

Learning Agreement with

Student

Intern Committee

Church

Supervisor(s)

Beginning Date
September 10, 2000

Termination Date
May 2002

Supervisory Sessions

Individual supervision every two weeks
Group supervision weekly
Clinical supervision every two weeks*

Resources and Interests

Addiction is, in part, a spiritual illness, and healing is largely a spiritual process—the recovery of a true center of meaning in one's life. It is my strong conviction that the UU church, with its commitment to each individual's pursuit of spiritual truth, can uniquely provide a healing environment for people dealing with the ravages of addiction.

I am a certified addictions therapist with 15 years of clinical and pastoral counseling experience. I have over 20 years of experience as a lay leader in UU congregations, including 12 years as a lay minister. (At the time there were six lay ministers chosen by the senior minister to extend his ministry. We received ongoing training and supervision, and we assisted the minister in Sunday services, visitation to the sick and elderly, pastoral counseling, among other duties. In addition, we each had a particular area of specialization, such as gay and lesbian issues, the elderly, and, in my case, addictions.) I have finished the coursework for my DMin in pastoral psychology, with a special emphasis on addictions.

Context

I am proposing a church-based community ministry internship, serving people touched

*Clinical supervision for pastoral/addictions counseling

by addiction. I hope to prepare for a ministry that can empower UU congregations to become healing environments for people whose lives are caught up in addiction and to extend this support to the larger community. My internship site is _____ a large (750 members) UU congregation on _____ with a commitment to social outreach and community ministry.

My duties will include (1) working with the staff and congregation to develop/facilitate programs for people touched by addiction, such as recovery and support groups, adult education and RE awareness and prevention programs, staff training in assessment and referral, and community outreach programs; (2) participating in the life of the church as a member of the ministerial staff—assisting or leading worship services, doing weddings, dedications, and memorial services, attending all staff and ministers' meetings, etc.; and (3) doing one-on-one pastoral/addictions counseling (primarily short-term assessment and referral).

Learning Goals

1. To put theories of spiritual recovery from addiction into practice in a congregational setting.
2. To present my community ministry ideas to _____'s Board of Trustees and congregation so that they can: (1) understand and embrace the goals of the program, (2) develop trust in and a connection to me as a community minister, and (3) offer feedback and help to develop the program.
3. To use the insights gained at _____ to develop a model for future consulting relationships with other UU congregations.
4. To learn what sorts of church-based programs will be embraced by the larger community.
5. To learn about the addiction prevention and recovery resources of _____ and how to make this knowledge available to the congregation and staff of _____.
6. To develop my capacity to organize/lead programs in the church for people affected by addiction and to establish addiction prevention and recovery programming that is sustainable after I am no longer at _____.
7. To develop a personal career path for a church-based community ministry focusing on addictions.
 - a. What are the employment opportunities?
 - b. How can I make this ministry broadly useful to the denomination?

Concerns

1. Will people learn to trust me as an outsider around a sensitive issue such as addiction?
2. Will I be able to identify and resolve privacy issues for members of the congregation who wish to participate in addiction programs (and will unaddressed privacy issues prevent people from participating)?
3. Will my identification as "addictions" minister lessen access to me (i.e., people afraid they will be stigmatized if they seek me out)?
4. Will people in recovery want to openly join in this work, and if they don't, will there be a core of people interested in doing community work?

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
1. Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plan, lead, and preach in 5 worship services (including intergenerational services with family homilies) b. Plan/conduct or participate in weddings, dedications, and memorial services
2. Pastoral care; counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish office hours for assessment and referral counseling b. Establish availability for home calls c. Establish network of congregants in recovery to do 12-step counseling d. Create 4-session addictions/attachments education module for secondary prevention (content: drug facts and how-to-tell-if-there's-a-problem info) e. Create an Addictions Service Committee of church members to create, plan, and initiate programs for and for the larger community
3. Staff training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess staff (clergy, RE, etc.) training needs in addictions assessment and referral—create retreat program b. Create informational packet on spiritual recovery from addictions, resources, and bibliography for staff and church “paraministers” and “chaplains”
4. Adult education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Create and facilitate recovery/spirituality group for people in recovery grappling with spirituality issues b. Create and facilitate (or train others to facilitate) support group for friends and loved ones of people grappling with addiction
5. Religious education	Explore with RE director plans/resources for primary/secondary prevention in curriculum; develop prevention module or identify existing addictions curriculum that could be brought in
6. Community outreach	Explore community service opportunities for members of the congregation, e.g., volunteering at shelters, giving assistance to families with relatives in treatment, etc.
7. UUA, district, colleagues	a. Participate in activities of Society for Larger

Ministry

- b. Participate in District and UUMA activities
- c. Do information/training sessions on ministry to the addicted and, specifically, the addiction ministry at to other UU churches and a District Ministers Association meeting

AGREEMENT ACCEPTED BY: _____

Board Chair)

DATE 2/15/01

STUDENT: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

INTERN COMMITTEE CHAIR: _____