

Minister's Annual Report to the Congregation, the Rev. Patrick Price
Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano
June 1st, 2017 through July 31st, 2018
Submitted May 2018

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 since 2006. It has been a year full of surprises and opportunities. In February 2018, I gave notice of my resignation to the congregation and the Board of Trustees. A copy of that letter is included with this report. As of this writing, there are several possible places I may go to do Interim co-ministry with my wife, the Rev. Jennifer Innis. We cannot discuss details until we finalize arrangements in the next few weeks. We are excited by the possibilities a head of us and profoundly saddened at leaving Plano and North Texas. We created a home and family here, and deeply appreciate all of the care and support the congregation has provided to us in this crucial part of our lives and ministries.

I have great admiration for what this congregation survived and accomplished in the last eleven years. I also have a profound confidence that this congregation will continue to move towards being ever more the embodiment and beacon of the Beloved Community we aspire to live into being. Thank you again.
Blessings, Patrick

Preaching, Worship and Rites of Passage – from June 1st, 2017 through July 31st, 2018, **sixty-one (61) Sunday Services will have been held**, with no weather cancellations. In those fourteen (14) months I preached and/or led thirty-one (31) Sunday worship services, including: Ingathering/Water Communion; All Souls; Service-in-the-Park; Yuletide; Christmas Sunday PJ service; Easter; Mayday/Beltane (with first indoor May Pole); Flower Communion/Mother's Day, and Music Sunday; New Member Recognition, Teacher Recognition, and Bridging Ceremony. I attended five (5) other Sundays at Community Church, for a total of thirty-six **(36) Sundays onsite**. I was sick with flu two (2) Sundays in January. Thanks to the Worship Team for doing wonderful services while I was out.

I led the (1) Christmas Eve Communion of Light/Lessons and Carols Service. The Worship Associates and I decorated the Sanctuary for the Yuletide and Christmastide services and they took them down again in January.

I officiated one (1) **wedding**, on site for a member of the congregation. I consulted on one (1) wedding for community members but could not officiate due to illness. I conducted two (2) **memorial services** on site for church members: Barbara Thoresen, and Ian Rule.

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 worked with lead Worship Associate, Elena Westbrook to lead monthly Worship Associate's and Worship Team coordination meetings. Recruitment of two (2) to three (3) new worship associates for the next program year is underway with the annual planning/training retreat in the near future.

The Worship Team consists of the Worship Associates, the Minister, the Interim DRE, Head Usher, and the Music Director and meets monthly. My deepest gratitude to program staff: Interim DRE, the Rev. Jennifer Innis, 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, Elena Westbrook, Duane Mortensen, Amy Dessert and Nelah

McComsey, who routinely played for most of our worship services. A sad farewell to Amy and Nelah as each moves to another part of the U.S.

Pastoral Care and Counseling - I had some nine (9) member/friend pastoral visits including five (5) in office pastoral conversations, three (3) in-home visits and one (1) hospital visit. 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 June Bruns and the Caring Committee volunteers for all their great work visiting those in need, providing transportation, receptions at memorials and other assistance in working with families under pressure. I met with June monthly on pastoral matters in the church.

Communications - I wrote monthly columns and informational pieces for issues of the newsletter as well as pieces for weekly 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.

Leadership - I attended most Board of Trustees' meetings June 2017 - May 2018, except during July vacation. I attended the BoT planning retreat and the All Congregation Leadership retreat in August 2017. I attended the monthly Agenda Planning meetings of the Board of Trustees in their various configurations. I attended the regular Congregational Meetings in May 2017, November 2017 and May 2018.

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, Safe Congregations, 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.

Administration and Staff - I led the monthly all staff meetings on 1st or 2nd Thursdays at 10:00 AM., except during the July staff vacations. I met regularly with Interim Director of Religious Education, the Rev. Jennifer Innis; Membership Coordinator, Cindy Pilcher; Music Director, Christopher Wolff, as well as with Bookkeeper John Elder, and our long time Office Secretary, Connie Meints.

