

Pastor's Report to
Council for May 2025

5 community contacts
1 funeral (Joe Smath)
2 nursing home services
9 pastoral conversations (longer than 15 minutes)
1 Conference meeting and 1 meeting with the National Setting
5 committee meetings within the Congregation

A huge thanks to everyone involved in putting together the meeting room beside the offices in the Outreach Center, notably Jaylene Bengtson. It's starting to look really good, and I know it will be a more inviting space – reflective of our congregational welcome. Family Promise has already been in a couple of times to work with families transitioning into a few open units of low-income housing. I have also participated in conversations between Family Promise and Reverence House, regarding the necessity for supportive housing and wraparound care. Reverence House may begin using our space, as available in the fall, for educational purposes for its clients and former clients.

Those of us involved in the Holocaust remembrance program gathered to bid farewell to Rabbi Jan Katz, who is retiring at the end of next week. There will be a farewell service for her that I plan on attending. The new Rabbi will begin serving in July, and I know that several of us plan on reaching out to welcome him to the Lakes Region. In addition, beginning in August, I will be on the Search Committee for a new Chaplain for Concord Hospital - Laconia.

We had a New Member Orientation session on Father's Day. 5 folks of the 8 we have been in contact with attended; we are hoping to have a reception of new members during the service on August 3rd. The Membership committee has worked very hard to come up with a timeline/procedure for ensuring that these services flow smoothly. There will likely be another class of new members towards the end of the year – the three who were unable to make it this time, and any more who begin attending between now and then.

Per my call agreement, I will be taking a "mini sabbatical" in September. Amy Weston Kane, a MID who is approved for ordination pending call, will be providing sabbatical coverage.