

Dear Board,

It's been asked that I give you more detail into my ministry activities. See below, with one caveat: counting ministry hours is a necessarily imprecise activity. Like other ministers, I wonder, do I count the time, on my day off, when I'm thinking about a sick congregant or my next sermon, or fielding an unexpected or urgent call? Do I count the time when I run into a congregant in the grocery store, and a 20-minute conversation ensues?

My answer to this – it all depends. I attempt to not work past my 11 units (again, a unit is a 3-4 hour block), to set a good example for you and staff both in terms of overwork. My success with this approach varies with the needs. I've cancelled many days off to be present for urgent situations, such as memorials, and that feels entirely appropriate.

Truly, no two days are the same. More often than not, I come into the office with a plan, or open my computer to respond to emails/calls, and find myself instead in needed conversations, problem solving with others, or visiting one of you. In the past month, I've...

- Had 10 pastoral visits with congregants in their home or the ER
- Had 9 scheduled meetings in my office (this doesn't include drop-ins)
- Had 2 staff meetings each week (Bethany and Karen), one in the past month with Michael, and one with the entire staff
- Prepared for both November and December worship services
- Wrote my newsletter, Board report, and worship blurbs for the newsletter
- Collaborated with Bethany to prepare for her maternity leave
- Helped problem solve when the heat repeatedly went out, and other such problems
- Met with the Treasurer, spoke with the Chair of FinCom at length, prepared for and met with the Worship Committee, prepared for and met with the Committee on Ministry, reviewed materials at the request of Personnel and also met with Mary Finnegan, attended an extra Board meeting to consider a new Board Member
- Co-led, with Bethany, a URI young adult's meeting
- Followed up with the new Pastoral Care team regarding action items, notes, and our next meeting.
- Collaborated with the sound team to simplify their work, and improve the process
- Collaborated with Michael, Mary Fulton, Mary Alice, and Fin Com regarding the Christmas Eve Eve Collection, the new piano, and financial concerns
- Attended the URI Chaplains' group (monthly), the minister's cluster meeting (monthly), and a lunch gathering of trans* ministers in RI (first time)
- Collaborated with Thundermist to develop and launch a lgbt drop in group for youth
- Met with congregants to plan for a launch, hopefully, of a new SGM model
- Prepared and preached or will twice this month (it is typically 3x/month)

This isn't a comprehensive list, but hopefully it will give you some additional visibility into my ministry. Feel free to ask questions.

-Best, Rev DL