2026 Annual Report
Ministerial Intern, Michael Packard

In August, I began my 2-year, part-time Internship with UU Nashua. At that time, I worked on a Learning and Service Agreement with Rev. Allison and helped assemble my internship team. I have met monthly with the internship team to review and discuss all of the projects and programs that I am involved in, often centering around my involvement in worship. They make up just one part of an exceptional community of UUs with whom I am so fortunate to be learning.

I take part in leading one worship service per month and I have delivered four sermons this year. I have also participated in yearly rituals with other worship leaders and have given reflections on multiple topics this church year. I have participated in all parts of worship even when I wasn't leading, including supporting a visiting worship leader. In addition to onsite worship, I have been part of planning and leading the Interfaith Thanksgiving service and I have led two Memorial Services locally.

I have participated regularly in Faith Formation programs throughout the year. I have been an adult leader in the year-long Coming of Age program, a sub for the K/1 O.W.L. class in the fall and then a lead facilitator for the 5/6 O.W.L. class in winter/early spring. I have been the supporting adult in the Children's Chapel, and I led an activity and did worship planning at our congregation's hosting of a multi-church YouthCon. I have also been the facilitator of a monthly Men's Covenant Group since November.

If you have seen me in meetings, it is because I attend as many team, committee, and working group meetings that I have the capacity to. As part of my work with the Racial Justice Working Group, I have co-led a three-session series of workshops from the UUA's MOSAIC curriculum. These were introductory-level dialogues meant to deepen understanding of specific racial justice issues that were held on Sunday afternoons.

Outside of the church obligations, I have also attended the Nashua Interfaith Council meetings, and coordinated UU Nashua's fundraising efforts for the Greater Nashua Crop Walk in October. I have also participated in regional UU minister cluster meetings and have done a variety of trainings throughout the year to support my learning. And finally, I spent around 20 hours a week from October through the end of March in a necessary training for ministry called Clinical Pastoral Education, or CPE. Getting the certificate for this unit of CPE was a big step in my path to ministry.

As of April 7th, I became a Candidate for UU Ministry, which is another important step in my journey. This means that I need to gather resources, references, and write some essays in preparation for my interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. I am aiming to have this interview in December.

I look forward to finishing off this “coming home” year at UU Nashua and I look forward to celebrating with you some more in my second year of internship as we recognize and celebrate the congregation’s 200th anniversary!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Packard, Ministerial Intern