

Report to the Board
of the First Unitarian Church of South Bend, Indiana
Rev. Chip Roush
11 October 2023

INFORMATION

Versiti (a national leader in innovative blood health solutions) has asked the congregation to host a blood drive. They need tables, chairs, and 4-5 hours of access. Donations from members (*et al*) are welcome; Versiti will also advertise locally and direct donors to our building.

The new door has been installed in the north wall. Unfortunately, it is *not* ADA compliant, and it presents a bit of a tripping hazard, with a two-inch (ish) ledge on the inside of the door.

Here is the URL to the “Boad Basics” webinars from our UUA. There are three webinars at this link—the first is 90 minutes or so, and the other two are around 75 minutes:
<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/board-basics-2020>

General Assembly will be online-only next year: June 20-23, 2024. It will be multiplatform again in 2025, with the in-person aspect held in Baltimore, Maryland (June 19-22, 2025).

Our MidAmerica Regional Assembly will take place April 19-21, 2024. At least some of the events (including a semi-famous Keynote Speaker?) will also include our friends from the Pacific West Region. As such, virtually all of the Assembly will be accessible online *and* there will be at least one in-person gathering in each Region. The in-person gathering for MAR is tentatively planned to occur in Madison, Wisconsin.

SCHEDULE

I'll be away from Michiana October 13-19. From Friday 10/13 through Monday 10/16, I'll be helping the UU Church of the Brazos Valley dedicate their new building in central Texas (four days of vacation). From Tuesday through Thursday, October 17-19, I'll attend the Fall Retreat of the Central Midwest District UUMA Chapter (three days of study leave).

In November, I have a short study leave on Thursday and Friday, November 2 & 3; and my usual vacation around Thanksgiving (Friday through Sunday, 11/24 – 11/26).

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

October

review/edit Perpetual Calendar (added here 8/29/18, as nothing else was in October)

November

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

December

Quarterly update on Endowment disbursements

Order 1099 Forms from the IRS through www.IRS.gov/orderforms

The online forms can't be used for Copy A which needs to go to the IRS. December 31

ACTIVITIES

From Monday, August 28, through Sunday, September 24, 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).

Subtracting 2 units for the holiday, and 6 units for study leave, that leaves a contractual minimum of 40+ units of work. Over that September time period, I recorded 42 units. These units were used on the following activities (please note that only the top number in each section is a number of units. All the rest are the number of times I did that thing/activity):

Sunday Services (15.5 units)

- Planning & presenting worship services on Sunday (3)
- 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; 4)

Pastoral Care & Counseling (5 units)

- Phone calls, texts, Facebook messages (4)
- Home, hospital, etc., visits (2)
- Visits at church, restaurant, etc. (1)
- Care Committee meeting (1)
- Buy Meijer grocery cards (1)
- Weekly Thursday afternoon Zoom Gathering (4)
- Grief Circle (1)

Governance (4 units)

- Board meeting (1), communications & follow-up tasks from Board
- Committee on Ministry meeting (2)
- Committee Chair Retreat (1)

Associational Ties (3 units)

- Meet with Mentees, *et al* (4)
- Conversations with colleagues (10)
- Attend the Chicago Area Liberal Ministers (CALM) meeting via Zoom (1)
- Co-Moderator of UUMA Facebook page (approx. daily)

Communications (2 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

Membership (2 units)

- Office Hours (8)
- Attend art opening (1)
- Attend after-service potluck luncheon (1)
- Emails & call from members & friends

Staff Supervision (2 units)

Weekly meetings (4); ongoing training

Public Religious Face of the Congregation (2 units)

Attend United Religious Community Annual Meeting & Int'l Day of Peace service (1)

Attend Kedla Magoon lecture (at IUSB, by Brain Lair & CRHC) (1)

Theological conversations with folks who ask for gift cards

Emails from local students / organizations

Marketing / Publicity (2 units)

Meeting with Marketing chair (2)

Attend Marketing Committee meeting (1)

Posting upcoming services on Facebook, Twitter, our website

Children & Youth RE (1.5 units)

DREAM Team meeting (1)

Game Night (1)

Ad hoc conversations, rounded down to zero units

Rites of Passage (1 unit)

Preside at non-member wedding

child dedications, marriages, memorial services

Adult RE (1 unit)

Awe Covenant Group & prep therefor (1)

Ad hoc conversations

Social Justice (1 unit)

Participate in CROP Hunger Walk (1)

Conversations with local justice leaders & activists

Spiritual Development of Congregation (rounded down to 0 units)

Short conversations with congregant(s)

PROGRESS ON GOALS (*draft*; as set on October 3, 2023):

Attend worship when I'm not preaching, at least four times this year

I attended on October 3, 2023, via Zoom

I attended on August 20, 2023, in person

Collaborate with Board to hire and train new Office Manager, whether or not Pat Davis stays

we'll discuss this in more detail on 10/11/23

Collaborate with members (as recruited by Stewardship Committee) to present Member Moments in worship services, once per month.

please clarify this – I did *not* want to be responsible for recruitment!

Collaborate with Worship Arts Committee to rewrite Pulpit Host script.

this is in process

Engage with at least one video/article from the UUA's LeaderLab communications resources

Thank you, Gail, for this URL: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/communication-skills>

Help arrange and attend monthly "Meet the Minister" sessions (alternatively in-person and on Zoom)

We'll work on this at the 10/9 Membership committee meeting

Include staff update in each Minister's Report

See below

Join a local Board, and share my engagement with the congregation

I've been asked to join the URC Board; and wrote about in the Chirp! of 10/3/23.

Learn and practice emotional regulation exercises, such as Positive Intelligence, etc., and report on progress therewith in the Monthly Minister's Report.

I've downloaded the *Positive Intelligence* book

Maintain 3/10 boundaries (no more than three evening events per week, and no more than ten evening events per month, except in emergency)

From Monday 8/28 through Sunday 9/24, I attended 1-2-3-3 evening events, successfully observing this boundary.

Offer at least one Adult RE course, of at least three sessions

The Adult RE Committee and I will discuss this sometime soon.

Remain and chat through an entire Coffee Hour (or until 1:00pm, whichever comes first), monthly (possibly to include engaging people still at Coffee Hour after I leave a meeting)

I will begin monitoring this in October

Visit and/or contact one or more "homebound" member per month.

I had conversations with several "homebound" members in August, and at least one such conversation in September

STAFF REPORT

Pat still loves this congregation, and the work in its office; she just finds it too much for one person.

Ian is recovering well from his heart procedures. He is looking forward to more collaborations with Sara.

MEDITATION

It appears that throughout this nation there is a generational divide. Many—not all—Baby Boomers are puzzled by the characteristics they find in (some) Millennials. Many folks younger than 35 are frustrated by the words and actions of some folks over 65. This is an oversimplification, of course, and it also contains at least a grain of truth.

In our UU congregations, already somewhat divided by politics (conservative, libertarian, liberal, progressive, radical, etc) and religion (Atheist/Humanist, Christian, Pagan, etc), there now seem to be misunderstandings grounded in a generational divide.

As a (very) old Gen Xer, I feel that I can relate to folks across the generations. This is not to say that I have served the ends of the spectrum particularly well. I apologize to our oldest and longest-tenured members, for not

listening actively enough, or paying deep enough attention, to your concerns. I apologize to our youngest members and friends, for not making time to learn your concerns.

I am recommitting myself to listening to, and responding appropriately to, the needs of ALL our members.

So may we be,
Chip