

RITUAL OF ORDINATION

Chris: Ellen, will you please rise and face the congregation?

Within Unitarian Universalism the authority to ordain lies solely with our congregations. It is upon one of our own that we confer the sacred charge of ordained ministry. We acknowledge and honor the sacred nature of each one of us who participates in our living tradition. As congregations, we chose to ordain one among us and entrust you with the life-long task of ministering to this world and its people, both within our congregations and beyond.

Jim: In the tradition of our free church, we are gathered here today from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lynchburg and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Together, we have the honor of adding you as a minister to our living tradition that reaches far back in time and reaches forward into the future. The act of ordination bestows upon you the authority of religious leadership, the title of Reverend, the privilege to wear a stole and to accept the responsibilities of that mantle.

Chris: Ellen, you have prepared yourself for this vocation with contemplation, study, and experience. You have shared your gifts with our congregations, and you have been affirmed in preliminary fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

Jim: Ellen, we offer you ordination. Wherever you may serve, we would have you preach the word of wisdom in freedom and love, minister to joys and sorrows alike, work for justice and peace, and strive to live the principles of our free faith. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Ellen: I do.

Chris: As the congregation in which Ellen recognized her call to serve in the ministry of our living tradition, our congregation affirms the ordination of Ellen Plummer. Will the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Blacksburg please rise in body or spirit?

Jim: As the congregation that supported Ellen's growth into the minister she is today, our congregation affirms the ordination of Ellen Plummer. Will the members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg now rise in body or spirit?

Chris: Members of UUC and UUCL, we invite you now to speak the words of ordination, printed in your order of service and on the screen.

Members of UUCR and UUC: We, the members of UUC and UUCL, do hereby joyfully ordain you, the Reverend Dr. Ellen Wright Plummer, into Unitarian Universalist ministry. May you minister with your whole self: heart, body, mind, and spirit. May you always speak the truth as you know it, demonstrating humility, curiosity, and courage. May you minister with love, justice, and compassion; be a witness to the living tradition of our faith; and be faithful in service of healing the world. We pledge to be with you in the spirit of shared ministry. May you continue to grow, heal, and transform yourself and the world as you live into this call for the rest of your days.

Jim: I invite everyone - family, friends, colleagues and companions - to rise in body or in spirit and join together in affirming this ordination.

All Gathered: We have witnessed and accompanied you as you prepared for this day. With joy and pride, we affirm your ordination and offer our blessings upon your ministry. As you go forth, know that our support and love goes with you, wherever your call may lead.

Chris: Ellen, do you accept the responsibilities and the joys, the privileges and the burdens of ordained ministry in our Unitarian Universalist tradition?

Ellen: With humility, gratitude, and love, I do.

Jim: We celebrate you now as a Unitarian Universalist minister and affirm your ordination as the Reverend Ellen Plummer. May you be nourished and sustained throughout your service, and like the chalice, may your ministry be a blaze of light and warmth, and a well of healing and justice in the world. Amen and blessed be!

All Gathered: Amen and blessed be.