

THE ADIRONDACK COMMUNITARIAN



A Monthly Newsletter of the Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community

Volume 128

July 2013

July Schedule

July 7

Adrien Vlach
Our UU History
Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15

July 14

Board of Trustees meeting 8:15 in RE Room
Wayne Walder

July 21

Rev. Chris Neilson
Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:15

July 28

Service at HUUTenanny @ Meacham Lake

Print Distributor Needed!

With my upcoming move I will be unable to distribute all of five print copies of the Communitarian that are mailed out every month.

If anyone is interested in ordering and mailing out print copies of the Communitarian contact me at starrypoetics@gmail.com and I will give you the very brief mailing list of recipients. I'll be able to do any special formatting necessary for print copies so all you have to do is place the order. I'll also give you the pack of mailing seals I have been using to prepare the issues for mail.

Courtney

A Day at the Beach!

Save the Date: July 28, 2013 for a summer Huutenanny picnic at Meacham Lake State Campground Day Use Area, starting with a UU worship service at 10:30 a.m. and followed by a Pot Luck lunch at noon. Our Saranac Lake UU community will be joined by participants from the Plattsburgh and Canton Fellowships. The worship service theme will be "Reflections on the beauty of our existence on this planet." Car-pooling will be arranged, and our departure time from the Saranac Lab will be at 9:30 a.m.

Please bring your pot luck items, plates and utensils, musical instruments, beach/boating items, sunscreen, hat, folding chair and rain gear. If the weather is forecasted to be atrocious, the event will be called off at 6:00 a.m., and we'll let you know by phone at 8:00 a.m.

Please notify Susan Arnold or Gail Brill if you plan to attend. There will be no regular Sunday service scheduled.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude for the fine work of departing board members Ann Mullen, Karen Graff, Gary Alexander, and Jason Brill, that I look to the year ahead. There is much to be done, there is a solid foundation in place, and we have a good crew, ready to rise to the year's challenges.

As Ann detailed in her recent letter, providing a vibrant congregational home to religious liberals and spiritual seekers is no small task. We lack an economy of scale that larger congregations enjoy--there's no money in the budget to pay someone else to sweep the floors, no wealth of congregants to share committee work. Still, we do a great job, even as we strive to do better.

I have some ideas for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our little nonprofit. Churches are, after all, just that.

