

SABBATICAL 2010-11 REPORT

We are very grateful for the sabbatical granted to us by the congregation. In preparation for our 3 month sabbatical, we and the board focused on “the crucial R’s”: Renewal, Reflection, Refocusing & Return. All four were well achieved and we’re excited for the entire church to begin to see the fruits of our time away. In that spirit, the below list shares now just what we did while we were away but also what we’re “bringing back home.” Indeed, the sabbatical was very much like a treasure hunt. We’re excited to share those treasures with you all.

-Scott & Kaaren

Personal Renewal & Replenishment

Weekly Family Adventures as Primary Sabbatical Spiritual Practice (Scott and Kaaren):

Camping, climbing, hot air balloon, Seabreeze, beach, ropes course, dog training. . .

Trip to Brazil (Scott & Kaaren):

Personal and family restoration.

Daily Commitment to exercise (Scott and Kaaren):

Visited the canal once a day and produced sweat somehow, someday! :)

Prioritized Visits to and Better System of Care for My Parents (Scott):

Painting and Art Show (Kaaren):

Drew almost everyday in April and held a show at Crocus Clay Works.

Horse Riding Lessons with Neva (Kaaren):

Got the chance to ride once a week with my daughter!

Study & Reflection

Leadership Development (Scott):

Explored various UU and evangelical strategies and models for staff team development, volunteers as “unpaid staff,” “apprentice culture,” board members as “spiritual leaders,” nominating committee to leadership development committee. Books, podcasts, online workshops & GA workshops.

Congregational Networks & Staff Sharing Models (Scott):

Explored current thinking about shift from “satellite model to staff sharing & regional network models. Books, podcasts, online workshops, personal interviews with UU ministers.

Urban Ministry (Scott):

Explored the cutting edge work (“missional work”) being done by evangelicals and our leading UU congregations in urban ministries. Books, podcasts, online workshops, GA workshops, personal interviews with UU ministers.

Fund Development (Kaaren):

Explored current trends regarding senior ministers involvement in fund development, legacy and capital campaigns. Books, interviews with UUA staff and colleagues in congregations from 1,000-2,000 in membership.

Creative Worship Arts (Kaaren):

Explored and researched various models of creative worship including but not limited to: video, art installations, skits, musicals, dance, theater, movement, technology and poetry slams. Books, online videos, conversations with various performers and artists of various genres.

Connect and Breathe (Kaaren):

Read up on “new feminists” - the 4th wave- and their evolving views on abortion and researched non-for-profit management and development books.

UU Theology and Movement Trajectory (Kaaren and Scott):

Interviewed colleagues and studied sermons and lectures regarding the direction of our movement as we address the “next 50 years” marking this hallmark moment of 50 years of the merger.

Special Projects & Bringing the Work Home

Leadership Development (Scott) :

Developed plan to bring systematic volunteer training/expectations, “apprentice culture” & shift from nominating to leadership development to 1st U. Incorporated learnings into summer homework and retreats with staff.

Congregational Networks & Staff Sharing Models (Scott):

Opened conversations with Canandaigua UU about long-term interests & developed a plan to make a decision about relationship with 1st U by end of this year. Began exploring Rochester region for area most in need of “satellite work.” Lead workshop (key presenter) for Midwest UU staff teams on worship themes and small groups as a means to develop staff and resource sharing. Lead similar workshop at GA. Incorporated learnings into summer homework and retreats with staff.

Urban Ministry (Scott):

Lots of on the ground work and meetings with our new Intentional Community Task Force, School partnership team, Principle of The Children’s school. Helped clarify sharing goals and shared ways of working together so ready to launch expanded effort at start of church year. Incorporated learnings into summer homework and retreats with staff.

Creative Worship (Kaaren) :

Designed GA worship, recruited and explored models for expanded creative arts efforts with Mary L., outlined the year’s creative worship schedule and built a matrix and organizing structure for worship planning with Mary L and Scott.

Fund Development (Kaaren):

Asked colleague who serves in a congregation of 1,800 to be my mentor as I move into this role of relationship building to strengthen and expand legacy, capital and ABD gifts. Worked with David Messner and Cynthia Looney to start a matrix for “giver outreach and cultivation.”

Connect and Breathe (Kaaren):

Conducted a day long strategic planning retreat, interviewed by National NPR show- Interfaith Voices- aired in July, currently act as Exec. Director and president of the board.

UU Theology and Movement Trajectory (Kaaren and Scott):

GA sermon. Dialogued with UUA President and staff. Invited and accepted role on UU Capital Campaign vision team.