

DENA'S SABBATICAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Board of Trustees joyfully supports and approves the Rev. Dena McPhetres’ sabbatical! Such a time of rest, contemplation, and growth can only be of great benefit to Dena as well as the entire congregation.”

~ Julie Bock, Congregation President

“I am so glad our congregation is living into its covenant with Dena and supporting her sabbatical. This shows an important level of trust between the congregation and Dena, reflects trust in ministry itself, and exhibits the overall health of the congregation. I look forward to Dena renewing her ministry, learning what shape that will take, and to learning what we will discover ourselves while she is away!”

~ The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

WHY A SABBATICAL?

The sabbatical leave is a tradition for Unitarian Universalist clergy, as it is for academia. It offers an extended time for study, reflection, rest and renewal – all ingredients for successful ministry. Sabbatical leave is part of our congregation’s covenantal agreement with Dena as our Associate Minister. Just as importantly, the congregation will benefit when Dena returns refreshed, renewed and re-energized.

WHEN WILL DENA GO ON SABBATICAL?

Dena’s sabbatical will be five months, August – December 2017. Her last day in the pulpit will be July 23 and her last day in the office will be July 28. We will have a “good-bye” reception at coffee hour on Sunday, July 23. Dena will return to the office on January 2 and be back in the pulpit January 8, 2018.

WHAT WILL DENA DO ON SABBATICAL?

Dena’s goals for her sabbatical are rest, renewal, study and writing. She will attend a series of retreats -- including a silent retreat, a workshop with Parker Palmer, a creative arts retreat, and a writing retreat. She will also travel to the Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos area of New Mexico to immerse in beauty and multi-cultural community.

HOW WILL DENA’S WORK BE COVERED IN HER ABSENCE?

Jennifer and Dena will hire a part-time Assistant Sabbatical Minister to preach once a month, provide pastoral care, and support our social justice council. Church funds have accrued for this purpose. Smaller parts of Dena’s work will be covered by staff or lay leaders and some pieces will lie fallow and wait for her return.

HOW CAN I CONTACT DENA?

Sorry, but Dena’s sabbatical is a time for a complete break from her duties of ministry. Dena will be in Milwaukee for much of the time and you are welcome to say hello if you see her out and about, but

please don't discuss church matters. The only person authorized to contact Dena regarding church matters is our Senior Minister, Jennifer Nordstrom.

WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT DENA'S SABBATICAL?

Feel free to ask Jennifer or the members of Dena's Committee on Ministry: Candice Haight, Jo Ann Bishop, Terry Hansen or Joe Schuller.