

I am a Community Minister who was installed and ordained by my church, Eastrose Fellowship UU in Portland, OR. My job is Director of Pastoral Services at St. Jude Care Center. St. Jude's is a facility of 136 beds that specializes in Alzheimer and other dementias. I offer pastoral care to staff, residents and their families and friends. I lead a daily worship service, offer special services (Holiday, Thanksgiving, Easter), have taught a 6 week class on the mission statement, visit the sick in the hospital, offer memorial services to those who die, help lead an Alzheimer support group, participate in a new employee training, and will be starting up an ethics committee and work on the volunteer organization. I love my job. I am an out lesbian to the staff, not an issue, as there are many open lesbian and gay staff. St. Jude's is not Catholic, but run by the Ecumenical Order of Charity, an ecumenical Christian organization of brothers and sisters. As a community minister with Eastrose, I have a yearly contract. This past year I have offered to provide two sermons and teach a new UU class quarterly. I do not get paid. But next year's contract we will be talking about getting some money for workshops. I represent Eastrose out in the community at events that I have participated in (interfaith services, panel discussions). I also am back up to the parish minister (we are in search) for weddings, memorials, baby dedications, etc. I do attend board meetings, although do not have a vote. I do not belong to any committees, but greet people once a month and help out with occasional fundraisers. I have a vote during congregational meetings as I am a member but represent myself as the community minister. I am real clear on my boundaries—I am not the parish minister. At this point if offered \$ to provide pastoral care because of no parish minister, I would say no, as my life is too full. I speak at other UU churches about my community ministry and hope to educate others. I love my ministry. Life is an adventure!

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