



**Simsbury United Methodist Church**  
**2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report**  
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

## **Staff Parish Relations (SPR)**

*By Jim Swearingen*  
*Chairperson*

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Simsbury United Methodist Church is blessed to have a talented and dedicated staff working on the many active church ministries.

During 2016, Pastor Woody took a well-deserved sabbatical to thoughtfully reflect on his role in our church and "recharge his mental and physical batteries". Pastor Woody has been and continues to be a wonderful spiritual leader for our congregation.

In June, Tonille Watkis joined our staff as youth leader. We are pleased to have her on board as she focuses on developing a vibrant youth program.

After meeting with Pastor Peter regarding activities and growth of the West Granby United Methodist Church, SPR decided to recommend the covenant between our churches not be renewed as of July 1, 2017. This recommendation was discussed at the October Church Council Meeting and approved by those in attendance.

During the spring Church Council Meeting, attendees discussed the need to update SUMC's Safe Sanctuaries Program. A small group undertook this update and in September, the new policy was approved by Church Council. A committee has been formed to determine the most effective way to implement the policy including required record keeping/retention of records.

All staff members have an SPR liaison who communicates with their assigned staff member and acts as a sounding board (concerns & opportunities).

Jim Swearingen  
SPR Chair