

# Congregational Intern Reflection Fall 2020

## Syllabus - Due Dates

Rev. Tera Klein

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Fridays and Saturdays are generally my days off.

I will do my best to respond to inquiries within 24 hours.

If it's an emergency, feel free to text me.

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Texts for Course: *Engage: A Theological Field Education Toolkit*, Matthew Floding, Editor. Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

*Widening the Circle of Concern*, UUA Commission on Institutional Change, Unitarian Universalist Association, 2020.

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>.

Meeting Days: First and third Mondays of the month, 10:30 am - noon PST

Our first meeting will be Monday, September 21.

Zoom Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9791373175>.

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September 15, 2020

### **Who Are You As A Minister?**

Read Chapters 1 & 2 in Floding, pp. 5-16.

Bring something that symbolizes who you are now as a minister. It can be an object, song, drawing, etc.

What type of support do you most need from this particular group of colleagues?

As an adult learner, what do you need from supervision with your Teaching Pastor, so that you can live into your ministry potential?

Learning Service Agreement: what do you need or want to learn? What does your congregation need/expect from you? Is there a balance there or is there tension?

October 5

### **Who Is Your Congregation? What Is Your Community Context?**

Read Chapter 4 in Floding, pp. 23-27

Read "Trends" and "Congregations and Communities" in *Widening the Circle of Concern*.

How do you describe your congregational context? Is there an overall energy or identity that is emerging as you get to know your congregation? Is that similar or different than you imagined? If you are serving a Unitarian Universalist community, are there ways that your congregation feels more or less UU?

Our ministries are incredibly contextual, whether they are parish or community. As ministers, it is important that we understand the rich tapestry of the world surrounding our ministry community - in essence, we need to “exegete” our cities or towns, to ensure our ministries have relevance outside the walls or boundaries of the congregations/communities we serve.

To discover more about the area in which you are serving, invite a congregational leader or staff member who is familiar with the city into a one-on-one conversation with you.

Ask some of the following questions:

- Describe the area surrounding the congregation
- Who lives in the neighborhood(s)
- Are there zones or regions within your city?
- What are the growth patterns?
- What are the power centers in the city?
- Is your congregation in relationship with the community surrounding it?
- Who are the congregation’s community partners?
- What are the areas of greatest challenge and greatest opportunity?

After the conversation, reflect on what you heard and learned. Is there a need emerging for the type of ministry and message you want to bring to the world? Are there community partners you want to connect with?

October 19

### **Maintaining Heart/Mind/Body/Spirit Connection**

Read Chapters 7 & 8 in Floding, pp. 41-52

Spiritual practice and time for reflection is crucial to keeping our balance and focus in ministry, more so than ever during this time of pandemic, election season, and justice organizing.

Bring to our class a piece of music, reading, art, body movement, etc. that helps you maintain your heart/mind/body/spirit connection.

How are you doing with keeping up with your spiritual practices? Do you need an accountability partner to help you maintain it?

November 1

### **Learning Service Agreement due**

Send to Tera via email.

November 2

### **Bringing Spirit into the (Zoom) Sanctuary**

Read Chapters 9 & 10 in Floding, pp. 53-63

Read "Innovations and Risk Taking" in *Widening the Circle of Concern*

There is an election tomorrow! How has the election, or the democratic process, shown up in your congregation?

How is the urgent nature of this election showing up in worship or in preaching?

Aside from the impending election:

How are you doing with prepping and leading online worship?

Which parts of the worship service resonate with you?

Which liturgical elements are a struggle for you to connect with?

What do you need to work on?

November 16

### **Pastoral Care**

Read Chapter 11 in Floding, pp. 65-72

Guest Minister: Rev. KC Slack

By this time, you have probably had an opportunity to engage in some form of pastoral care in your community.

1. How was this different from pastoral care or spiritual listening that you may have done as a lay leader or CPE chaplain?

2. Were you able to move beyond emotions and delve into how the matter at hand is touching them at a spiritual level

3. How does your own understanding of God, or not-God, or the Sacred play into the pastoral care encounter?

December 2

### **Winter Holidays and Your Theology(ies)**

It's Winter Holiday season! The miracle and mystery of the longest night of the year is upon us. For some, this liturgical season can be especially complex, especially this year as many of our rituals may be done online, or without large gatherings of congregation, friends and family.

1. Do the theological underpinnings of the community you serve match up with your own?
2. If not - how are you navigating that?
3. How are you taking extra care of your mind/body/spirit in this intense time of year?

December 14

### **Starr King Classes End**

January 2020

### **Mid-term Evaluations**

January will be mid-point for many of you, and your evaluations will be due. Please arrange a date with me by which you will send me your mid-term evaluations.

January 2020

### **Intern Retreat/Gathering**

In the past, the Intern Ministers have gathered in person a few days before Symposium. Right now, I am unclear about whether or not this will take place. Stay tuned!