

ALBANY UU SERVICE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Service Opportunity Name/Title: Pastoral Care Associates Team member

Service Opportunity Brief Description:

Eight Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs) provide pastoral care to members of the congregation on a rotating basis.

Service Opportunity Detailed Description:

Each Sunday during the church year (September to June) two PCAs are on duty. On Sundays during the summer, one PCA is on duty each week. Though workload varies from week to week, in general the workload tends to be less during the summer.

During Joys and Sorrows, a PCA may identify a congregant who might appreciate pastoral care or a listening ear. Each Sunday, the PCA(s) on duty are announced. Other days of the week, if a need for pastoral care arises - received either by the minister or the office staff - one of the members on Sunday duty or another more appropriate PCA may be chosen. PCAs can be selected by the minister or self-selected in order to match the needs of the requestor to the skills and background of the associate. Also, the current workload of the PCA(s) can be considered so that the overall workload is spread amongst the team.

Length of Service Commitment: 2 years

This opportunity, probably more than any other, will enable you to create close personal ties between you and members of the congregation.

Skills Needed:

First and foremost, PCAs must be compassionate listeners. They also must be good at oral communication, and able to keep confidential their interactions with those seeking care.

Training, assistance, and safety requirements:

Whenever new PCAs join the Team, an 8-hour training for all PCAs takes place. This happens approximately once a year. In addition, every two months there is a one-hour refresher training on a specific topic.

Number of positions available: 8

Key words: people skills