

## Sabbatical Minister Job Posting 2-1-25

**Summary:** First Unitarian Church of Omaha is hiring a Sabbatical Minister to provide support in the areas of worship, leadership, and adult religious education during the sabbatical of our Settled Minister, Rev. Shari Woodbury. The contract is for 1/3 time over four months, beginning in July 2025. The Sabbatical Minister will preach 6 times over that period, provide staff supervision, offer an adult religious education opportunity, and be available to lay leadership. The Sabbatical Minister may reside in provided housing near downtown Omaha, perhaps using the period as a writing retreat or time of rest and reflection. Should the Sabbatical Minister be based in a community or state within driving distance, the sabbatical housing may be used during weekend trips to Omaha, with other work being done remotely.

**Hiring Congregation:** First Unitarian Church of Omaha, Nebraska [www.firstuuumaha.org](http://www.firstuuumaha.org)

**Position Title:** Sabbatical Minister

**Effective Dates:** July 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025

**Time Estimate:** 1/3 or 33%

**Salary:** \$6,660 baseline, with possibility of additional income from officiating any rites of passage, if interested, and additional Sundays in the pulpit

**Position Type:** Omaha-based OR hybrid – a combination of in-person presence (6 preaching Sundays), and virtual support.

**Housing:** Provided as part of the compensation package. The Sabbatical Minister will have use of an apartment of a church member, either full-time or during visits to Omaha, if serving in hybrid fashion.

The apartment is in a secured-entrance apartment building built in 2020. It's conveniently located near downtown Omaha, the active Old Market, Omaha's robust performing arts district, the Gene Leahy Mall and Riverfront where outdoor performances and community activities are offered spring - autumn.

The spacious, wheelchair accessible, well-lit apartment is on the 4th/top floor. It features a spacious and open kitchen, dining area and living room. The glass windowed north wall looks out over the Old Market area, the Riverfront, Missouri River and into Iowa and Council Bluffs.

A balcony with tables and chairs is a very inviting work/study/relax space. The apartment has 2 full baths and a large master bedroom. A 2nd bedroom serves as an office. A 3rd bedroom is for owner's use and will be locked and unavailable to the Sabbatical Minister.

Distance from apartment to church is 1.5 miles. The Sabbatical Minister will be the only occupant of the apartment during the 4 month sabbatical period.

### About the Church:

First Unitarian Church is an inclusive, multigenerational congregation with strong professional and lay leadership. Our Colonial Revival style building, a historic landmark, brings a touch of New England

to Midtown Omaha, and provides the preacher a spacious, sun-filled sanctuary in which to preach and teach. We are a Welcoming Congregation, diverse in age, theology, ethnicity, and gender and sexual identities, and with an active Side with Love Team. As a church we promote rationality, spirituality, and the search for justice in our approach to the fundamental questions of human existence. Our Mission is fostering the whole person with compassion, and justice. Our Vision is an inclusive community that listens, engages, inspires, and acts. Our congregation is made up of 175 members and many friends.

### **Requirements:**

- Ordained as a Unitarian Universalist Minister, in good standing with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), and in covenant with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA). Persons not yet ordained, but who have attained Preliminary Fellowship with the MFC, and who have completed their ministerial internship, are also welcome to apply. Alternately, the applicant may be ordained in a similar, liberal tradition, be in good standing, and be willing to honor the UUMA guidelines while serving in the position.
- Experience with worship planning, pulpit skills, staff leadership, adult faith formation, and congregational governance.
- Flexible attitude for adapting to unanticipated changes such as remote-only Sunday services and online personal interactions.
- Familiarity with the use of Microsoft Office and Google suites, as well as video conferencing, such as Zoom.
- A background check will be conducted prior to hire. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination (or medical exemption) required.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Support coverage of key tasks and transitions by working closely with the core staff, Sabbatical Team, and key lay leaders at the beginning, end, and as needed throughout the sabbatical period.
- Provide supervision, leadership, and coordination among the staff. This includes leading twice-monthly staff meetings, and being available to core staff individually for 1:1 check-ins and guidance. (Core staff includes admin/membership, RE, and music staff.)
- Attend Worship Arts Team meetings monthly, and be available to lay worship associates for support. Meet with the Sabbatical Team if requested.
- Attend monthly Board of Trustees meetings. Be available to Board officers and to the Ministry Team Council for consultation upon request.
- Should any pastoral care needs come to your attention, relay them to the Pastoral Care Minister (a separate contract position during the sabbatical period).
- Preach a minimum of 6 out of 17 Sunday services over the four month period – the first Sunday and approximately every third Sunday thereafter, or as negotiated with the Worship Arts Team. If

requested by the Worship Arts Team and agreed upon by the Sabbatical Minister, additional Sundays beyond the 6 required may be scheduled, and would be separately compensated.

- Additional income opportunities may be available if rites of passage are requested by congregants during the sabbatical period. In that event, both the Sabbatical Minister and Pastoral Care Minister (short-term contract positions) may be contacted about availability and interest to officiate. Officiating rites of passage will be compensated at [UUMA scale rates](#).
- For your Sundays in the pulpit, coordinate planning with worship associates, musicians and others in time for e-news and Order of Service deadlines.
- Offer a class, workshop, or other adult or multi-gen experience aligned to the Sabbatical Minister's interests. (Sessions may be offered via Zoom or in person, in alignment with minister's presence in Omaha.)
- Meet in late April or early May with the Settled Minister and core staff for introductions and planning; this may be done via Zoom. The Settled Minister and/or Worship Team will also coordinate in advance with the Sabbatical Minister to schedule pulpit appearances.

**To Apply for this Position:**

Please submit the following for our consideration:

- 1) Letter of interest
- 2) Resume
- 3) Sample sermon(s), preferably video or audio files or links accessible online
- 4) Names and contact information of two references

Please send these materials and any questions to: [sabteam@firstuomaha.org](mailto:sabteam@firstuomaha.org) (which includes Rev. Woodbury, along with lay leaders).

**Deadline:**

Applications will be considered through March 1, 2024. Interviews will start in early March. Thank you for considering service to our congregation during this time of renewal. We look forward to hearing from you.