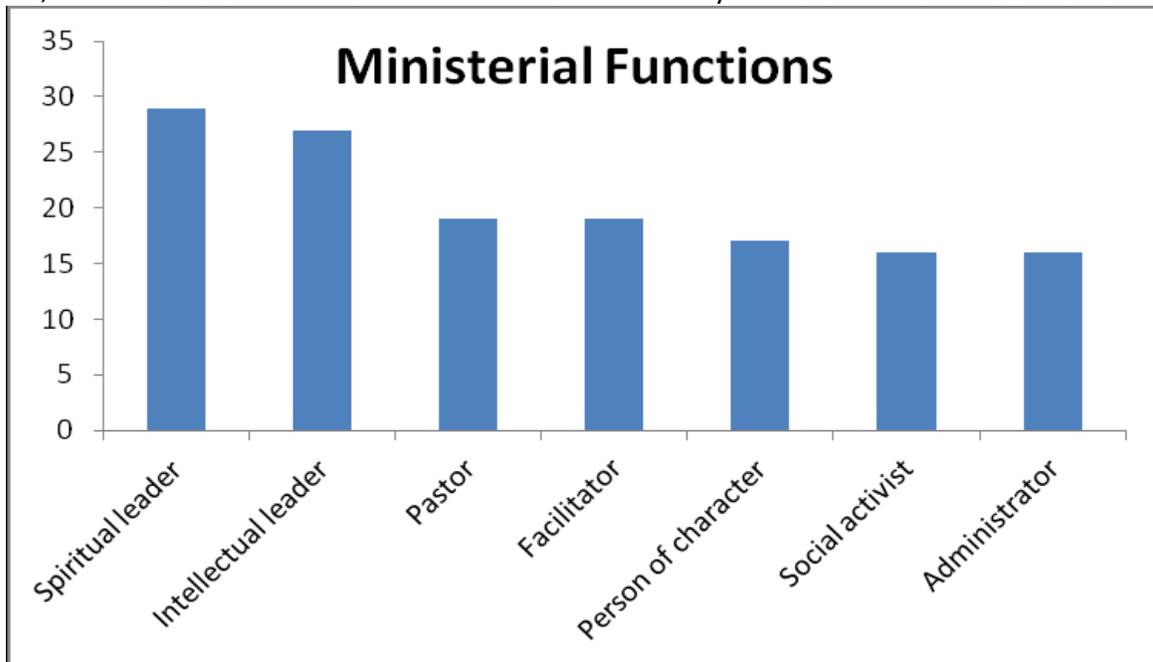
- 1. Write it down.** We are not without the basics (articles, bylaws, a few spreadsheets), but our church is thin by way of policies and procedures. Now, before you wrinkle your nose and imagine bureaucracy, ask yourself this: How will I know what to do when it's my turn to...? Whether that sentence ends with "make the coffee", "teach Sunday school", or "take on the accounting", the difference between anxiety and efficiency may be as simple as a short set of written instructions.
- 2. Borrow liberally.** We are not the *first* UU congregation. We are not the *only* small UU congregation. And we do *not* need to reinvent the wheel. Let's plug into the existing regional and national networks; let's access the resources that are there for us; and let's pretend we're bandits, if that suits us.
- 3. Get out there.** I launched the Social Justice Committee with double intentions: 1) to organizationally put our liberal religious practice in motion; and 2) to make social justice a primary association that local non-Unitarians have of Unitarian Universalism. The more we get out there and do our thing (social justice and otherwise), the more our congregation will grow, and the easier it will be for us to do what we do.
- 4. Cultivate participation and leadership.** We don't train anyone to do anything--that's a fact. Either things happen or they don't. Either people get asked, or they don't. Whether I wind up sweeping the floors and locking up, or someone else does, is largely a matter of chance. We're getting more organized all the time, but there is still room to improve. Involved members are invested members. I want to start with board training, but I'd also be happy to show you where the brooms are kept.
- 5. Fundraise like we mean it.** Annually there is a pledge campaign, but it always sneaks up on us, and execution...? Well, you could probably guess from our execution that nobody likes begging for donations. It's time for that to change! What is our goal? Where's our iconic fund raising thermometer? Who's updating the congregation on our progress? What about planned giving options? Can I sign up to have a fixed amount auto-drafted from my checking account? We don't need to be fund raising professionals to professionalize our financial stewardship.

That's five; I have more. How much of this will we implement? I don't know. A year passes quickly. I look forward to seeing how much low-hanging fruit we can find in a year.

