

Alison – How do I admire thee? Here are a few of the ways!

Some of the things that I appreciate about you over your 20 years of service with NSUC:

1. Your skill and patience in dealing with all of us choir members and members of the congregation around music, and from beginners to veterans you know how to get the best from each one of us!
2. Your beautiful Viola playing is superb, and to have a top-notch professional musician to just jump in whenever you think it's needed (and there are lots of occasions) is just fantastic.
3. I notice your preparation every single season and every single week. In the summer, long before you start getting paid you're already determining what music we're going to play, buying it, sorting it, making tracks for the choir; and every week bring us to the point that we can feel good about our contribution to the service.
4. Your willingness to pivot when needed. You've worked with so many different ministers with so many different styles; some of whom have the whole year laid out and they don't change it and others that change at every single week. So you're needing to change what you do and what the choir does and what music you bring and it's just amazing that you do that with such grace, without complaining, but I know it's a it's a big task.
5. Your insight and care for this congregation; not just the choir but all of us. You watch how we're doing, you care about how we're doing and you help heal us when we need it.
6. One thing over the last few years I noticed, was your integrity and your willingness and ability to hold the space that needed to be held, and to speak your truth. I know it was difficult. I know there many times when you felt like you were on the spot and you stood up and challenged things that you didn't think were right and I know it was not easy for you. I'm so thankful you did it and so proud of you.
7. Your enthusiasm soulful spirit. I don't know how you do it. Every single practice and every single week you pump yourself up to come here no matter what's going on in your personal life, you come here and you give us your absolute best and I just really am amazed at that.
8. And lastly, just your friendship to me and to many people in the congregation. You're a wonderful friend!

Thank you, bless you!

Brian Welwood (for all of us)