, helping to monitor and manage federal grants to support housing rehabilitation work across the country. Before this, I served as the Pastoral Intern at Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ, and had the honor of co-planning and co-leading worship services, as well as co-facilitating the church's Futuring Committee, which engaged in strategic planning for the church. Before pivoting to full time seminary, I worked in philanthropy, serving as the Community Initiatives Program Manager at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. In that role, I provided strategy, program, and operational support for initiatives that supported nonprofit capacity-building, community-led grantmaking, digital equity, racial healing, and government-nonprofit partnerships.

## **Other Employment or Ministry Related Work**

While in seminary I had the privilege of serving as a part time worship leader and youth community builder at my home church, Macalester Plymouth United Church. As a youth community builder, I planned and facilitated weekly programming for junior/senior high youth and supported mission trip planning efforts.

## **Service and Community Involvement**

Currently, I serve as an OWL program facilitator at Macalester Plymouth United Church for 7-9 grade. Before balancing full time work and part time seminary, I served for three years as a Youth Action Coach with the Youth Leadership Initiative, supporting St Paul teens in learning about and creating action projects to address community challenges. This placement was part of Opportunity Saint Paul, an Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul initiative to engage congregations in addressing the causes and consequences of poverty.

## **Theological Perspective**

I approach theology with attention to how theologies resonate with our lived experiences. I don't place much value in theology that's just theoretical – good theology is always subjected to the test of our lives and can be applied in daily life. The theology that has most impacted me and has most informed my day-to-day ministry is process theology, which holds that in each moment God is luring us toward aims of love and justice, and we can discern where God is leading us through learning to listen to God individually and collectively. I also practice ministry with a deep appreciation for liberation theologies such as feminist, womanist, black, LGBTQ & Queer theologies.

## **Call to Ministry in the United Church of Christ**

I am called to serve in this denomination because I resonate deeply with the UCC's commitments to social justice, our willingness to witness to the Gospel in the public sphere, the denomination's commitment to the Stillspeaking God, our participation in ecumenical and interfaith efforts, and a polity that reflects democratic values that honor the unique witness and ministry of each member of the church.