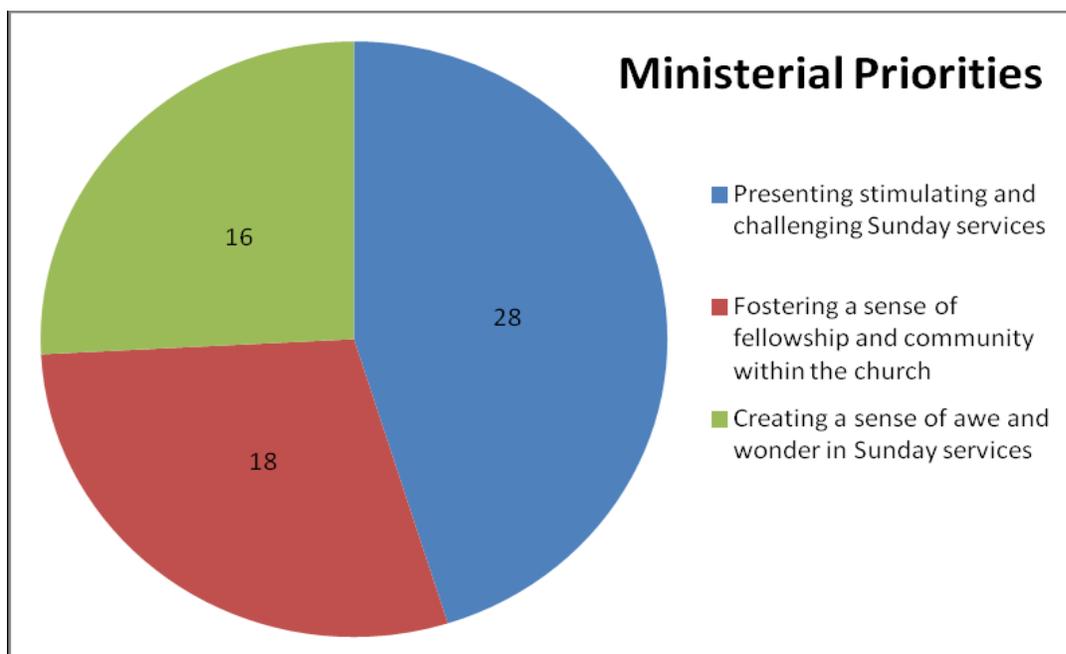
Yours in service,
Adrien

Ministerial Search Survey Results

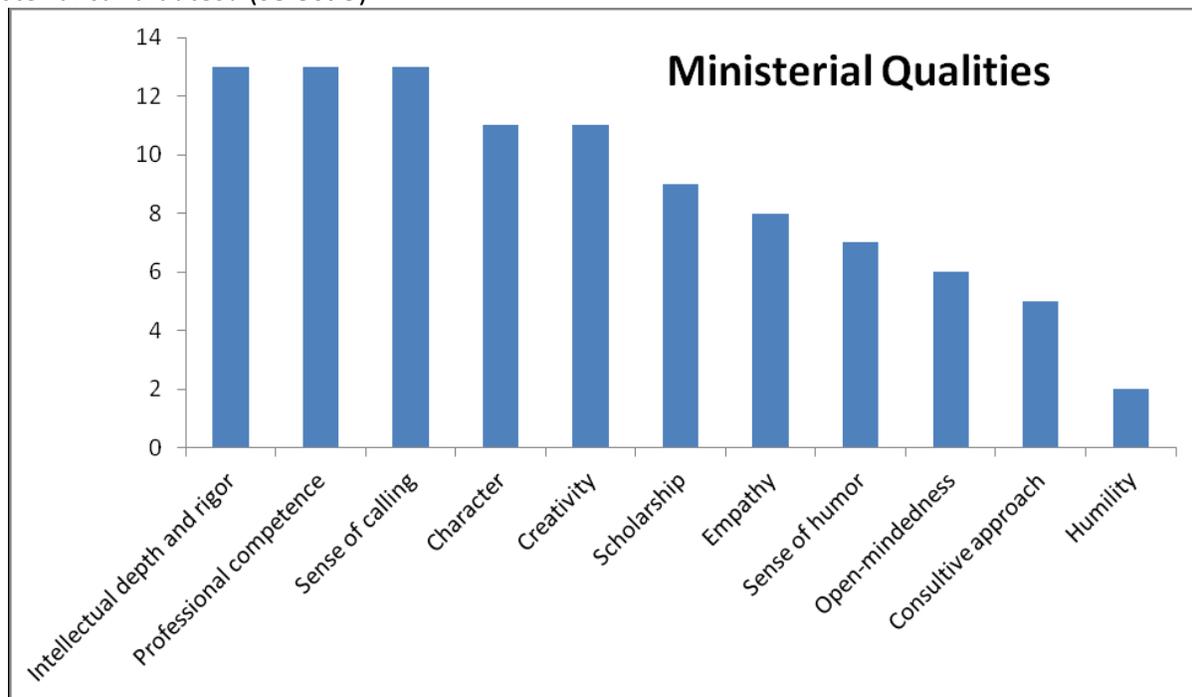
1. A variety of functions comprise a minister's work. Each minister has to prioritize these functions, and thus his or her time. In what rank order would you like our next minister to do so?



