

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

## INFORMATION

Pat Davis would like to convert the Office Manager position to a shared position again.

Gary Looney has requested that he be able to rent storage space for some furniture in our basement. (In a related issue, he would need volunteers to move it all, late this month).

This Sunday afternoon is the CROP Hunger Walk. Let's remember Dale Gibson and help to feed our hungry neighbors by walking, or donating, or at least publicizing the event.

*Kommuna Lux* – a klezmer band – will perform in our sanctuary on Friday, Sept. 29, at 7:00pm.

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

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).

## PERPETUAL CALENDAR

September

Quarterly update on Endowment disbursements

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

## QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH

none

## ACTIVITIES

From Monday, July 31, through Sunday, August 27, 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 6 units for study leave, that leaves a contractual minimum of 42+ units of work. Over that August time period, I recorded 42.5 units:

### Sunday Services (13 units)

- Planning & presenting worship services on Sunday (2)
- Attending lay-led service (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
- Worship Arts Committee meeting (1)
- Sermon Sounding Board (weekly; 4)

### Pastoral Care & Counseling (7.5 units)

- Phone calls, texts, Facebook messages (17)
- Home, hospital, etc., visits (3)
- Visits at church, restaurant, etc. (1)
- Care Committee meeting (1)
- Buy Meijer grocery cards (1)
- Weekly Thursday afternoon Zoom Gathering (4)
- Grief Circle (1)

### Associational Ties (4 units)

- Meet with Mentees (2)
- Conversations with colleagues (3)
- Meet with Lisa Presley & Tom Bozeman (1)
- Attend Memorial Service for Rev. Jim Hobart, Chicago (1)
- Co-Moderator of UUMA Facebook page (approx. daily)

### Governance (3 units)

- Board meeting (1), communications & follow-up tasks from Board
- Conversations with concerned members (1)
- Help research our (nonexistent?) tax exempt status

### 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
- Miscellaneous email, not included in other categories

### Membership (3 units)

- Office Hours (6)
- Congregational Potluck Picnic (1)
- Emails & call from members & friends

#### Staff Supervision (2 units)

Weekly meetings (4); ongoing training

#### Marketing / Publicity (2 units)

Meeting with Marketing chair (1)

Posting upcoming services on Facebook, Twitter, our website

#### Rites of Passage (2 units)

Meeting, prep, for 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)

Peace & Social Justice committee meeting (1)

Conversations with local justice leaders & activists

#### Public Religious Face of the Congregation (1 unit)

Dirtless Groundbreaking of Crisis Response Center (1)

Theological conversations with folks who ask for gift cards

Emails from local students / organizations

#### Children & Youth RE (0 units)

Ad hoc conversations, rounded down to zero units

#### Spiritual Development of Congregation (rounded down to 0 units)

Short conversations with congregant(s)

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

We are still setting goals for FY24

#### PASTORAL CARE

When people ask about the Ministerial Discretionary Fund, I tell them that the congregation is having a conversation about the scope of its charitable giving, and that I hope to have definitive answers soon. In the meantime, I do buy and distribute ten gift cards each month. In August, those cards were distributed in the first two days.

#### MEDITATION

Some wisdom from the spoken word artist, Andrea Gibson:

"I know your life  
has been hard enough already.  
When we all know everyone's life

has been hard enough already  
it's hard to watch  
the game we make of love,  
like everyone's playing checkers  
with their scars,  
saying checkmate  
whenever they get out  
without a broken heart.  
Just to be clear  
I don't want to get out  
without a broken heart.  
I intend to leave this life  
so shattered  
there's gonna have to be  
a thousand separate heavens  
for all of my flying parts."

So may we be,  
Chip