

**Minister's Annual Report to the Congregation,
the Rev. Patrick Price
Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano
June 1st, 2016 through May 31st, 2017
Submitted May 2017**

Dear Members and Friends of Community Church,

Below is my annual report to the congregation, summarizing my activities in this eleventh (11th) program year with you as your called minister. It has been a year full of surprises and opportunities. As always, I look forward to our on-going work together, along with Community UU Church's leadership to continue and expand our service to you and the community. Together we build the Beloved Community of hope, freedom, peace and justice here in North Texas and beyond.

Blessings, Patrick

Preaching, Worship and Rites of Passage - By May 31st, 2017 **fifty-two (52) Sunday Services will have been held**, with no weather cancellations. I preached and/or led **nineteen (19)** Sunday worship services. I attended three (3) other Sundays at Community, for a total of **twenty-two (22) Sundays onsite**.

I was away a total of thirteen (13) Sundays: one (1) for Spiritual Direction Training at SMU; One (1) for the District fall leadership training; and seven (7) during vacation or study leave; one (1) sick day; and one (1) Sunday spent with my family at First Jefferson UU in Ft. Worth.

In the Sunday worship services I led often were special services and/or rites including, the Ingathering of Waters, All Souls, Yuletide, Easter, Flower Communion, New Member recognition services, Worship Associates Commissioning, a Teacher Recognition ceremony and the Celebration in February. The Worship Associates decorated the Sanctuary for the Yuletide and Christmastide services and took them down again in January.

I officiated one (1) **wedding**: one (1) on site for former member of the congregation.

I conducted four (4) **memorial services** on site: two (2) memorial services on site for church members, I conducted two (2) memorial services for the close families of members or friends of the congregation.

I continue to work with the Worship Associates and A/V-multimedia technicians to better use our digital projector system to enhance the worship experience. Thanks to our webmaster Gene Verinder for continuing to improve access to sermons and worship items posted to our website. The Worship Associates ministry is completing its sixth year (started Sept. 2011) currently with, five (5) Associates recruited, trained and co-leading worship. I led monthly Worship Associate's training and coordination meeting. Recruitment of two (2) to three (3) new worship associates for the next program year is underway with the annual planning/training retreat in June.

The Worship Team consists of the Worship Associates, the Minister, the DRE, and the Music Director and meets monthly. My deepest gratitude to staff: DRE, Kathy Smith and Music Director, Christopher Wolff for their great collaboration, creativity and skills in co-creating meaningful worship. I coordinated with Multimedia Technicians, to better integrate them into weekly and special worship services.

Continual kudos to our wonderfully gifted and committed choir members, and our talented volunteer pianists, Nelah McComsey, Elena Westbrook, Duane Mortensen and Amy Dessert who routinely played for the majority of our worship services.

Pastoral Care and Counseling - I had some ten (10) member/friend pastoral visits including five (5) in office pastoral conversations, four (4) in-home visits and two (2) hospital visits. Also numerous pastoral contacts were made over the phone and in other congregational and community settings. I also had three (3) in office nonmember/friend pastoral visits and many other pastoral contacts in the larger community.

Thanks to Mina Daffinee and the Caring Committee volunteers for all their great work proving receptions at memorials and other assistance in working with families under pressure.

We met monthly with the Caring Coordinator, Mina Daffinee on pastoral matters in the church. It has been a pleasure working with Mina these last several years as she has built up very strong and committed corps of volunteers to help in the day to day and critical needs of our members and friends. I look forward to working with June Bruns who is the new Caring Committee Coordinator for the 2017- 2018 year.

Communications - I wrote monthly columns and informational pieces for twelve (12) issues of the newsletter as well as pieces for weekly UUpdates. I proof read newsletters and UUpdates. I posted items to my professional Facebook page, as well as the congregation's, and monitored the church website for needed updates or corrections. I checked bulletin board and other physical postings for timeliness and appropriateness (i.e., church related or not). I provided written and oral Annual Reports to the congregation. Other reports made to the Board of Trustees, and the Committee on Ministry, as feasible by work load.

