

The Unitarian Church of Evanston

Nurturing the human spirit for a world made whole



Photo by Cindy Lang

The Installation of The Reverend Eileen Riley Wiviott

October 23, 2021

“In a real sense all life is interrelated. All [people] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.”

— *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Love is the spirit of this church
And service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

Message for All Ages *Weaving Our Path*, adapted from a story by Martha Dallas, told by
Julica Hermann de la Fuente, Director of Liberation and Transformation
Ministries at the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

Musical Offering *Josefin's Waltz* by Roger Tallroth
Sarah Montzka, viola; Luke Montzka, double bass; Karl Montzka, piano

Reading *The Task of the Religious Community* by Mark Morrison-Reed
Rev. Justine Sullivan, Interim Minister UU Church of Brunswick, Maine

Offering Rev. Hilary Krivchenia, Minister of Countryside
Church Unitarian Universalist

*Please make checks out to UCE and write Installation in the memo line. You may also text to give
by texting a dollar amount and OFFERING to (312) 584-9160. All text-to-give dated today,
October 23 will go to the UUA Living Tradition Fund.*

Offertory “The City Gates” from *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky
Gregory Shifrin, piano

Sermon *Together by Choice, United in Purpose*
Rev. Connie Simon, Minister of First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati

Anthem *We Shall Be Known* by Karisha Longaker of MaMuse
UCE Choir; Vickie Hellyer, conductor; Teddy, Kirby, Bridget and Ben Kornfeld,
Finnean, Julianna, Norell, and Jay Lidell,
Ellie Feddersen, Shirley Adams, and Diane Markel, dancers

All ages are invited to untie scarves and dance rather than sing along.

Act of Installation Joe Romeo, President of the Board of Trustees

Joe Romeo: We gather this afternoon to install Rev. Eileen Wiviott as the 14th settled senior minister of this congregation. The coming together of congregation and minister has special significance, particularly when there is involved, as is the case for us, a long relationship of shared ministry. Rev. Eileen, we have freely chosen you as our minister and you have freely chosen to serve us in covenant. We call you to partner with us in

pursuit of our common mission, *nurturing the human spirit for a world made whole*. We call you to make our concerns your concerns, and to lead us in the paths of love, service, truth, and peace. We ask that you do as you always have, to preach, with integrity and freedom, to accompany us in our joys and sorrows, and to demonstrate through words and actions, as fully as you are able, the principles of our free faith. Are you prepared to accept the invitation of this congregation to this ministry?

Rev. Eileen: I gladly accept this invitation, with your partnership and kinship.

Joe Romeo: Will the members of The Unitarian Church of Evanston please rise in body or in spirit and say with me the words from the order of service so that, together, we may affirm our call to Rev. Eileen, and her acceptance of that call.

Congregation: We, the members of The Unitarian Church of Evanston, do hereby install you, Eileen Riley Wiviott, as senior minister of our congregation. For our part, we pledge to work with you to uphold the great gifts of our tradition: its deep trust and faith in the human spirit; its reverence for life; its dedication to the free and responsible search for meaning; and its recognition of the mystery, beauty, and wonder of the universe.

Rev. Eileen: With humility, gratitude and joy, I take up the ministry to which you have called me. In recognition of my call, which has long been in formation among you, I pledge myself to you, to the history of this congregation, to its present, and to its future. In making this promise, I rededicate myself to a search which has no ending, to discover and share new truth and the wisdom of history. I pledge myself anew to the practice of Beloved Community, to accompany you in times of loss and to celebrate with you in times of triumph, to challenge and encourage us to pursue a more loving, sustainable, and equitable world. In so doing, I pledge myself once more to the work of cocreation and compassion, collective liberation and companionship, in service to all that is loving, true, and life-giving.

Joe Romeo: Will all who have not yet risen – colleagues, family, and friends – please rise in spirit or in body to bear witness to this act of installation.

All: We do hereby affirm this installation and this ministry. May congregation and minister both be blessed with strength and wisdom in the years of necessary and cherished work ahead.

Investiture of Stole

Carol Nielsen, UCE Member

Charge to the Minister

Rev. Emily Gage, Minister of Faith Development
Unity Temple UU Congregation

Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Karen Gustafson, Retired Interim Minister of UCE

Interfaith Blessing to the Congregation

Rabbi Andrea London, Senior Rabbi of
Beth Emet The Free Synagogue
Rev. Michael Nabors, Senior Minister of
Second Baptist Church of Evanston

All Lifted Hearts

Rev Kendyl Gibbons, lyrics; Jason Shelton, music;
Presented by World House Choir

All clergy are invited to bring light from their faith communities to the shared altar at the front.

Blessing the Bonds of Shared Ministry

Rev. Alice King, Minister of UU Church of
Loudoun, Leesburg, Virginia

Closing Hymn No. 318

We Would Be One

Kiley Korey, Kera Beskin, and Bridget Wild, vocals; Gregory Shifrin, piano

We would be one as now we join in singing our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew to that high cause of greater understanding of who we are, and what in us is true. We would be one in living for each other to show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow a nobler world than we have known today. We would be one in searching for that meaning which bends our hearts and points us on our way. As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service, with love and justice, strive to make us free.

Extinguishing the Chalice

Dr. Elias Ortega, President of Meadville Theological School

Benediction

Rev. Eileen Wiviott, Senior Minister of UCE

Recessional No. 1028

Fire of Commitment

UCE Choir, vocals; Gregory Shifrin, piano

From the light of days remembered burns a beacon bright and clear Guiding hands and hearts and spirits Into faith set free from fear.

Chorus: When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within, Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.

From the stories of our living rings a song both brave and free, Calling pilgrims still to witness to the life of liberty. (Chorus)

From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new, prophetic voice, Which demands a deeper justice built by our courageous choice. (Chorus)

Gratitude

My deepest gratitude to my family - my spouse, David, and the two incredible humans who have blessed our lives, Mable and Grey. Thank you for cheering me on, accompanying me and loving me through every up and down.

To the incomparable UCE Staff

Who make the work of our shared mission joyful and fulfilling:

Vickie Doebele, Liz and Steven Eason, Rev. Susan Frances, Adam Gough, Vickie Hellyer, Jessica Meis, Sandra Robinson, Gregory Shifrin, Kathy Underwood

To the Installation Committee

Who brought creativity and love to the crafting of this celebration for all ages:

Susan Carlton, Vickie Hellyer, Lynn Kendall, Sandra Robinson, Jessica Tomell-Presto, Jenny Walsh, and Bridget Wild

To the Board of Trustees

Who invest many hours and endless energy in faithful, creative, and justice-seeking leadership:

Joe Romeo, Carla Williams, Jim Clark, Emily Eckwahl-Sanna, Lynn Kendall, Ally Hunter, Laura Lothschutz, Michelle Novak, Tom Ticknor; Dana Deane, Secretary and Tom Carlton, Treasurer

The Search Committee

Who held the process with integrity and care through unimaginably difficult circumstances:

Susan Carlton, Tom Hempfling, Sandy McNabb, Emily Eckwahl-Sanna, Steve Serikaku, Jordan Strueber, and Alice Swan

To my dear colleagues in Evanston and beyond

Who have and continue to strengthen my ministry and make me a better person.

To the countless people who have nurtured this shared ministry into being and all those who helped create this service in any way.