

Pastoral Ministry Annual Report 2023-2024 Church Year

First Universalist Church of Auburn, Unitarian Universalist

Pastoral Ministry has been a ministry of the church for approximately 19 years. (* A reminder that we are a "ministry", not a committee.)

Areas of Responsibility:

Pastoral Ministry is made up of the minister and a trained lay team. Our goal is to provide confidential support to congregants in transition, crisis, or experiencing grief or illness. We are a ministry of presence and acceptance, and provide spiritual companionship in times of joy or sorrow.

We keep a consistent schedule of a once a month meeting, and if there is a need we are able to quickly respond to that need. We have continued to meet via zoom, or to schedule an in-person meeting if needed. Our regular schedule is to meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month. In a crisis we will schedule emergency meetings as necessary.

What we do well:

We are present! Fortunately there have been no Pastoral crisis this past year, but we are available in the event that becomes reality.

In times of no minister support we are able to function independently.

Goals:

Our goal is to meet the needs of the members of the congregation on an on-going basis as specific needs arise, or to put together a rapid response team in a crisis.

Budget/Support:

Just as the pandemic arrived, Pastoral Ministry had been awarded financial support for postage, card stock, printer ink, etc. Enter the pandemic, that didn't happen, and we never received the financial support.

Basically, our Pastoral Ministry has provided all financial needs since our inception 19 years ago. Mary Kay and Claire send a \$20.00 check every month, and once or twice a year Sharon Kinsman donates a check to cover such items as postage, which is the largest cost. I purchase the remaining items, ie, envelopes, copy paper and card stock.

Goals remain the same:

Goal is to meet people where they are, to provide comfort in times of sorrow, celebrate with them in their joy, provide meals when needed, make visits to nursing facilities, hospitals, or to those who are home bound.

Cards sent this fiscal year:

Thinking of you/Sympathy- 97

Congratulations - 8

Get well-2

Patty Weidler (Patty sends card to congregants from the congregation):

Sympathy - 7

Thinking of you - 5

Get Well - 2

Congrats- 3

Honorable mention:

Esther Tucker for consistently letting me know about issues in the lives of members of our church, a huge thank you for staying on top of events taking place in the lives of our members, and for making those phone calls or sending emails to Pastoral Ministry.

Patty Weidler for her beautiful home-made cards.

Ron Spoffard for his continued support to those in the community.

Pastoral Ministry Contact Information:

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Respectfully submitted:

Virginia Starbird

Pastoral Ministry

