

THE UUCC SABBATICAL GUIDE

(July 1, 2010 to January 3, 2011)



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Introduction

After 7 years of energetic and outstanding service to our congregation, our minister, Jay Leach, will take his first sabbatical from July 1, 2010 to January 3, 2011. Under our Congregation's Letter of Agreement with Jay, he has accrued a month of sabbatical leave for each year of service since his arrival in 2003. Also, as provided in the Letter of Agreement, each year the UCC has set aside a small amount of funds to help with some of the additional expenses expected during the sabbatical.

Why a sabbatical?

The sabbatical leave is a tradition in Unitarian Universalist congregations, particularly large Unitarian Universalist congregations like ours, just as it is common in many academic settings. The sabbatical should not be seen either as a reward for good work or simply as an extended vacation period. Rather it is an important part of the working relationship between the church and the minister from which both will draw benefits. It offers an extended time for study, reflection, rest, and renewal - all ingredients for effective ministry. Just as importantly, members of the congregation will have opportunities to lead and learn in new ways while experiencing a variety of Sunday services. Then, we will also benefit as Jay returns filled with new ideas and insights.

Planning for the Sabbatical

Over the last several years, the UCC has built a dedicated and capable staff of 9 professionals, not counting Jay or our affiliated community ministers. Our staff and a large number of energetic volunteers along with the Sabbatical Planning Team have been working for months to plan for the continued smooth operation of the church during Jay's sabbatical.

What will Jay do on his sabbatical?

Jay will use this time to focus on five different areas that will enable him to continue his professional development and personal growth. His first area is intellectual and he will spend time reading books, and attending conferences with a concentration on Emerson, Thoreau and American Transcendentalism. Second, he will focus on professional development. In this area he will talk with other ministers of large Unitarian congregations and reflect and assess how best to manage his time and lead the UCC. He will also explore the role of assistant ministers in these large congregations. Third, he will take time for renewal and reflection, attending to his own spiritual health and vitality. His fourth area will be taking time to write and possibly express some of what he has learned in focusing on the first 3 areas. Finally, Jay will spend much deserved and needed time with his family. In order to fully focus on these different areas, Jay will spend time in and out of Charlotte during his sabbatical.

Can we contact Jay during the sabbatical?

No, the sabbatical is a time for Jay to have a complete break from his ministerial duties and thus, he will not be available to the congregation during this time. Our professional staff, lay leadership and many dedicated volunteers are prepared to deal with all the usual matters of congregational life, including emergencies.

Our Sabbatical Minister

We are fortunate to have Sarah York as our Sabbatical Minister for eight Sundays during the fall. She is a UU minister with over 25 years experience serving congregations from California to London, England and the author of several books including *Remembering Well: Rituals for Celebrating Life and Mourning Death*. Sarah now lives near Asheville in the NC mountains and will commute to Charlotte on the Sundays she will lead our services. On those Sundays, she will also be available in the afternoon to meet with our Congregation Care Team, Worship Team and others.

The Crisis Ministry Team

Becky Whittington, our Congregational Care Coordinator, will continue to be the person to contact for Congregational Care. She can be reached at 704-996-9228. She will be working with the Congregational Care Team to address our needs. In addition, a Crisis Ministry Team has been established to respond to church members' crises during Jay's sabbatical (since Sarah York lives out of the Charlotte area). This team will minister to members facing serious personal crises, visit members hospitalized with serious health issues and plan and lead memorial services for members. We are pleased that both Rev. Amy Brooks and Rev. Elizabeth Kerman will serve as our crisis ministers in Jay's absence. They may be contacted directly as follows: Rev. Amy Brooks (H) 704-896-9578 (C) 704-458-4438 or Rev. Elizabeth Kerman (H) 704 846-7181 (C) 704 575-0498 . In the unlikely event neither Amy nor Elizabeth is available, the Sabbatical Planning Team has arranged for other UU ministers to be available if necessary. Members may also contact our Church Administrative Assistant, Alesia Hutto (O) 704 366-8623.

Mental Health Crisis Referral Team

A Mental Health Crisis Referral Team has been created to refer church members experiencing an emotional or family crisis to an appropriate professional. This team is composed of church members who are professionals in the field of mental health. The members and their direct contact information are: Cindy Busher (704) 608-2519; G.H Dornblazer (704) 365-0199; and Laurie Reed (704) 333-3004.

