

Report of the Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Sarah Ivy Gibb

June 11, 2006

On October 2, 2005, the relationship I'd been exploring with the Unitarian Universalist Church of South County (now Tapestry) became official. By unanimous vote, those present at the fall congregational meeting both created the role of Affiliated Community Minister and affirmed me as the person who would fill that role.

As stipulated in the letter of agreement between me and the congregation, I preach two times and teach two adult religious education courses per year, without compensation. Services rendered beyond that number receive compensation.

It is my hope that my offerings in adult religious education have fit nicely with the congregational leadership's desire to offer in increased level of programming, and the members' desire for more in-depth explorations of Unitarian Universalism and its role in their own lives. I taught two courses at Tapestry: *Lifecraft* (based on Forrest Church's book) in the fall and *A Chosen Faith* (based on John Buehrens's and Church's book). Both were well-received.

I preached five times at Tapestry this year, due largely to the minister's vacation and study leave in January and April.

Speaking of that minister, it has been a pleasure to work with my fiancé John Millsbaugh in this position. He has been good at helping to define my role to the congregation—helping to educate the congregation about the limited nature of the Affiliated Community Minister role. With a full-time position as Adult Programs Director for the UUA, it is important to me that my time and role with Tapestry remain clearly defined.

Before I began I knew that I would enjoy working with the good people of this congregation, but I have found this relationship with Tapestry a true delight. Further, the affiliated community minister role grounds my work as Adult Programs Director, helping me "keep it real" by grounding my national work in congregational dynamics and the emotional and religious lives of Unitarian Universalist laypersons. Thank you for making our shared ministry possible!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sarah Gibb