

Internship Committee* Annual Report

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua

June 2023

Committee Members:

Patricia Ladew (chair)
Rev. Steve Edington
Karen Campbell
Ruth Cannava
Kathy Fletcher

As of June 30, 2023, Caro Barschow will have completed their part-time, two-year, ministerial internship at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua. They were awarded a preliminary fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association on April 6th and will officially become a Unitarian Universalist minister on Saturday, June 17th, when the UUCN congregation ordains them during a special ceremony at our church.

As we did last year, the internship committee has met with Caro once a month via Zoom throughout this church year. Our primary purpose, according to the UUA's Internship Manual, is "to help the intern develop and hone the personal and professional skills of ministry."

Toward that end, we observed Caro in action as they ministered to our congregation – assisting Rev. Allison during worship services, leading worship services and preaching from the pulpit, interacting with the children, attending a number of board, committee, and team meetings, and taking on various leadership roles (in addition to many other activities).

Some of Caro's leadership roles and additional activities this past year have included:

- Leading four sessions of UUCN's Coming of Age curriculum (and accompanying the group during a trip to Boston in April)
- Participating in an Our Whole Lives (OWL) Elementary Facilitator Training at UUCN in March and then working with our new OWL program for 5th and 6th graders
- Spearheading the renewal of UUCN's Welcoming Congregation designation
- Being actively involved with the formation of a 603 Equality Nashua Area Hub that meets in our church and works to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and protections
- Participating in UPLIFT, the UUA's LGBTQ+ trans-nonbinary gatherings, and attending discernment meetings of the UU Ministerial Formation Network
- Leading the "New to UU" class and "Intro to UU" class in the fall of 2022

- Organizing and facilitating a Leadership Summit during which participants wrote a brief “elevator speech” to explain Unitarian Universalism to someone unfamiliar with our faith. The summit agenda included a discussion of the UUA’s proposed language to modify Article II of our UU Values.

During our monthly meetings, the internship committee provided feedback on the regular duties and extra activities mentioned above. We spent a good portion of our time with Caro sharing what we have observed, asking questions, offering encouragement and support, and sometimes, making suggestions. In addition to providing feedback, the internship committee also acted as a sounding board for Caro, providing a safe place for them to ask questions, express concerns, and brainstorm ideas. For example, before Caro experimented with preaching extemporaneously during Sunday services in January and February, they discussed this “professional risk-taking” challenge with our committee.

The UUA’s Ministerial Fellowship Committee requires the internship committee to submit two formal written evaluations during an internship. Our committee appreciated the input we received from our fellow congregants regarding Caro’s UUCN internship; it was very helpful as we were completing our evaluations. We submitted our final evaluation in March of this year. It was the consensus of the committee that Caro has successfully fulfilled the UUA’s requirements and that they are well-prepared for ministry. We look forward to celebrating with Caro on June 17th.

*We are called a committee rather than a team to match the standard language of Boston University and the UUA.