

Church Team Spotlight

OUR PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS (PPR) TEAM

Summer greetings from the Pastor Parish Relations Team (PPR). You may wonder, what is a Pastor Parish Relations Team? How do we serve our church? Believe it or not, you can enter this very question into the Google search engine and the following definition will arrive. "The pastoral relations committee (or team) supports and maintains an open relationship between the minister and members of the congregation. It helps the minister and the members of the church to share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of mission". We here at First Congregational would add to that definition by saying "The PPR team helps facilitate the direct and open communications between members and our minister with a goal of helping both parties feel as comfortable as possible when difficult issues need to be addressed". This type of team can be most useful when new ministers join a long standing congregation, which is precisely why our team exists.

Our PPR team, in addition to supporting congregational needs, has been spearheading the creation of a Pastoral Evaluation process for our church. Just as many of us experience in our own professions, a well rounded evaluation includes both a self assessment as well as an evaluation by others. Through this process, areas of success as well as areas of improvement are identified. Goals and objectives then follow to help set the course forward.

The UCC provides guidance on the creation of pastoral evaluations, and there are several publications which highlight the delicate nature in which a pastoral evaluation should be considered. Our team has been hard at work reading and considering these resource materials to help guide us forward. We have created a rough draft of the evaluation, which we will be fine tuning throughout the next few weeks. The hope is to be ready to begin our first annual evaluation process when the new program year begins next month.

Our PPR team currently consists of six members, including several who were on the Search Committee. This is by design, as it is recommended there is continuity between the hiring of a new minister and the establishment of the PPR team. Now that our team will be completing its third year, we encourage others to consider sharing their talents with the team. If you have interest in joining us, we encourage you to complete the Ministry Options Survey, and we will reach out to you.

If you'd like to engage the PPR team for support, please feel free to send us an email at portuccppr@gmail.com. All members of the PPR team, including Pastor Scott, have access and one of us would be happy to respond.

Sincerely, Your PPR Team

Shandy Roehrig, Pam Geiken, Sarah Riemer, Doug McManus and Joe Mueller