



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

May 6, 2018

Our leadership team is excited to announce Jeremy Poland has been appointed to serve as the pastor of Valley United Methodist Church in West Des Moines, beginning July 1, 2018.

Jeremy Poland and his wife, Kristen, and their two children Katryna and Eli, has served with thrive United Methodist Church since it's conception nearly five years ago. Jeremy is a graduate of Simpson College and Drew Theological School, and was ordained as a Elder in Full Connection in 2017. He and his family have lived in West Des Moines since 2009. Jeremy loves theology, service, getting to know people, and being a self-proclaimed nerd about everything from Kierkegaard to Game of Thrones.

In an effort create the best possible future for Valley UMC, and in hopes of more effectively serving the community of West Des Moines, the Bishop and the Administrative Cabinet of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church have worked with the leadership teams of both thrive and Valley to explore the possibility of a.) sharing pastoral leadership and b.) pursuing opportunities to partner in ministry together. Our leadership team has met several times with thrive's board and Conference staff, and we have agreed and believe that this is an exciting opportunity to grow in our faith, community and our Church family.

Valley and thrive churches will remain distinct entities initially, but we will all be looking for opportunities for both congregations to become better acquainted. The leadership teams of both congregations will find ways to build relationships between Valley and thrive, and discover ways to serve the greater community in partnership and unity in the upcoming months.

