

Based on who we are as a congregation, and the role we envision for our term call pastor, we imagine a minister who possesses the following qualities:

A profound and heartfelt (soulful?) commitment to the good news of the Gospel

An ability to speak from experience about the transformative effects of God's grace

Willingness to "lead from the side" rather than as a "sage on the stage"

Ability to be serious, without taking themselves seriously

Willingness to assume responsibility for what the congregation hears - but not for what the congregation believes

Ability to embrace and embody the HFASS motto: "anti-excellence, pro-participation."

A working knowledge of the Great British Bake Off, Doctor Who, or Star Wars. Active participation in one or more sci-fi fandoms is considered a plus.

This person will be comfortable:

Leading folks who may be attending church for the first time. Or the last time. Or giving it another try, because they can't seem to stay away.

Working with a church that doesn't have an office. Or committees.

Serving a congregation that's queer, in every sense of the word.

Fostering community among a bunch of introverts

Worshiping in the round, where all eyes are on the altar.

With kids. They sit (or crawl, or twirl) in the center of our worship space because they're central to who we are.

Singing hymns a capella, but never solo (If HFASS ever got a praise band, we'd probably lose our congregation.).

Sharing meals with a crowd. As a community centered around the Open Table, we share meals together. A lot.

Using Facebook. It's not perfect, but it's how we stay in touch and get shit done when we can't be face to face.

This person won't be shocked that:

Attendance on Sunday evening swings from 120 to 200. Lower than that during the Emmys, Oscars, or when Brandi Carlisle is performing at Red Rocks.

Two Catholic priests who fell in love with each other in seminary are now some of our most conservative members.

Snacks show up at liturgy. Popsicles and animal crackers are particular favorites among the adults.

If *Outliers* is right that it takes 10,000 hours to master a skill, then the average HFASSer is a certified pro at therapy.

Finally, if we find a minister that embodies all these characteristics, and is willing to take on the job as described, we imagine they won't mind if we call them our "HFASS unicorn."