Leadership - I attended Board of Trustees' meetings June 2016 - May 2017, except during July vacation and sabbatical November - February. I attended the BoT planning retreat August 13th and the All Congregation Leadership retreat August 27th. I attended the monthly Agenda Planning meetings of the Board of Trustees in their various configurations.

With a group of Community Church's staff and lay leaders, I attended the SWUUC Leadership Conference in Glen Rose, in November 2016.

I will attend the regular Congregational Meeting in May 2017. I was on sabbatical in November 2016 at the time of the annual Fall congregational meeting.

When possible, I attended meetings of many of the regular committees, boards and working groups of the congregation. These include the monthly meetings of the Worship Team, Committee on Ministry, Caring Team, and less frequently, Finance, Membership, and Religious Education Board. Due to restructuring the Program Board did not meet. Committee meetings not attended where mostly during vacation or at times difficult for me to be present at such as Mondays or Sunday's. I also had generally regular face-to-face contacts with Presidents/Chairs of most committees, boards and working groups. (I will be attending the Board of Trustees planning retreat in July and the Congregational Leadership retreat in August.

Administration and Staff - I led the monthly all staff meetings (1st or 2nd Wednesdays, and we switched back to Thursdays to accommodate part time staff schedules, at 10:00 AM.), except during the July staff vacations. I spoke with all staff regularly and as needed. I met with staff and leadership to develop budget requests.

I work with Board members to perform evaluations for staff. I met regularly with Director of Religious Education, Kathy Smith, the Membership Coordinator, Cindy Pilcher, Music Directors, Christopher Wolff, as well as with Bookkeeper John Elder, and our long time Office Secretary, Connie Meints.

Facilities - I worked with the Facilities chair and Safe Congregations Committee to address building and playground issues. I was consulted about the final roof repairs, mold remediation and reconstruction, as well as considering future needs and options regarding Community Church's building and physical plant. To make the minister's office available for remediation and renovation, I previously emptied the office of all contents, with the timely and gracious help of members. I was able to re-establish my office again in October, shortly before sabbatical. Tremendous thanks to Duane Mortensen, Dick Hildebrand, Bill Daffinee and many others for their dogged work in getting the remediation and reconstruction work done in a such expeditious way. The build is a much more healthier and enjoyable work space for everyone.

Fellowship/Social Events - I attended twenty-two (22) Sunday morning coffee hours; four (4) receptions following memorial services; one (1) reception following a member wedding; and several after worship lunches (congregational meetings and stewardship), and the luncheon before the annual meeting. Other social

events included: the Spring Pops Shows, the Annual Family Halloween Party, and three (3) family game/event nights.

Programs –

I attended one (1) more of six (6) sessions over the two (2) year track in Spiritual Direction at Perkins with eyes on creating events and opportunities for people to have spiritual training and experiences. I have one more course and follow on work to complete the program this coming year. When I complete my certification, I will decide whether to take follow up practicum program for a year.

I am led the multi week lay preaching program The Shared Pulpit, starting last August, with sign ups and calendar coordination starting in May 2016. This was an intensive program much like a graduate seminar.

Outreach/Membership Development – I supported the Membership Committee and made numerous contacts with prospective new or returning members and friends. I met formally with new members as part of New Comer Orientations, and participated in New Member Services in worship. (Also, see *Administration and Staff* and *Communications*).

Membership Coordinator, Cindy Pilcher and I coordinated with the staff at First Unitarian of Dallas, to initiate Community Church 's being a field test site for “Faith Forward,” their newly revised and focused processes from attraction to the church, on through to integration, deepening and leadership training. The overall focus is on deepening faith development, relationships and community building. An NTUUC grant to Community Church provided the bulk of the funding through February 2017 for the Membership Coordinator’s quarter (1/4) time position.

