

Communication to Seeds about our commitments post December

Ted and I want to communicate some information about what to expect from us, post December 2024, as that date comes closer.

Many of you have probably heard that we have accepted a role as Chaplain's at Eastview and Gardens on Tenth. Ted has already been dipping into the role, with a few hours a week, and my plan is to join at the end of January.

Maybe assumed, but this means our plan is to remain in the community! From moving here in 1992 and thinking this would be a 3 year maximum "home", Altona is still where our heart is, at least for now!

Releasing the leadership of Seeds to others is good, and obviously hard as well. In order to make a good, healthy break, we will not be a part of the Seeds community for at least 6 months. We believe this is important for everyone. The 6 month time frame is just a start, and will be re-evaluated by us, and Seeds leadership as we go. Some pastoral leaders return as community members, and others don't. We will have to continue to discern what makes sense in our unique place.

What is most important for us is to give space to Seeds to move on from our leadership without feeling like we are "looming" in the background. We can easily say that we have trust and confidence in the community. We're not worried one bit actually. The ways in which the Seeds community continues to listen and imagine and reimagine its place is filled with a great deal of peace on our part. Not being a part of that, is both a challenging work on our part, as you can imagine, but it does not contain worry about the future of Seeds. We are content and confident with whatever happens next.

Finding our place in the larger community will be a challenge for us, as Seeds is absolutely integral to our sense of home. But this also, is our work to do. The 6 month time frame of separation means we won't attend Sunday morning worship, or be part of any leadership conversations or decisions. We will not have any official pastoral duties in pastoral care, worship, direction of the church, etc. Probably the trickiest piece is that our place in Seeds is both personal and professional/pastoral. This process is forcing us to make some distinctions between those and we may fumble a bit with those boundaries, as may you. This is the greatest place where we are aware of our need for the Divine guidance of the Spirit. If there are areas that feel "grey" we commit to discern any involvement with the help of lead/transition and interim pastor team.

If you have any questions about this, or want to talk further about some of this, feel free to reach out!