

Matt Lee Now Presbyterian Minister

Presbytery of Milwaukee

March 4, 2018

Congratulations, Pastor Matt!

The Rev. Matthew Lee is now an ordained Presbyterian minister, in addition to being an ordained Lutheran minister. Matt is the pastor at Kettle Moraine Presbyterian Church in Hartland.

Matt was originally from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). He is from Beloit, attended Luther Seminary, then was the pastor at St. Olaf in Rubicon for ten years.

When asked about the specifics of the ordination, Matt had this to say: "Presbyterian Ordination occurred when I began here at Kettle Moraine in 2016. It was a good day. My mother and mother-in-law came up as well as some friends from the church I grew up in. There was a nice luncheon afterwards. The celebration was not only me coming here but the congregation receiving a pastor after a very long wait.

"After I passed my exams last October, we began the process of transferring me in from the ELCA. I received my letter of release [from] the Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod in December. My official starting date as a PC(USA) minister is January 1 of this year. On January 21, the church had a celebration of my transfer. I asked them to keep it simple, but they put together a very nice gathering after worship. However, they surprised me during the announcements at the end of worship. They carried in a table and put wrapped gifts on it. I felt a bit confused as they politely took over the announcements and began to announce their joy of my becoming Presbyterian. When I unwrapped the presents I was bit overwhelmed. The congregation had collectively purchased [for] me a black Geneva Robe, a white PC(USA) stole, and a Presbyterian pectoral cross. My mother had also come up for the worship and celebration afterwards. It was a wonderful day."

Matt likes to look at things strategically. One thing he has learned is that the Presbyterian way is always about us, all of us together, which is very attractive to Matt, this idea of collective. So when trying new ideas, he seeks the input from others before stitching ideas together into a plan for implementation. He likes to have a creative, positive outcome. He has many ideas and asks for openness to experiment.

Theology as a Lutheran is nearly identical to theology as a Presbyterian. Matt loves the Book of Order. It works well for him. "It keeps us in relation with each other, working together for the sake of peace in the congregation," says Matt. The Book of Order focuses on us collectively. There is a focus on reconciliation, on finding a new direction.

Both denominations are Trinitarian. ELCA focuses a lot on Jesus Christ. Calvin settled more on the people of Christ, emphasizing the Holy Spirit. Matt found it an easy shift to the Presbyterian faith, mostly a matter of study.

Differences include language, some being more covenantal in ELCA. The Presbyterian stance is more emphasizing all covenants God has made with humans. ELCA emphasizes more of the new covenants through Christ.

Matt has spent his free time in continuing studies. Now that he has achieved his goal, he will spend his free time visiting his congregants more. He is very capable interpersonally and will enjoy connecting with his congregants, either by phone call or in-person visit in their homes.

Submitted by Donna Holmes
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