

Report to the Board
of the First Unitarian Church of South Bend, Indiana
Rev. Chip Roush
13 April 2022

INFORMATION

Thank you again for granting me a Sabbatical in January. Please see the appendix for the required work product from that time.

The *Faith In St. Joseph County* event is next Sunday afternoon, April 24.

I'm offering an opportunity to talk about the Climate Crisis. It will be Tuesday evening, April 19, at 7:00pm on zoom. It won't be about sharing information or changing minds; just about expressing our feelings.

The Regional Assembly of our MidAmerica Region will be held online on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 am until 2:00pm. Registration is open. You can find more information at uua.org/midamerica/ra

General Assembly 2022 will be held on June 22-26 in Portland, Oregon. There will be a great deal of online participation available as well. If you want to plan ahead, GA will probably be in Pittsburgh in 2023.

SCHEDULE

I have another study leave scheduled for April: Friday through Sunday, April 22-24, and Wednesday April 27. I will attend the FISJC rally on Sunday afternoon.

I am scheduled for a vacation in May (around Memorial Day)—Friday through Tuesday, May 27-31.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

April

Board determines slate for new Nominating Committee to be elected at congregational meeting

Bi-Annually in odd-numbered years: File Indiana Business Entity Report. Available at www.in.gov/sos/business/2426.htm Deadline April 30 (odd years)

May

Approve budget to be presented at congregational meeting

Works with Administrator to send out official notice of annual meeting, including proposed slate of officers and any other set items at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

President and Secretary conduct annual congregational meeting (5/22/22)

File form 103 & 104 with St. Joseph County Assessor. Get form online at www.in.gov/dlgf - look for form link. No reminder notice sent; no online filing at this time. Deadline May 15

June

Newly elected Board members join standing Board for monthly meeting

Determine dates for monthly meetings

Quarterly update on Endowment disbursements

Get door codes for newly-elected Trustees

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS

The Indiana COVID dashboard-and-map page appears to have changed. If it no longer reports the color of the current pandemic level, how are we to use our policy?

Caller ID from the church still indicates that we are “CTR FOR HOSPICE.” I respect the Center for Hospice very much, and I don’t want to be confused with them. Is it possible to change this?

Question(s) for next month:

Should we have a policy for building usage if the virus levels go back up, and we institute some limitations?

ACTIVITIES

From Monday, February 28, through Sunday, March 27, 2022, there were four weeks; my contract calls for an average of at least twelve units per week, for a total of 48+ units (where a unit is defined as a morning, an afternoon, or an evening of work, in general). Over that March time period, I worked 49.5 units; finished Sabbatical for 14 units; and took 2 units of holiday / study leave / vacation, as follows:

Sunday Services (19.5 units)

Planning & presenting worship services on Sunday (4);
Worship Arts Committee meeting (Zoom)
interfacing with Sound Techs and Zoom (Co-)Hosts
reviewing drafts of orders of service prior to printing
uploading sermons to YouTube, Facebook, and congregational website
Sermon Sounding Board (weekly; 4)
Service Evolution Group (1)

Governance (5 units)

Board meeting (1), communications & follow-up tasks from Board
Meeting with BoT/CoM/Lisa Presley/*et al* to address congregational conflict (3)
Stewardship Committee meeting (1)

Pastoral Care & Counseling (5 units)

Care Committee meeting (1), phone calls & texts (5)
Home, *etc.*, visits (3)
weekly Thursday afternoon Zoom Gathering (3)
Grief Circle (1)

Associational Ties (5 units)

meet with Intern (1) & Mentees (3)
attend monthly Chicago Area Liberal Ministers (CALM) meeting—zoom (1)
Co-Moderator of UUMA Facebook page (approx. daily)
monthly MAR collegial support group (1)

participate in collegial Clearness Committee (1)
face-to-face (!) conversations with local UU ministers (2)

Communications (3 units)

submitting items for Chirp! each week
putting informational posts on church Facebook page & website
compiling Board Report
miscellaneous email, not included in other categories

Staff Supervision (3 units)

weekly meetings (4); ongoing training

Public Religious Face of the Congregation (2.5 units)

Faith In St. Jo County / in-person at First United Meth. (1)
Faith In Indiana statewide zoom call (1 meeting)
emails from local students / organizations
met with Prof. Dé Bryant (1)
met with Rev. Izzy Harbin (1)

Spiritual Development of Congregation (1.5 units)

participate in UU Wellspring (2)
conversations with congregant(s) (1)

Adult RE (1 unit)

Game Night (1)

Children & Youth RE (1 unit)

RE Committee meeting (1)
Researching potential candidates for Coordinator of Religious Education position

Marketing / Publicity (1 unit)

posting upcoming services on Facebook, Twitter, our website

Membership (1 unit)

conversations with humans considering joining (2)
emails & call from members & friends

Social Justice (1 unit)

Peace & Social Justice committee meeting
does not include FISJC work (see “Public Religious Face...” above)

Rites of Passage (0 units in March)

child dedications, marriages, memorial services
conversations, rounded down to zero units

PROGRESS ON GOALS (as set on December 2, 2021):

Establish weekly sermon feedback sessions

Lynn McDonald is helping to contact potential feedback providers.

