

Position Description

Speaker of the Free Congregation*



In what follows, the responsibilities of the Speaker of the Free Congregation are delineated under each of the three areas of congregational development that the membership has determined to be priorities (of equal standing).

For the 2008-09 fiscal year, the Speaker position is considered one-third time. However, the congregation has determined that membership growth is a top priority, that professional leadership is essential to that growth, and that a half-time Speaker position is feasible within the next two years.

Priority: QUALITY SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

- The Speaker will create and present one – and, possibly, two – challenging and inspirational Sunday programs per month.
- He/She will work closely with the Administrator and the Program Committee in planning and developing quality Sunday programming (52 weeks a year).

Priority: CONGREGATIONAL UNITY AND FELLOWSHIP

- The Speaker will be present at as many Sunday programs as possible in order to establish his/her identification with the congregation.
- He/She will help to plan and conduct congregational workshops as needed and provide at least one Adult RE class per year.
- He/She will, when called upon by the membership, preside over the marking of special events, such as marriages, child dedications, funerals, memorials, etc.
- He/She will provide advice and support for any group within the congregation that has been designated by the Board to attend to the special or emergency needs of members, especially those involving illness, grieving, hardship, and other personally challenging circumstances; or, in the absence of such a group, will provide succor whenever possible and practicable within the scope of his/her other commitments.

Priority: MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

- The Speaker will work closely with the Membership Committee and the Board of Directors to plan and implement strategies to grow the membership, including attracting visitors and strengthening connections with new and prospective members, especially young families.

* “Speaker” is the title conferred upon the congregation’s leader and teacher by the founders. Eduard Schröder served as Speaker from 1852 to 1886. Max Gaebler, following his retirement from First Unitarian Society of Madison after 35 years as Parish Minister, served the Free Congregation as its part-time Speaker from 1989 to 1992. Rev. Jody Whelden, who served quarter-time from May, 2005, to June, 2007, was the first to hold the title of “Minister”.