Faith in Action/Broader Community -

On Easter our gay pride flag was stolen and replaced with a US flag and a dare to take it down. We got lots of press that went international. We kept the US flag and added a new gay pride flag, and lit both.

My family and I attended the Barron Elementary School carnivals/festivals where several Community Church volunteers were working booths and games. I also attended the Barron Book Fair and met several of our members there too. I try to stay abreast of our church’s volunteer actions with the Barron school community.

I represented UUs and Community Church again at the Plano National Day of Prayer (NDP) event at City Hall, May 4th, 2017. This is my ninth year to participate in this event. This year had the largest attendance in memory. The interfaith social gathering afterwards is delightful and a great time to reconnect with the larger Plano area faith communities. Community UU Church regularly supplies the ushers for this event.

Denominational Activities and Professional Development

My family and I attended the Religious Education Week trainings at the Ferry Beach UU conference center in Saco, Maine, the second week of July 2016. We did not attend GA in Columbus OH due to costs and my then pending sabbatical.

From September through May I attended my sixth year of once monthly three (3) hour sessions of Bowenian family system’s theory course for ministers by the Rev. Doug Hester. I attended last November’s SWUUC Fall leadership retreat in Glen Rose. I attended the NTUUC annual awards luncheon in February at Oak Cliff UU sponsored by our cluster of congregations. I attended the monthly D/FW UU ministers’ cluster meetings. I also attended the annual SW Conference UU Ministers’ Association retreat in January.

Sabbatical November 2016 through February 2017

In our UU faith tradition a ministerial sabbatical is a time for study, pilgrimage, growth, reflection, enrichment, and renewal. It is part of our “Letter of Agreement” with each other. I was eligible to take a sabbatical of four (4) months since the 2015-2016 year. (one month of sabbatical for each year of service since the last sabbatical period of Nov. 2010 – Feb. 2011). I delayed taking it until the coming 2016-17 program year. This was due to uncertainty over possible programs and dates. Also, it allowed our DRE, Kathy Smith to take a well earned 5 month sabbatical. The Board of Trustees approved my sabbatical schedule with dates inclusive November 1st, 2016 through February 28th, 2017. As with my previous sabbatical I kept the congregation abreast of my activities in advance and during. Guest preachers and speakers are being scheduled and additional pastoral support coverage arranged.

I attended the South Western UU Conference’s fall leadership conference in Glen Rose. I attended the annual January South West Chapter retreat near Houston for the UU Minister’s Association.

Minister’s Discretionary Account – While the economy has improved for a few many people, wages and other supports continue to be tight or scarce for large populations in the DFW area. This was another difficult financial year for many in the church and in our larger community, especially with housing costs rapidly increasing over the last couple of years.

In the 2016- 2017 fiscal year I provided \$ 3,500.00 in response to seven (7) requests from members/friends of Community Church. We provided over \$ 2, 050 in response to twelve (12) non-member/community requests. Most requests were for funds to cover shelter, food, gas for work, car repairs, bus passes, child care, utilities and medical bills/prescriptions. There were fewer unfilled requests from the broader community, due to the congregation’s generosity. The total amount given out in assistance is so far is over \$ 5,600.

Leave and Vacation - Between June 1st, 2015 and May 31st, 2016, I will have **taken** twenty-five (25) days of twenty-eight (28) days of vacation; twenty (20) days of twenty-eight (28) days of on-call/study leave; and seven (7) days of up to twenty eight (28) days of family leave. **Unused leave** = Three (3) days of vacation; Eight (8) days of study/on-call; and twenty-one (21) of family leave. Sick leave is arranged on a need basis. Annual leaves do not accrue or carry over.

I will be on study leave July 3rd – 31st. I will return to regular duties August 1st and preach August 20th. The In Gathering of Waters service is August 27th

Thank you and see you in church. Blessings, Patrick