

A New Chapter for Zach Martinez



On July 24, Sojourn Mennonite gathered to say goodbye to their pastor Zach Martinez and his family: wife Megan and daughter Margot. Zach, who had been bi-vocationally serving this church based in Greeley and Fort Collins, will shift to working full-time as a hospital chaplain. Zach will continue to provide conference-level leadership on Ministerial Council and Leadership Board.

Zach has provided incredible leadership in his role at Sojourn. He has a deep concern for justice, a pastor's heart, and is willing to ask hard spiritual questions that challenge himself and others to grow. To learn more about who Zach Martinez is, here's an [article](#) from last year's Zing! about his life and ministry: [Zach Martinez: An unexpected journey to Mennonite leadership \(complete with kicking, screaming, and a hot fudge sundae\).](#)

Sojourn congregant and leader Pam Duncan wanted to share some thoughts on what Zach's ministry has meant to Sojourn Mennonite:

Zach came to us straight out of seminary and we were impressed with him from the start. Some of us on the search committee were a bit concerned about how young he was, but throughout the search process he had the most thoughtful responses and such an open and giving attitude. Theologically and in every other way, he was the perfect fit for Sojourn and it truly felt as if God had led us to each other. We were not disappointed, as his sermons provided much food for thought as well as spiritual sustenance.

We have been a happy and thriving congregation under Zach's leadership, despite several transitions that caught us all by surprise. Very shortly after he joined us, we suddenly lost our worship space to an institution that had offered substantially more rent money. This change was discovered with less than an hour to prepare for that day's worship. Zach led us in gamely and creatively adjusting, creating a workable worship space in the church lobby. A year or so later, we had to move again and Zach played a big part in finding our new place, where we once again settled in happily. At the same time, he was developing a church plant in Greeley under the "one congregation, two cities" model.

Then, of course, the pandemic happened and pastors everywhere had to make drastic changes. This was a major challenge, but our young pastor rose to it with creativity and remarkably good humor. Throughout his tenure, Zach's resilience has carried us through.

May God bless Zach and his wonderful family as they start this new phase.



Pictured: (left) Glenn Balzer, Zach Martinez and Jordan Farrell; (right) Sojourn Celebration for Zach Martinez