



April 2026

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) enthusiastically introduces the Rev. Robby Olson as our nominee for the Pastor position at Davis Community Church. As DCC implements its mission utilizing deep partnerships based on companionship, cultural humility, and co-development to realize our vision of tending to the well-being of the place and people around us, Robby's heart for a church that serves the surrounding community beyond its four walls meshes well with this season in our church life.

What initially captured our attention in Robby's application were his experiences as a youth leader and music leader in university towns, along with his more recent calling as a solo pastor in Watsonville CA. There he also explored an entrepreneurial endeavor as a brew pastor to offer service to community members who are not traditional church-goers, creating a safe space where everyone was welcomed and celebrated, full inclusion. Serving as a police chaplain and youth basketball coach further demonstrated Robby's commitment to serving the greater community, mirroring DCC's vision. Most compelling was Robby's description in his faith statement revealing his progressive theology. He longs to continue growing in his understanding of God and where God is leading us. He is a lifelong learner aligning with DCC's congregation.

After viewing some of Robby's sermons online and ultimately seeing him live during a neutral pulpit service, we felt confident the DCC congregation would enjoy his preaching style and content. He knows how to read a room, uses humor for connection, and wrestles with scripture. Robby has expressed his intent is not to give answers but to provide opportunities for questions and discussion. His openness, easy-going demeanor, listening presence, and general curiosity are welcoming. His references solidified that Robby is collaborative by nature, well-liked, respected, and ready to move forward with DCC.

We also admired Robby's faith in God leading him to help the Watsonville United Presbyterian Church congregation through its final closure, a difficult task that required grit and compassion. During our conversations, Robby expressed that he sensed potential dovetailing of our healing journeys – DCC's as a congregation and his as a pastor – along with parallel discernment processes. Through his process, Robby said he has come to a place of renewed and rejuvenated call to parish ministry and is excited to start writing the next chapter in his calling and discovering the adventures that God has in store. He believes DCC too is itching to begin a new chapter with new horizons to discover as well.

Mark your calendar! Robby will preach at Davis Community Church on April 26. Session has called a special congregational meeting to follow worship on that day to vote on accepting Robby as our pastor at DCC and on the terms of call.

As one door opens, another often closes. Assuming a positive outcome on April 26, Interim Pastor Wes Nordman has determined his last Sunday at DCC will be May 3. Robby's tentative start date is May 18.

If you have questions, please reach out to a PNC member, email dccpnc07@gmail.com, or call Joe Yun at (530) 383-3756.

Faithfully,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee - Ruth Coleman, Janis Cooke, Sherri Goss, Janet Mukai, David Nystrom, Heidi Sciotto, and Joe Yun

Rev. Robby Olson

Dear Davis Community Church,

I look forward, with great anticipation, to the new adventure on which we are about to embark! From the day I first read your Pastor Nominating Committee's (PNC) Ministry Discernment Profile and your Mission Study, I had an immediate sense that God may be calling us together for a new season of ministry in Davis. I began asking colleagues with a long history of PC(USA) ministry about DCC and to a one, they spoke of your vibrancy as a hub of the community, your commitment to diversity and inclusion, and what a fit they thought we might be.

Beginning with my October 1 email to PNC chair, Elder Joe Yun, the exploration of call to DCC has felt like one step of confirmation after another. I am grateful to God that the PNC's process of prayer and discernment aligned with Jenni's and mine. As Presbyterians, we believe that we discover the movement of the Holy Spirit through the voice of the people. It is encouraging to experience that movement again.

In the meantime, I have been admiring you from afar, watching YouTube worship services, reading your church history, and digging into books that your session is using to guide the mission of DCC. As I learn, I find myself excited to jump in and be a part of what you are already doing as well as envision ways to grow, seeking to build on DCC's foundation of faith and service.

Finally, assuming all goes to plan at the upcoming congregational meeting, I look forward to opportunities to sit down with each of you over coffee or a meal, getting to know you, your story, what makes you tick, and your hopes for DCC and the wider community. Stepping into a new community takes time and effort, but I believe I am up to the task and ready to begin with a great deal of listening and learning.

Let us set off on this journey together, but until we do, you are in my prayers, in the confidence that God has plans for DCC that are beyond what we could ask or even imagine.

Grace and Peace in Christ,



Rev. Robby Olson



Robby, Jenni Veitch-Olson & Milo
Pinto Lake Park, Watsonville

Rev. Robby Olson

Bio

Rev. Robby Olson (he/him) is a curious, creative, and entrepreneurial leader in many spheres of life. From pastor to brewer, from coach to chaplain, from reader to disc golfer, Robby enjoys learning, envisioning new directions, and leading people on new and faithful journeys. Robby, Jenni Veitch-Olson, and their dog Milo are coming to Davis from Watsonville, CA (south Santa Cruz County).