My desired weekly office hours were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Noon to 4 PM and by appointment. Friday and Saturday I reserved for reading, research and sermon preparation. Monday remained my personal Sabbath/day off. I did not usually check my e-mails from late Sunday until Tuesday morning. I am nearly always available by cell phone/text for urgent church business. (See Vacation and Leave)

Kathy Smith our DRE of eight (8) years left Community UU Church to take the Family Ministry position at the Baton Rouge UU congregation. We had a great send off for her wish her the best. I worked with the Personnel and RE Chairs to secure an Interim DRE for the year. The Rev. Jennifer Innis was contracted for full time through the program year.

Dr. Cindy Pilcher, our membership coordinator for three years, resigned for personal reasons effective the end of March 2018. A search to fill the position is underway by Membership and the Board of Trustees.

Facilities - I worked with the Facilities chair and Safe Congregations Committee to address building and playground issues. Elena Westbrook and I began the process of looking at products and vendors to eventually replace the carpet/flooring in the Sanctuary and possibly other areas. The carpet in the Sanctuary is now in substandard condition, including being a tripping hazard.

White upholstered chairs in the sanctuary are also becoming a safety hazard, with weld breaking and pads coming loose with screws exposed, as well as the sharp edges for the frame where protective plastic caps are missing. This is in addition to the dirty and stained condition of the upholstery.

Fellowship/Social Events - I attended thirty-six (36) Sunday morning coffee hours; two (2) 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, Spring family Festival, and two (2) family game/event nights.

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 in Community Church's on going field test of "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.

Faith in Action/Broader Community - My family and I attended several Barron Elementary PTA events 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 tried to stay abreast of our church's volunteer actions with the Barron school community. Many thanks to Nelah McComsey who lead our work with Barron Elementary School. With her departure, Anne Smith with assume the coordinator/liaison role for CUUC.

I represented UUs and Community Church again at the Plano National Day of Prayer (NDP) event at City Hall, May 3rd, 2018. This is our tenth year for this event. 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 - From September through May I attended my seventh year of once monthly three (3) hour sessions of Bowenian family system's theory course for ministers by the Rev. Doug Hester, I attended the NTUUC annual awards luncheon at Oak Cliff UU sponsored by our cluster of congregations. I attended the monthly D/FW UU ministers' cluster meetings, co-hosting some meetings in Plano. My family and I will attend UUA General Assembly (GA) in Kansas City, MO in June 2018 as well as again attending the Religious Education Week trainings at the Ferry Beach UU conference center in Saco, Maine, in July.

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 2017- 2018 fiscal year I provided \$ 1,857.00 in response to eleven (11) requests from members/friends of Community UU Church. We provided over \$ 1,964.00 in response to over thirty (30) 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 \$ 3,821..

Leave and Vacation - Between June 1st, 2017 and May 31st, 2018, I will have **taken** sixteen (16) days of twenty-eight (28) days of vacation; twenty (20) days of twenty-eight (28) days of on-call/study leave; and eighteen (18) days of up to twenty eight (28) days of sick/family leave. **Unused leave** = Twelve (12) days of vacation; Eight (8) days of study/on-call; and ten (10) of family leave. Sick leave is arranged on a need basis. Annual leaves do not accrue or carry over.

In June 2018, I will attend UUA General Assembly in Kansas City, including a week of professional training. In July I will be on study leave Religious Education Week at Ferry Beach, Saco, ME

Exit Transition: June 10th will be my last Sunday in the pulpit or attending services. Afterwards I will still be available for pastoral care and other ministry needs. In June and July I will alternate between UUA activities and trainings and wrapping up my tenure as your minister of eleven (11) years, including clearing out the Minister's office, selling our home and relocating. While my final day is officially July 31st, I will effectively be done before that.