Schedule of Sunday Services

During Jay's sabbatical, Sunday services will continue to be diverse, interesting and very stimulating! In addition to the 8 Sundays in the fall that Sarah York, our Sabbatical Minister, will lead the services, we have lined up an outstanding roster of guest speakers and lay service leaders. Here's the current schedule:

July 4	Loyd Dillon
July 11	Mary Frances Comer
July 18	Susan Cox
July 25	David Mohler
August 1	Barbara Busey
August 8	Amy Brooks
August 15	Elizabeth Kerman
August 22	Laura Neff
August 29	Water Ceremony
September 5	Mary Frances Comer
September 12	Sarah York
September 19	Pete Moore
September 26	Cathey Ross
October 3	Sarah York
October 10	Judy Weingarten
October 17	Sarah York
October 24	Doug Sea
October 31	Memorial Sunday-Sarah York
November 7	Sarah York
November 14	Sr. High Youth Service
November 21	Sarah York
November 28	Thomas Cole
December 5	Sarah York
December 12	Angeles Ortega-Moore
December 19	Sarah York
December 24	TBA
December 26	TBA
January 2	Sabbatical Planning Team

Church Operations

Donna Shore and Carol Smith have agreed to serve on the Coordinating Team with Jeter during Jay's sabbatical. The Coordinating Team is charged with overseeing the operation of the church and its programs consistent with our principles and mission. The Coordinating Team meets weekly and communicates frequently throughout the week to coordinate the various activities of the church, monitor its operations and decide how to deal with challenges and opportunities as they arise. Donna has been an active member of the Coordinating Team in the past and Carol, through her past involvement at the church, is very familiar with how the church functions.

Any member of our professional staff can assist you or direct you to the appropriate staff member to answer your question. But to get you there faster, here are some areas of church operations about which questions are frequently asked, and contact information to help you.	
Question Regarding:	Staff Member/Contact Information
Church Office	Ph 366-8623 (Mon. – Fri. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)
Church Administration	Jeter Walker, Ext. 222
Administrative Assistant	Alesia Hutto, Ext. 221
Congregational Care	Becky Whittington, (704) 996-9228
Crisis Ministry Team	Rev. Amy Brooks (H) 704 896-9578 (C) 7044584438 or Rev. Elizabeth Kerman (H) 704-846-7181 (C) 704-575-0498
Mental Health Crisis Referral Team	Cindy Busher (704) 608-2519; G.H Dornblazer (704) 365-0199; and Laurie Reed (704) 333-3004
Adult Religious Education	Richard Kushmaul, Ext. 229
Religious Education for Children and Youth	Kathleen Carpenter, Ext. 225
Music	John Herrick, Ext. 230
Membership Coordinator	Courtney McLaughlin, Ext. 231
Meeting Space	Alesia Hutto, Ext. 221
Pledge Status	Jeter Walker, Ext. 222
Building Rental	Alesia Hutto, Ext. 221

Sabbatical Planning Team

If you have comments or questions about the sabbatical, please contact any member of the Sabbatical Planning Team. The members are listed below:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Carol Gay	(704) 921-3696
David Mohler	(704) 517-1848
Scott Oppenheimer	(704) 443-7421
Richard Pratt	(704) 519-4886
Deb Swindlehurst	(704) 366-1403
Shirley Wagner	(704) 364-8855

Mission

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte is to inspire children, youth and adults to discover and articulate deeper spiritual meaning evidenced in lives of integrity, compassion and stewardship of the Earth.

ENDS Statements

As a congregation, we courageously name these ends to which we aspire:

We are a joyful, dynamic community of people who care about and are connected to each other. Here people are welcomed, heard, included and respected.

We are a sanctuary for those on a liberal religious path and a beacon of progressive thought and action in the larger Charlotte community.

We cultivate lives of generosity and responsibility, sharing our personal abundance.

We are intentionally growing in our diversity as a congregation, each of us working with others to overcome the barriers that divide the human family.

We strive for peace, justice and equity in our hearts, our interpersonal relationships, our community and our world.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte

234 North Sharon Amity Rd.
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www.uuccharlotte.org

2010-2011 Board of Trustees

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Professional Staff

Rev. Amy Brooks,

Affiliated Community Minister

Kathleen Carpenter: kathleen@uuccharlotte.org

Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth

Donna Fisher: donnfish@bellsouth.net

Children's Choir Director

John Herrick: john@uuccharlotte.org

Director of Music

Alesia Hutto: alesia@uuccharlotte.org

Administrative Assistant

Richard Kushmaul: richard@uuccharlotte.org

Adult Religious Education/Spiritual Development Coordinator

Rev. James C. (Jay) Leach: jay@uuccharlotte.org

Minister

Rev. Melissa Mummert,

Affiliated Community Minister

Chris Robertson: chris@uuccharlotte.org

Administrative Assistant

Courtney McLaughlin: courtney@uuccharlotte.org

Membership Coordinator

Jeter Walker: jeter@uuccharlotte.org

Director of Administration

Becky Whittington: (704) 996-9228

Congregational Care Coordinator