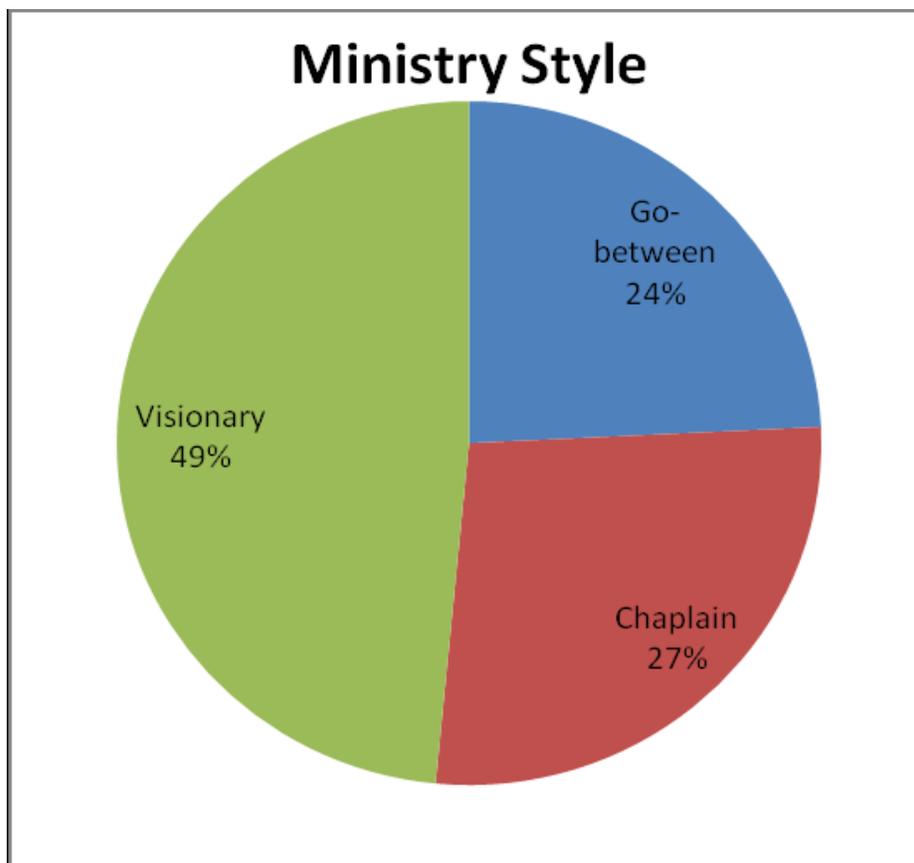
2. Responsibility for a successful church is shared among the minister and lay leadership. In terms of personal capabilities and time and attention, which of the following priorities for the church's next minister do you consider to be the most important? (please check 3)



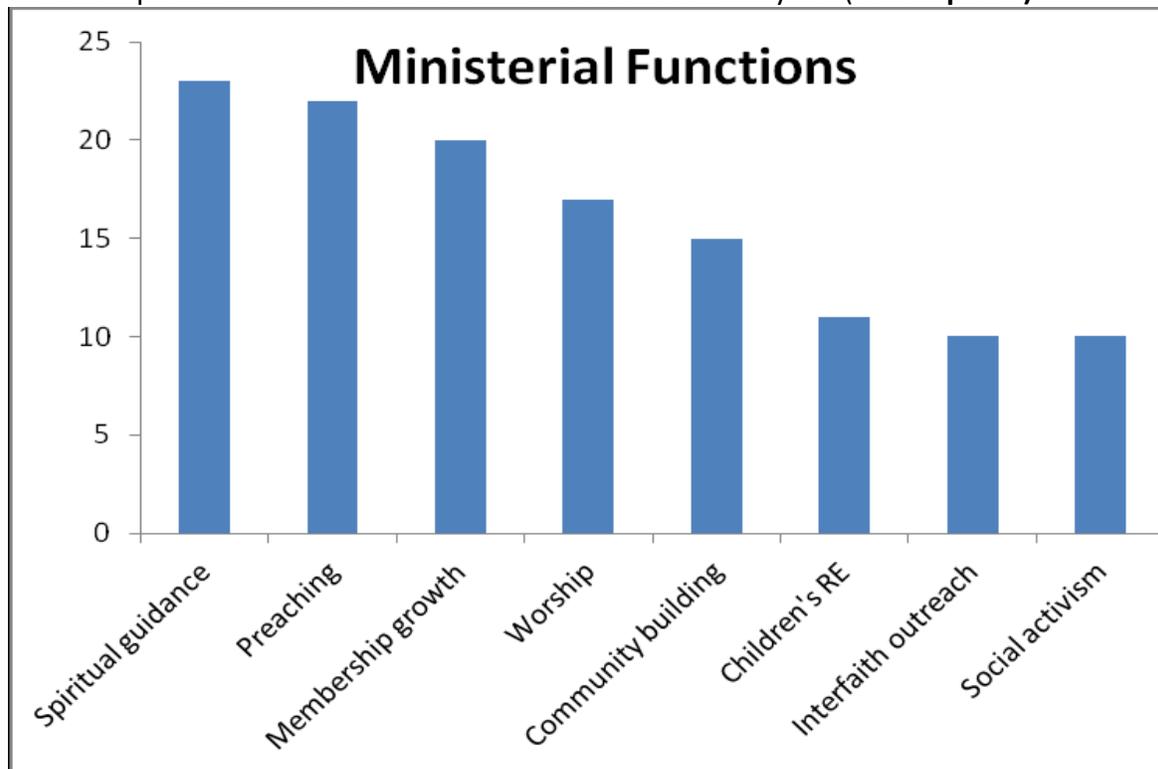
3. Which of the following qualities do you think are the most important considerations in screening ministerial candidates? (select 3)



