

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

INFORMATION

Save the Date: there will be a county-wide Faith In St. Joseph County event on Sunday afternoon, April 24.

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 no vacation or study leave scheduled for March.

I am scheduled to take two study leaves in April. The first, Friday, April 1, through Tuesday, April 5, I will participate in an Ordination in Austin and an Installation in Boulder. The second will be Friday through Monday, April 22-25.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

March

Quarterly update on Endowment disbursements

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

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS

none

Question(s) for next month:

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?

ACTIVITIES

From Monday, January 31, through Sunday, February 27, there are 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 February time period, I worked 31.5 units; finished Sabbatical for 14 units; and took 6 units of holiday / study leave / vacation, as follows:

Sunday Services (9.5 units)

Planning & presenting worship services on Sunday (2);
Worship Arts Committee meeting (Zoom or email)
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; 3)

Governance (4 units)

Board meeting (1), communications & follow-up tasks from Board
Meeting with BoT/CoM/Lisa Presley/*et al* to address congregational conflict (4)
Researching & tracking COVID statistics, best practices

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

Pastoral Care & Counseling (3 units)

Care Committee meeting (1), phone calls (4)
weekly Thursday afternoon Zoom Gathering (3)
Grief Circle (1)

Associational Ties (2.5 units)

meet with Intern (1) & Mentees (1)
participate in mentor/mentee/UUA meeting (1)
Co-Moderator of UUMA Facebook page (approx. daily)
monthly MAR collegial support group (1)
meet about the death of the Rev. Ms. Jeanne Pupke & potential memorial at Meadville (2)

Public Religious Face of the Congregation (2 units)

Faith In St. Jo County / Faith In Indiana (1 meeting)
participated (via Zoom) in the Malcolm X celebration at CRHC (1)
emails from local students / organizations
phone calls from local residents

Staff Supervision (2 units)

weekly meetings (4); engagement with phone systems

Adult RE (1 unit)

plan and notify my ARE groups (Games, Sermon Evolution, Undoing Racism)

Children & Youth RE (1 unit)

Planning, Presenting, Postponing, Communicating about Family Gatherings

Researching potential candidates for Coordinator of Religious Education position

Marketing / Publicity (1 unit)

posting upcoming services on Facebook, Twitter, our website

Membership (1 unit)

participated in New Member class (1)

emails & call from members & friends

Social Justice (1 unit)

committee meeting, help with Ambroise family project

does not include FISJC work (see "Public Religious Face..." above)

Spiritual Development of Congregation (0.5 units)

participate in UU Wellspring

conversations with congregant(s) (1)

Rites of Passage (0 units in December)

child dedications, marriages, memorial services

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

Establish weekly sermon feedback sessions

These began today (3/9/22)

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

I worked with the Committee on Ministry to develop an authentic way to reach out.

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

Hire and supervise Coordinator of Religious Education

The March Family Event went very well last Sunday.

Help recruit volunteers/staff for multi-platform services

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

I've talked about the opportunity with several people.

Establish a clearly defined goal setting and evaluation structure for staff

Pat and Peg are working well together, and the division of labor continues to evolve

Lead at least two Adult RE classes

These are in the works for late winter / spring

Each of three groups has at least three people interested

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 zero pastoral home visits, during February. 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

Carl Sagan famously referred to our planet as a “pale blue dot” in a vast universe. Building on that image, he once reflected, “Think of all the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and the emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.”

May the nations of the world and each of us be more filled with wonder and gratitude than mastering our fraction of a dot.

So may we be,
Chip