

Internship Committee¹ Annual Report

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua

June 2020

Committee Members:

Burns Fisher (chair)
Jenn Morton (2020-2021)
Emma Rearick
Vengerflutta Smith
Kim Steele
Asher Thomas

In the 2019-2020 church year, the church has been lucky to have Ben Atherton-Zeman as a ministerial intern. Ben is a seminary student at Boston University School of Theology and will be with us for two years. While Rev. Allison is Ben's official ministerial supervisor, it is also customary, and actually required by BU, that the church have a lay internship committee that is independent of the supervisor; we are that committee. We meet each month with Ben, and our job is several-fold:

First we act as a sounding board: For example, we can help Ben with his questions about the church, provide a friendly and safe space to listen to his concerns, talk about our various views on UUism and functions of the ministry, and generally provide an alternate way to help him think about his time as an intern.

Secondly, we provide feedback. We have tried to be present for all of his sermons, and to have some of us involved in many of the functions he performs, as well as keeping our ears and eyes open during the normal course of our church lives. Our monthly meetings are a place to share what we have seen, heard, and thought.

Finally, the committee provides an evaluation for BU. Ben's internship is actually part of a course he took this year, and BU asks the committee to write about Ben's progress. Ben also writes a self-evaluation for the course, and we shared and discussed our evaluations with each other before turning them in. In addition, later this year the committee will be providing an evaluation to the UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee. This is the UUA group that determines whether to give credentials to a potential new minister; these credentials will allow Ben to seek a ministerial job with a UU church or fellowship.

We would like to add one request to all of you: While we are always happy to talk with anyone, we strongly encourage you to take your compliments and critiques for Ben directly to him, and for the internship program in general directly to Rev. Allison.

We are pleased to have been able to get to know Ben this year and we look forward to another year with him. We thank you for your support of Ben!

¹ We are called a committee rather than a team in order to match the standard language a Boston University and the UUA.