

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry
Are You Our New Minister?

Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, ME Rev. Helen Zidowecki, April 2009

Designed for preparation for a ministerial candidating time.

Suggest having a copy of the announcement of the candidate and/or the candidating time available when the group meets.

Opening Words: “Ministry is All That We Do Together” by Rev. Gordon McKeeman

Ministry is all that we do – together.

Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity –beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.

Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit -- miracles of birth and life...wonders of devotion and sacrifice.

Ministry is what we do together – with one another – in terror and torment – in grief, in misery and pain, enabling us in the presence of death to say yes to life.

We who minister speak and live the best we know with full knowledge that it is never quite enough

And yet are reassured by lostness found, fragments reunited, wounds healed and joy shared.

Ministry is what we all do – together.

Check In: How are you today?

Topic: (Suggestion: Use the candidate’s name in place of ‘candidate’.)

We have been through the transition from a previous ministry and have had an interim period.

The Search Committee has taken what we have said we wanted in a ministry and has prepared our packet to publicize who we are. They have communicated with, met with, and listened to various ministers in order to find a ‘fit’ for us. They have recommended that we consider a specific candidate for ministry in this congregation.

As we prepare to meet, engage with, listen to, and vote on calling a new minister, let us reflect on the following questions:

From what you have read or heard about the candidate, what are draws you toward this person?

What do you want to portray to the candidate about the congregation and your part in it?

What will you contribute to the success of this new ministry relationship?

What will guide you in your decision when it comes time to vote on calling the candidate?

Likes and Wishes: How was this session for you?

Closing Words: (Or words from your candidate.)

“My hope for parish ministry is to be in deep relationship with members and community. To be a part of congregational life as the minister is a privilege and a joy. To be a part of the fuller lives of the members is an honor I hold with the deepest respect and seek to serve with utmost integrity.”

Rev. Carie Johnsen, Candidate for Ministry with UU Community Church, Augusta, ME

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, April 2009, for Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Augusta, ME