

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

INFORMATION

Our inaugural Town Hall Meeting is this Sunday (10/16) after the service. Potential topics include following up on the Circle Conversation of June 5, and the action item the Board took at the last Annual Meeting, to amend our bylaws to require the Annual Report / proposed budget be sent to the congregation at least <some number of days> prior to the Annual Meeting.

I'm in the early stages of planning a board game tournament. I'd like it to be both a fun event and fundraiser for a local charity. It might get us some publicity, we'll see. Right now, I'm thinking of the game *Clank!* which is officially for ages 12+ but probably works for 8+ (certainly with a bit of adult help). I'll talk to the Games Minister to develop a final proposal, and I welcome your questions or concerns as we're planning.
Clank!: <https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/201808/clank-deck-building-adventure>

If you want to plan ahead, GA will be in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21-25, 2023. Let's get a group to attend!

SCHEDULE

In October—in fact, this week—I am scheduled for a study leave. However, since I am attending the UUMA Retreat virtually, I will be at the Board meeting. I'll be busy online, with the other ministers, from Tuesday through Thursday, 10/11 through 10/13.

I am scheduled for a one-day vacation on Wednesday, November second, and a three-day study leave after Thanksgiving, Friday through Sunday, November 25-27.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

October

review/edit Perpetual Calendar

November

Set time and date for mid-year mini-retreat

File form NP-20 with Indiana Department of Revenue. Deadline November 15

December

President initiates annual membership certification process

Quarterly update on Endowment disbursements

Order 1099 Forms from the IRS through www.IRS.gov/orderforms The online forms cannot be used for Copy A which needs to go to the IRS. December 31

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH

none

ACTIVITIES

From Monday, August 29, through Sunday, September 25, 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).

Subtracting 16 units for a holiday, one day of study leave, and six days of vacation, that leaves a contractual minimum of 32+ units of work. Over that September time period, I recorded 36.5 units.

Sunday Services (14.5 units)

- Planning & presenting worship services on Sunday (3);
- Worship Arts Committee meeting (1)
- 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)

Associational Ties (3 units)

- meet with Mentees (2)
- zoom conversation with Amy DeBeck (2)
- monthly (ish) small group call with Regional colleagues (1)
- chat with colleague about SUUSI issues (1)
- annual chat with Regional Cong. Life Consultant & Ken (1)
- planning call for CMwD UUMA ministers' retreat (1)
- colleague calls & invites me to participate in her Installation (1)
- Co-Moderator of UUMA Facebook page (approx. daily)

Governance (3 units)

- Board meeting (1), communications & follow-up tasks from Board
- check on water leak per Kathy Vetter request (1)
- Board Retreat, hosted by Karen Dickson (1)

Membership (3 units)

- Office Hours (6)
- Newcomer Class (1)
- Board Retreat dinner (1)
- record birthday tribute for member (1)
- emails & call from members & friends

Communications (2.5 units)

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

Adult RE (2 units)

Kluckers play
host Game Night
ad hoc conversations

Pastoral Care & Counseling (2 units)

Phone calls & texts (3)
Home, hospital, etc., visits (0)
Visits at church, restaurant, etc. (1)
Care Committee meeting (1)
weekly Thursday afternoon Zoom Gathering (3)

Spiritual Development of Congregation (2 units)

70th Anniversary Celebration planning group (1)
Wellspring small group (1)
conversations with congregant(s)

Staff Supervision (2 units)

weekly meetings (3); ongoing training

Social Justice (1.5 unit)

CROP Hunger walk (1)
Peace & Social Justice committee meeting (1)

Marketing / Publicity (1 unit)

posting upcoming services on Facebook, Twitter, our website
*note: the 70th Anniversary Celebration could also go here,
but I've included it in Spiritual Development, above*

Children & Youth RE (0 units)

conversations, rounded down to zero

Public Religious Face of the Congregation (0 units)

emails from local students / organizations

Rites of Passage (0 units in June)

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

We held monthly "Service Evolution Group" conversations in May, June, and July.

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

This work is ongoing.

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

Hire and supervise Coordinator of Religious Education

We are using the "DREAM Team" model

Help recruit volunteers/staff for multi-platform services

I've spoken to several members and friends.

Establish a clearly defined goal setting and evaluation structure for staff

We are reviewing the draft job description now

Lead at least two Adult RE classes

We did *Lincoln in the Bardo* last fall.

We held one discussion of Michelle Huneven's *Search: A Novel* in July.

Continue to serve as Mentor to seminarians

My intern graduated, and I was asked to be a Mentor by another colleague.

I meet monthly with each of my three Mentees.

PASTORAL CARE

I made zero pastoral visits to a hospital/prison/court/care facility, and zero pastoral home visits, during September. I had one meeting at the church or in restaurants; and I made several pastoral phone calls.

Now that I'm in the actual office more frequently, people have begun showing up to ask for gas cards, grocery cards, bus passes, and assistance with larger needs (mortgage, utility bills). We're essentially back to the level of activity from pre-pandemic.

We have over twenty thousand dollars in the Ministerial Discretionary Fund.

MEDITATION

The congregation feels more lively, more energized, more hopeful, recently. The buoyant energy at the Auction was palpable. Sunday mornings, with a steady number of children and regular newcomers, feels strong. Of course, the re-emergence of Coffee Hour (snacks! Coffee!) helps, but even without it, small groups would stay and chat for quite a while.

All of these good feelings are due to many diverse causes, of course, *and* at least some of that is due to the many volunteers active in our congregation, and to the elected leaders who are encouraging the positive feelings and redirecting the negative expressions to more useful/effective channels. Thank you!

So may we be,
Chip