4. What predominant style of ministry would you prefer in our next minister?



5. How important are these various ministerial functions to you? (Please pick 6)



A BIG MOVE

Congratulations to Courtney Miller on her big move to Rochester, NY (after services on July 21) where she will pursue her writing and poetry interests. Courtney and her fiancé are looking forward to big city life and all that it offers a young dynamic couple. Courtney has been an important and integral part of AUUC, actively participating with our Social Justice committee and working to publish our monthly newsletter, the Communitarian, which has been the beneficiary of her editing, publishing and writing contributions. Her conscientiousness and activism have helped to bring us closer together as a community and added a spark to our UU lives. Thank you, Courtney for all you have done and what you will continue to do as our newsletter publisher in absentia. We will miss you very much.

To be of Use by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,

who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

Summer Song
by William Carlos Williams

Wanderer moon
smiling a
faintly ironical smile
at this
brilliant, dew-moistened
summer morning,—
a detached
sleepily indifferent
smile, a
wanderer's smile,—
if I should
buy a shirt
your color and
put on a necktie
sky-blue
where would they carry me?

Summer Night Riverside
by Sara Teasdale

In the wild soft summer darkness
How many and many a night we two together
Sat in the park and watched the Hudson
Wearing her lights like golden spangles
Glinting on black satin.
The rail along the curving pathway
Was low in a happy place to let us cross,
And down the hill a tree that dripped with bloom

Sheltered us,
While your kisses and the flowers,
Falling, falling,
Tangled in my hair...

The frail white stars moved slowly over the sky.

And now, far off
In the fragrant darkness
The tree is tremulous again with bloom
For June comes back.

To-night what girl
Dreamily before her mirror shakes from her hair
This year's blossoms, clinging to its coils?

Long Island Sound
by Emma Lazarus

I see it as it looked one afternoon
In August,—by a fresh soft breeze o'erblown.
The swiftness of the tide, the light thereon,
A far-off sail, white as a crescent moon.
The shining waters with pale currents strewn,
The quiet fishing-smacks, the Eastern cove,
The semi-circle of its dark, green grove.
The luminous grasses, and the merry sun
In the grave sky; the sparkle far and wide,
Laughter of unseen children, cheerful chirp
Of crickets, and low lisp of rippling tide,
Light summer clouds fantastical as sleep
Changing unnoted while I gazed thereon.
All these fair sounds and sights I made my own.

Back Yard by Carl Sandburg

Shine on, O moon of summer.

Shine to the leaves of grass, catalpa and oak,
All silver under your rain to-night.

An Italian boy is sending songs to you to-night from an accordion.
A Polish boy is out with his best girl; they marry next month;
to-night they are throwing you kisses.

An old man next door is dreaming over a sheen that sits in a
cherry tree in his back yard.

The clocks say I must go—I stay here sitting on the back porch drinking
white thoughts you rain down.

Shine on, O moon,
Shake out more and more silver changes.

Contact Numbers

www.adkuu.org

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**We the member congregations of the Unitarian
Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and
promote**

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to
spiritual growth in our congregations.*
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*
- The right of conscience and the use of democratic
process within our congregations and in society at
large.*
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and
justice for all.*
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of
which we are a part.*



From the "Church of the open mind, loving heart, and helping hand" to

**Adirondack Unitarian Universalist Community
89 Church Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983**