

***How to Request Services***

To request the services of a Pastoral Minister call the church office or pastoralministers@augustauu.org

 For assistance from the *Caring Cooperative*, contact Cheryl Abruzzese at cam1nik2@gmail.com or call the church office at

(207) 622-3232.

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church**

69 Winthrop Street, P.O. Box 8,
Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-622-3232

www.augustauu.org

Unitarian Universalist Community Church is a *Welcoming Congregation*. We are committed to creating a comfortable and inclusive community for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight people.

What is the
Pastoral Ministry Team?

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church has a team of trained lay Pastoral Ministers who provide an extension to the Minister’s pastoral presence. They offer a caring response to emergencies that affect individuals, families and the congregation as a whole, as well as issues within our community. The Team provides a connection to the church for members and friends when worship service attendance becomes impractical or impossible. Some members bring our church’s values and concerns out into the wider Augusta community.

**Unitarian Universalist Community Church**

***Pastoral Ministry
and its
Caring Cooperative***

***What do we ask of our
Pastoral Ministers?***

1. All members of the Pastoral Ministry Team are required to meet with the Minister to discern their appropriate strengths, their role on the team and to attend an in-depth training session. They are also expected to participate in monthly deepening and skills development meetings.
2. All Pastoral Ministers are bound by the ethical boundaries of confidentiality that are required by the program. Copies of the Pastoral Ministry Standards are available upon request to the church office.
3. Pastoral Ministers are members or friends of Unitarian Universalist Community Church who have not experienced a major life stressor (i.e. death of a significant family member or friend, divorce, job loss, etc.) within the last year. Interest in membership to this team should be directed to Rev. Carie Johnsen at the church.

How do Pastoral
Ministers serve?

There are three primary ways a Pastoral Minister serves our congregation and the wider community.

1. **The Caring Cooperative**

The *Caring Cooperative* Team (formerly known as the Caring Committee) is led by a trained lay Pastoral Minister who is skilled in accessing needed resources within and beyond the congregation. This team facilitates the good works and assistance of the congregation when a member or friend is dealing with times of hardship, loss, illness or stress. The *Caring Cooperative*:

* Provides phone calls and cards of care and sympathy in times of loss;
* Sends the Minister a list of expressed joys and sorrows from the Sunday worship if the Minister isn’t in attendance;
* Coordinates the fellowship reception for the Celebration of Life service upon request when a church member dies;
* Maintains a list of congregants who are willing to provide care on a time-limited basis; and
* Coordinates caring assistance when needed for help with:
	+ - providing meals,
		- shopping and running errands,
		- providing transportation to doctor’s appointments, and
		- companion visits to members and friends who are unable to participate in church events or who are isolated or lonely.
1. **Within the Congregation**

Pastoral Ministers provide a lay pastoral presence of compassionate listening to the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church. Pastoral Ministers are committed to providing a caring environment with and for the people of our community. They serve by:

* Offering to bring a compassionate presence of listening during times of personal loss, grief and stress;
* Providing pastoral visits to members and friends in a neutral setting, their homes or the hospital during times of extended illness, end of life circumstances and other times of loss;
* Providing pastoral visits for members and friends to talk about individual or relationship problems so that greater understanding, comfort and insight may be attained;
* Offering specialized ministry within the church community including, but not limited to, elder ministry, family ministry, healing services, prayer circles, etc. and
* Providing a pastoral presence for the congregation in response to a crisis or trauma in the community (such as natural disasters) as well as national and world events. This may include healing, prayer or meditation services.
1. **Outreach Beyond Our Walls**

Pastoral Ministers committed to outreach activities bring their compassionate listening training into the wider Augusta community through volunteer programs at organizations such as MaineGeneral Hospital, Hospice, Alfond Center for Cancer, etc. These Pastoral Ministers:

* Have a desire to connect their faith values with ministry where they reside;
* Support the mission and vision of UUCC as they bring their talents and gifts into the wider world; and
* Represent the church and serve at the will of the host institution. The Pastoral Ministers are expected to attend all training and orientation programs of the programs where they volunteer.