

ALBANY UU SERVICE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Service Opportunity Name/Title: Growth Through Service Conversation Leader

Service Opportunity Brief Description:

A Growth Through Service (GTS) Conversation Leader has the pleasure to spend an hour with a fellow congregant (hour and a half if meeting with a couple) getting to know that person – their background, their family, their hopes and dreams, how Albany UU is a part of their life journey, and how Albany UU could help that person along on their spiritual path in future.

Service Opportunity Detailed Description:

The Conversation Leaders meet approximately 8 times a year. The goal is for each Conversation Leader to have two conversations per month. (Note: a conversation with a couple constitutes two conversations.) The Conversation Leader then writes up their notes and sends them in draft form to the Conversation Partner (the person they had the conversation with) for comments, corrections, and the opportunity to add anything they forgot to say.

The final conversation write-up goes into the GTS database, as a reference for use by the GTS Leadership Team. These write-ups are used to make sure that members of the congregation are never asked to take on a volunteer position that they are unsuited for. The Leadership Team's job is to use the database to help match vacant volunteer positions with potential volunteers with the skills, interest, commitment level, and life journey that matches the job requirements.

Length of Service Commitment: 1 year

“This opportunity will enable you to get to know members of the congregation of your choosing, whom you would like to get to know better, and to learn about their life journey, their hopes, dreams, and their passions. Though special writing skills are not needed, this is an opportunity to test one's ability to accurately document a private conversation, which if done well, provides a satisfying validation for the conversation partner. In other words, a good writeup says to the conversation partner “I listened and I heard you.”

Skills Needed:

Above all, the volunteer needs good listening skills. A modicum of writing skills are necessary, but there is no need for English majors, as the write-ups are not public documents and are used only for the information in them.

Training, assistance, and safety requirements:

In addition to help from the GTS Leadership Team and the other Conversation Leaders in getting started in this volunteer job, there is a detailed “script” with a series of questions to ask in the conversations, plus a detailed explanation of the goals of the conversation, and the history of Growth Through Service at Albany UU.

Number of positions available: 12

Key words: computer skills, write