

INFORMATION

Please stipulate for the minutes that we'll designate the same percentage of my salary as the housing allowance as was designated last year.

I did ask around a bit about time-keeping with units or hours or other mechanisms. Of the dozen or two conversations I had, most people were using units, if they used anything at all. That said, I was reporting my time in hours for my first several years here, and I am willing to do so again, if the Board requests it.

General Assembly will be online-only for 2024. It will be multiplatform again in 2025, with the in-person aspect held in Baltimore, Maryland. There will be an in-person MidAmerica Regional Assembly in late spring of 2024. As far as I know, the dates have not been set for this.

SCHEDULE

In July, I will take a vacation from Wednesday, July 19, through Wednesday, August 2.

I am not scheduled for any more vacation or study leave through August.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

July

Determine dates for annual events (e.g. Service Auction in fall, congregational meeting in May; board retreat, all-church retreat) if possible

Add new officers to bank & UUCEF permissions; remove old officers

Appoint Assistant Treasurer, Personnel Liaison, chairs for annual Service Auction and Holiday Bazaar, and liaison with committees

All Board members receive basic documents pursuant to their task

Consider and approve the Minister's request for identifying portion of salary to be designated for housing (important for tax reporting requirement)

August

Inform Chairs and Congregation that committees are formed and chairs approved

Set dates for Service auction, annual meeting, concerts, other fundraisers and social events.

Endowment Committee sends Board quarterly report

Annual Board Retreat: set goals for the year; renew the Covenant between Board and Minister

September

Quarterly update on Endowment disbursements

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH

none

ACTIVITIES

From Monday, May 29, through Sunday, June 25, 2023, 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).

For the week of General Assembly, when I engaged in work for the congregation or our Association (while onsite in Pittsburgh) for the majority of my waking hours, it seems appropriate to define that whole week as just 12 units. Particularly since it's the end of the fiscal year, and I'm already way over the average of twelve units per week.

Subtracting 6 units for study leave, and 2 units for the Memorial Day holiday, that leaves a contractual minimum of 40+ units of work. Over that June time period, I recorded 42.5 units:

Sunday Services (12.5 units)

- Planning & presenting worship services on Sunday (2)
- 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
- Worship Arts Committee meeting (1)
- Sermon Sounding Board (weekly; 3)
- Act as Zoom Host on June 18 (1)

Governance (4.5 units)

- Board meeting (1), communications & follow-up tasks from Board
- Committee on Ministry meeting (only part of committee attends) (1)
- Conversations with concerned members (1)
- Conversation with Lisa Presley (1)

Associational Ties (5 units)

- meet with Mentees (1)
- conversations with colleagues (3)
- UUMA business meeting—held in two parts (2)
- UUMA Teller meeting (1)
- MidAmerica Region Annual Meeting (1)
- cast votes on Actions of Immediate Witness, GA procedural questions (2)
- Co-Moderator of UUMA Facebook page (approx. daily)

Pastoral Care & Counseling (4 units)

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

compile year-end MDF summary (1)

Communications (3 units)

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

Rites of Passage (3 units)

Memorial service for Randi Pickley—including prep (1)
child dedications, marriages, memorial services

Membership (2.5 units)

Office Hours (6)
emails & call from members & friends

Staff Supervision (2 units)

weekly meetings (3); ongoing training

Public Religious Face of the Congregation (2 units)

Pride Festival booth staffing (1)
theological conversations with folks who ask for gift cards (1)
emails from local students / organizations

Adult RE (1 units)

Awe Covenant Group & prep therefor (1)
ad hoc conversations

Marketing / Publicity (1 units)

posting upcoming services on Facebook, Twitter, our website

Children & Youth RE (1 unit)

OWL planning meeting & follow-up (1)
ad hoc conversations

Social Justice (1 unit)

Peace & Social Justice committee meeting (1)
conversation with Andre' Stoner of FISJC (1)
(Pride Festival might have gone here, but I included it in “Public Face” above)

Spiritual Development of Congregation (rounded down to 0 units)

short conversations with congregant(s)

PROGRESS ON GOALS (as set on October 12, 2021):

Take a class in communication / conflict / ambiguity / attuned listening this church year.

I did some work on these things with therapists and coaches, but did not attend a class.

Offer at least one Book Group that explores the above skills and/or tools.

I'm leading a covenant group discussing *Awe* by Dacher Keltner

Preach at least three times about these skills/tools.

The services on 11/20, 12/4, and 3/12 touched on some of these topics.

Explore incorporating skills/tools practice in the majority of the services I lead.

I had several conversations about this while on Sabbatical

I incorporated some of the above conversations in services.

Co-lead (with Board and/or Committee on Ministry members) a “Fireside Chat” / Q&A session to demonstrate transparency and accountability, approximately quarterly.

We have held Town Hall meetings on Sunday afternoons, 12/18/22 and 4/2/23.

PASTORAL CARE

We have had many people inquire about help from the Ministerial Discretionary Fund.

When I am in for Office Hours, it is not uncommon for there to be three to five visitors each day.

MEDITATION

There exists something in the human heart which calls us to mercy, to compassion, courage, and creativity. For millennia, we have argued about what to call it, or how to more reliably evoke it. We've passed laws, even tortured and killed about the “proper” understandings of it.

This impulse—to be at one with nature, or to feel a kinship with other beings—has never ceased. It is described and summoned with words sometimes more strict and occasionally more loose but the experience itself has never left us.

It is still appropriate—and often necessary—to set boundaries against harmful actions.

It is responsible to respect our real differences.

As much as possible, let us try to recall that all of us have similar longings and the same basic human needs. Insofar as we are able, let us recognize that the roses and the brambles in those neighboring gardens are the same which grow in our own.

So may we be,

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