Born and raised in the East San Francisco Bay Area, Robby came to faith in high school through a Presbyterian church that allowed him to belong before he believed. Through that community, mentors, and discovering the Bible, Robby came to faith in Jesus as a teenager. Moving away from home, Robby graduated from UC Berkeley and began his career in Youth and Music Ministries. A couple years later, Robby married his high school sweetheart, Jenni. Over the next fifteen years he would serve three churches in three states as he followed his wife to Madison, Wisconsin for her PhD studies, and she followed him to Bellingham, Washington for his seminary studies. After completing his Master of Divinity (does anyone really think they've mastered the Divine?!), he received his first ordained call to The United Presbyterian Church of Watsonville.

A hallmark of Robby and Jenni's life is engagement with the community beyond the four walls of the church. In Watsonville, Robby coached High School Boys basketball for ten seasons, served as the Police Chaplain, served as a trustee at the Community Health Trust, was an active community member in city council meetings, offered many invocations at city events, has been a speaker at community rallies, and beyond. Jenni has just finished her term as the chair of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, eight years as a Watsonville city planning commissioner, and is a roller derby jammer.

In 2019, United Presbyterian Church's leadership decided it was time to consider closing, after decades of decline. Robby chose to stay with that congregation to shepherd them through the very difficult decisions and emotions that come with closing a church. The congregation celebrated 140 years of ministry by taking its sizable endowment and seeding two new ministries in the city of Watsonville, both of which continue to thrive. While Robby was not involved in those ministries directly, he continues to cheer them on! United Presbyterian Church offered its last worship service on January 5, 2020.

As the pandemic eased, still in Watsonville, Robby and Jenni opened Watsonville Public House, a nonprofit brewery and taproom with the mission of community building. Through much hard work and sweat, Robby has honed his skills as a professional brewer, watched a community develop and flourish in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space, and discovered the amazing pastoral relationships folks will build with their beertender.

As his season at The Pub sunset, Robby was and remains excited to explore the next chapter God has for him and his family, returning to church ministry and employing the skill, experience, and knowledge he has gained from work in churches, in the community, and in starting, building out, and running a business. The possibilities that God has placed before him at DCC and in Davis fill him with gratitude, hope, and anticipation.



Jenni Veitch-Olson, Robby & Milo
Gazos Creek State Beach, Pescadero, CA

Rev. Robby Olson—Statement of Faith

My faith sparks my curiosity. I seek to foster the mindset that there is more to discover, more to learn, and more opportunity to be transformed. Faith calls us away from the idea that we have arrived, that we have heard all there is to hear. The well is deep; Christ calls us ever deeper into the journey of discovery of who God is, who we are, and where God is leading.

Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord, the only begotten son of God the Creator, revealed through the Holy Spirit who sustains all life. Jesus was born, lived among us, was crucified, died, and was buried; on the third day he was resurrected and later ascended to the right hand of God the Father. His life, death, and resurrection bring the forgiveness of sin and the inauguration of the Kingdom of God among us. We, as humans, are invited into the divine community of love that is the Trinity, that we might know that love and share it with the world around us.

The Scriptures of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament reveal God and the journey and seasons of organic and developing faith of people. This is demonstrated in how the Apostle Paul speaks of salvation in varying verb tenses: I have been saved, I am being saved, and I will be saved. Faith and salvation are not a static state, but a journey in the divine community of the Trinity, embracing us in seasons of certainty and of doubt, of joy and of despair, of deconstruction and of rediscovery. The Divine welcomes the full spectrum of a real life, always beckoning us toward hope and growth, clothed in the unconditional love of the Triune God.

The Church, the community of people seeking to know, serve, and enjoy God forever, is the embodiment of God's love, joy, and compassion for all people, all races, all ethnicities, all genders, and all sexualities, whether faithful, searching, agnostic, or atheistic. In fellowship, the Church is called to honor God through seeking justice, demonstrating mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

The sacraments, given to us by Jesus, are reminders of Christ's spiritual presence with us today. In baptism, we are not only cleansed of sin, but we are declared full members of the family of God, whether through declaration of faith or the welcome of an infant. In communion, we are fed and sustained with the presence of our savior, at God's open table, in order to go beyond the worship service to act on behalf of the justice, grace, welcome, redemption, and love God has for the world.

We are invited to hope and long for God's New Creation in Christ. As I live and shepherd those in my sphere of care, I seek to participate in God's will being done on earth as it is in Heaven. For me, that work will take on a myriad of forms: conversing, preaching, serving, marching, giving, welcoming, listening, encouraging, challenging, exploring, urging, and loving. I pray that my faith in Christ and the community of the Church sustains not only me, but flows out to a world in need of faith, hope, and love.

