

What has challenged me most in ministry:

Scarcity thinking

Gossip

The unintended enmity and discord fostered by the overuse of email to interpret and explain

Stereotyping religiously conservative folks

Tentativeness in using the language of faith, which is the tool of theology

Having the operational business of congregational life as the primary activity of the church

Inefficient practices by non-profit organizations

Indirectness

Lack of a clear understanding of the respective roles of minister and layperson

An absence of articulated mission and vision for the church and congregation

What I love about the people with whom I have served as minister:

Tenacity and persistence

Will and resolve

Faith, the willingness to trust life, others, and the prospect and promises the future might hold

Open minds, open hearts, and open arms

The care with which children are raised, and the needs of others' children attended to

When someone speaks their mind clearly, forthrightly, and with intelligence

Tenderness even in the face of tragedy and pain

The immense variety of experiences, and religious expression

Optimism, trust, and affection