

UUCOB Board Report

My Ministry in 23-24

Although Marta and I had intended to come back East, to DC or Baltimore, the best opportunities for Marta ended up being in Colorado. We will be moving to Fort Collins, home of Colorado State University, in Summer of 23. This is disappointing in terms of my ministry with you because I had hoped to have proximity next year. In the meantime, I believe the transition team is considering options moving forward with remote ministry (including more hours/visits) or lay-led ministry, etc. I have recommended continuing on with remote ministry for a year to provide continuity and to stabilize your congregation (and grow it hopefully) so you can decide in December of 23 how you wish to proceed with some momentum on your side. Of course all of that is up to the transition team, the board, and the congregation.

Sunday Services.

I am entering into a themed semester, exploring together the sources of Unitarian Universalism. The formal sources that you find in the UUA hymnal. I will go through all six sources, providing the congregation with resources before the service, via the newsletter.

I do believe that if I focus on a theme for three months that this will provide some continuity, given the limitations/opportunities/learning around remote ministry. Your services can continue to be experiential.

See below for my schedule at UUCOB for the next few months.

OWL Training

I am still hopeful that someone from the congregation can sign up to be trained in OWL (Our Whole Lives, a sexual ethics course that is broken into age groups but covers the lifespan) in New Bern. The deadline is end of January. If you think there is someone/anyone who may be interested, let's explore that possibility.

Stewardship Campaign

It is an open question what parts of the congregation's governance a contract minister should engage. Contract ministry and settled ministry are very different ministries, with different foci and different approaches. I do have ideas and suggestions around stewardship campaigns that I can help advise. I am concerned that we make the case that the financial health of the congregation requires that we spread the distribution of contributions across the congregation. It is important for long term stability that the congregation not be dependent on one or two donors (though the donors are to be appreciated and thanked with depth).

Making the case for UUCOB is an important first step in that process. Following up in person and in services will also be important. Testimonials are also encouraged, along the life of the stewardship campaign.

Whatever happens with the future of our shared ministry, please know that I am so proud to be your minister. Respectfully submitted, 1/11/2023. Reverend Roger Butts

SUNDAY SERVICES at UUCOB: Jan 15; Feb 5; Feb 12; March 5?; March 19;
MARCH 26 ON SITE; April 9 (if you want me on Easter); April 16; May 7.

Date	Preaching	church	Subject/ Title
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January 1	?	prairie via video	obx
Jan 8	roger	Prairie.	burning bowl
Jan 15	asc roger Richard Skorman	obx transcendentalists	
Jan 22	ASC Jeff Scholes/Roger		
Jan 29	Off Fort Collins		
Feb 5	Prairie/OBX	Prairie: 4 kinds of love. OBX: The Prophets	
Feb 12	ASC Kevin Landis & ROger	Obx: World REligions	
Feb 19	PUU Changing Families & Mistakes and miracles		
Feb 26	prairie		
Mar 5	ASC Kristy M & Roger	OBX ?	
Mar 12	prairie: Mistakes and Miracles		
Mar 19	ASC Sam and Roger	OBX Humanism	
Mar 26	obx	OBX on site	
Apr 2	ASC		
Apr 9	Prairie Easter	OBX Easter	
Apr 16	Asc	OBx Paganism	
Apr 23	Prairie		
Apr 30	off		
May 7	ASC	OBX: 7 ways of looking at pointless suffering	
May 14	Prairie		

May 21	ASC	obx: his hiding place	
May 28	Prairie		