

Ministerial Intern Report May 2024

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the members of the congregation and staff of UU Nashua for welcoming me as your new Ministerial Intern this year. Having already served as a Ministerial Intern for one year at half-time at a different location, my time at the UU Church of Nashua was originally intended to also be one year at half-time. However, it quickly became clear to Rev. Allison Palm and myself that my previous internship location did not provide me with the learning and tools I will need for success in a career of parish ministry.

From the very first time I entered the building, I knew UU Nashua was different. Over the past ten months, this church community has proven to be a healing and supportive environment for my continued ministerial formation. I feel extremely lucky to have landed here, and to be able to extend my time with the UU Church of Nashua to two years at half-time. Since August 2023, I have worked an average of 20 hours per week at the UU Church of Nashua, which satisfies the requirement of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for preparation of ministers.

In addition to the internship, this year I have continued my seminary studies at Meadville Lombard Theological School, as well as achieved the status of “Ministerial Candidate” at the UUA. I hope to attain a December appointment to see the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. I will be preparing for that appointment between now and September.

Some highlights of activities from my internship in the 2023-24 Church Year include:

- Planned and Led 5 Worship Services
- Co-led and collaborated on an additional 4 Worship Services, including multiple all-ages services and a “Switch It Up Sunday” service
- Led or co-led three after-sermon “Coffee Conversations”
- Officiated a graveside service
- Regularly attended UUCN Board of Trustees meetings; increased understanding of church governance, administration, and fiscal stewardship
- Planned and led a four-part series of Discussion Groups on the topic of the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws (being voted upon at General Assembly in June 2024). I provided this series twice to UUCN congregation as well as the UU group at The Huntington community.

- Assisted or facilitated many one-time events at UU Nashua, including a regional Youth Con, the “NH Politics 101,” the “My Queer Faith” with Kimaiyo, and UU Nashua’s upcoming participation in the Nashua Pride festivities
- Actively participated in the following UU Nashua groups: Pastoral Care Associates, Worship Associates, Social Justice Team, Welcoming Team
- Attended at least one occurrence of each of the following groups: Building Our Vision Team, Music Team, Choir rehearsal, Racial Justice working group, NH Bail Fund, and Granite State Organizing Project’s monthly meetings
- Attended UU New England Region clergy’s Fall Retreat, as well as UU Clergy Cluster’s monthly meetings whenever possible
- Actively participated in UUMA programs
- Strengthened ties with Bridges (a local support center for domestic violence)
- Met 1-on-1 with local community leaders to get to know the city of Nashua and to identify potential allies for UU Nashua to partner with in the future on local justice issues
- Trained as a Community Organizer through the “Organizing 101” training by Granite State Organizing Project

All ministry is relational. Therefore, my primary goal this year has been to get to know the members of this congregation and the ways each of us relates to the church as a whole. The activities listed above also aim to fulfill the goals set forth in the Learning and Service Agreement, which is divided into the following seven areas of competency:

Worship and Rites of Passage, Pastoral Care and Presence, Spiritual Development for Self and Others, Social Justice in the Public Square, Administration, Service to the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith, and Leading the Faith into the Future.

I will continue my learning and service to the congregation through the summer and the coming church year. I offer a special thanks to Kris Grady and the rest of my Internship Team for their dedication and companionship on this journey of ministerial formation. I also have deep gratitude to the entire UU Nashua staff team for their support and encouragement of my ministry. Thank you to each member of this wonderful congregation for welcoming me, and for supporting the education of future UU ministers by being a Teaching Congregation for Ministerial Interns. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow with you all.

Many blessings to you! ~Erin V. Scott, Ministerial Intern