Re-connect and repair relationships with the folks Anne asked to write letters

This work is ongoing. I've connected with the majority of them; I have to follow up on messages left with two.

PROGRESS ON MINISTERIAL GOALS (as set on August 17 & 31, 2021):

Hire and supervise Coordinator of Religious Education

See "DRE-am Team" proposal.

Help recruit volunteers/staff for multi-platform services

I've made a recruiting plea in virtually all of the services I've led.

Establish a clearly defined goal setting and evaluation structure for staff

Pat is taking on more responsibilities, as Peg focuses on the *Chirp!*, the website, and the calendar.

Lead at least two Adult RE classes

These are in the works for late winter / spring

Continue to serve as Mentor to seminarians

I meet monthly with each of my two Mentees, and biweekly with my Intern Minister

PASTORAL CARE

I made zero pastoral visits to a hospital/prison/court/care facility, and three pastoral home visits, during March. I made several pastoral phone calls.

We have a bit over eleven thousand dollars in the Ministerial Discretionary Fund. I am working on a policy to detail how to distribute these funds in a generous, confidential AND accountable manner.

MEDITATION

The rest of this calendar year will be a rich time in Unitarian Universalism. As our 1000+ congregations work to recreate the experience of congregational community, having expanded those communities via Zoom and other technologies, and as we face significant changes in people's lives and energy levels, we have an opportunity to test ideas in ways we've never even considered. Sharing best practices over the next months, we could truly transform our faith tradition. We've done it before: recreating church after sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, refocusing on meaning and purpose after the devastation of World War I and its subsequent pandemic. It won't necessarily be easy, but we may emerge stronger, deeper, and more interconnected.

So may we be,
Chip

APPENDIX – Work Product from Sabbatical of January 8 – February 7, 2022

Description

We Am Evolution is a curriculum that will facilitate a small group (6-8 people) in exploring the concept that there is no permanent “self.” Participants will co-create a learning experience that challenges the boundaries of, and liberates them from, their limited egos. Using teaching aids developed for the course, each participant will lead one of the sessions, discussing cutting-edge western science, ancient eastern philosophy, and popular art forms. The group creates its own covenant as a container for these conversations, and will determine how much of their personal lives to include in the discussions. The curriculum as a whole, and each session thereof, proceeds from the theoretical to the practical. Thus participants will develop a deeper awareness of their own boundaries and an increasing ability to recognize and transform their relationships. The group will adapt the curriculum as they go, and will choose whether or how to continue the group after finishing the initial materials.

Outline of the WAE Curriculum (7 sessions for 6 participants)

Session One: Introduction

- Dedication to Terry Patten
- Code Switching
- Embodiment Exercise
- Overview / Frame the Questions
- Create group covenant

Session Two: Theological Bases

- Buddhism (inc. Thich Nhat Hanh Inter-being)
- Process Theology,
- UU 7th Principle

Session Three: Artistic Bases

- Cubism, Pointillism, Impressionism
- Musical examples (Reich’s Violin Phase? Polyphony, Melodic Fission & Fusion, Hocket)
- Audience as Co-creator

Session Four: Philosophical & Psychological Bases

- Wallace (fluid network of identities)
- Thandeka (self as process)
- Bowen Family Systems Theory
 - brains make up stories to explain missing parts of narrative
 - validates Bowen: change self to change system
- Boundaries still necessary & valid
 - strengthen the ego to then transcend/blend (?) it

Session Five: Math & Science Bases

- quantum mechanics,
- category theory,
- Conway’s Life
- Wolfram

Session Six: Implications Large & Small

- a “We Am” approach to global climate crisis; racism & other oppressions;

free will & determinism
change (liberate) self to change (liberate) others in system

Session Seven: Going Forward with Personal & Group Practice(s)
feedback to author, local contact
celebration
personal goal-setting
group continuing? if so, how?

Draft Outline of a WAE Session (60-90 minutes)

Chalice Lighting
Check In
Re-Covenanting
Agenda Setting & Questions
Presentation & Discussion
Deeper Discussion(s) –as requested
Implications & Applications
Feedback
Check Out
Housekeeping
Chalice Extinguishment