

September 26, 2023

Beloved Rocky Mountain Conference,

When I accepted the call to be your Associate Conference Minister in May of 2017, I knew that the road ahead would be challenging, but I could never have imagined all that we would experience together in the last 6 years. In every step, even in the hardest of moments, it has been an honor to be your ACM and to serve alongside you in the Rocky Mountain Conference. I am writing today to let you know that I have decided to step down from my position as ACM and shared this with the Board on Sept. 18.

My decision to step down from the ACM position was a very difficult one. My love for this conference is deep and my belief in its mission equally so. Earlier in the year in the midst of all the staff transitions, the RMC Board asked me to provide oversight of the finances and as I began to grasp the financial reality facing the conference it became clear to me that the ACM position, as it now exists, is becoming less and less feasible as we look towards the future. In addition to the financial reality, after over 6 years in this position I am convinced that there are more sustainable,



impactful, and creative ways to carry out the work of the conference. Given these realities, I wanted the conference to have the space and freedom to explore new structures and new possibilities without needing to also continue to sustain the ACM position as it now exists.

At the time of my resignation, I had been offered another position and I was planning to accept it. However due to an inability to agree on a start date with this new employer that honored each of our needs, I was unable to accept the offer. And then, as Rev. Dr. Doug Wooten and I began discussing plans for my transition, we found the Holy Spirit asking us to consider possibilities that we had not yet imagined. On Monday evening, September 25, Dr. Wooten and I asked the Executive Committee of the Board to give us some time and space to listen more deeply to the Spirit as we seek to discern how best to serve the Rocky Mountain Conference in this tender and tenuous time.

I recognize that we are sharing this news with you without knowing where this discernment will lead us. What I can tell you is that Dr. Wooten and myself, along with the entire board and staff of the RMC come to this moment wanting to be faithful to the God who meets us where we are and calls us into futures not of our own making. We will be meeting with the board on October 4th and will share with you an update following that meeting.

One of the greatest learnings of this past year, starting with my sabbatical last summer, is that cultivating spaciousness is essential to our capacity to be creative, to access our imaginations, and to pay attention to the Spirit at work in the midst of all that seeks to distract and obscure us. Spaciousness allows us to respond rather to react. And so at this time we would ask for your prayer, your patience, and your support as we seek to do what I have been encouraging congregations to do, in the words of Teilhard De Chardin, "Trust in the slow work of God."

In faith and in gratitude, Rev. Erin Gilmore

Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found here.