

**The First Unitarian Church of Honolulu**  
*A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation*

**The Ordination of Reverend Deborah Bond-Upson**

i thank You God for most this amazing day  
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

**Prelude**

*Original Composition-* Dennis Graue

Ensemble

**Singing Bowl**

(rung by Jasmin)

**Processional**

Youth with Banner  
Rev. Robert Fraser  
Rev. Dr. Terrance Robinson  
Lay Minister Marilyn Bornhorst  
Lay Minister Paul Davis  
Lay Minister Lorraine Fay  
Lay Minister Mickey Selwyn  
Membership Chair Catherine Graham  
DRE Dr. Nan Kleiber  
Lay Minister Lisa Wong-Jacobs  
Past President Charlotte Huszcza  
President Carla Allison  
Lay Minister Joan Schumacher  
Rev. Leland Bond-Upson  
Deborah Bond-Upson

**Processional Hymn #358 SLT**

*Rank by Rank Again We Stand*

Jasmine Stiefel /ALL/Ensemble/

*Rank by rank again we stand,  
from the four winds gathered hither,  
Loud the hallowed walls demand  
whence we come and how, and whither.  
From their stillness breaking clear,  
echoes wake to warn or cheer;  
higher truth from saint and seer  
call to us assembled here.  
Ours the years' memorial store,  
honored days and names we reckon,  
days of comrades gone before,  
lives that speak and deeds that beckon.  
From the dreaming of the night  
to the labors of the day,  
shines their ever-lasting light,  
guiding us upon our way.*

*Though the path be hard and long,  
still we strive in expectation;  
join we now their ageless song  
one with them in aspiration.  
One in name, in honor one,  
guard we well the crown they won;  
what they dreamed be ours to do,  
hope their hopes, and seal them true.*

### Chalice Lighting

Joan/ ALL

Light our search for truth,  
Brace our response to reality,  
Incite our devotion to our fellow beings

### Welcome

(at pulpit with self mic)

Leland

We, the gathered clergy and laity of the 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church of Honolulu, welcome you to this special Sunday service, which encompasses

- Father's Day,
- the acknowledgment and welcome of new members to the Mair family,
- and the first ordination of a minister in the Church's history.

I and others will soon speak to all these things, but before we begin, I'd like to observe that today – being the 19<sup>th</sup> of June – is the day known as Juneteenth. Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, the day that slavery officially ended in all of these United States

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery. On this day 146 years ago, word finally reached Texas slaveholders and their slaves, 2-½ years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. There are a number of theories about why it took so long.

But Juneteenth has expanded over the years to celebrate not only of the final freedom of the Texas slaves, but to celebrate African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

Now Juneteenth is celebrated officially in 37 states, but, oddly, not officially in Hawaii, even though it is celebrated in countries around the world, including Afghanistan.

### Music

*Amazing Grace*

(side stand mic)

Jasmine Stiefel

### Opening Words *What is Ministry?*—Gordon McKeeman

(at pulpit stand mic)

Joan Schumacher

Authored by: Rev Dr (Bucky) Gordon McKeeman (Past President of Starr King School for the Ministry, Minister emeritus of Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, Ohio. Deborah was chair of the presidential search committee that brought Bucky to Starr King School.

Ministry is:

a quality of relationship between and among human beings  
that beckons forth hidden possibilities.

inviting people into deeper, more constant,  
more relevant relationship with the world  
and with one another.....

standing for human dignity and equity,  
for compassion and aspiration.

believing in life in the presence of death.  
struggling for human responsibility  
against principalities and structures  
that ignore humanness and become  
instruments of death.

It is all these and much, much more than all of them,  
present in  
the wordless,  
the unspoken,  
the ineffable.

It is speaking and living the highest we know  
and living with the knowledge that it is  
never as deep, or as wide  
or as high as we wish.

Whenever there is a meeting  
that summons us to our best selves, wherever  
our lostness is found,  
our fragments are united,  
our spines stiffen and  
our muscles grow strong for the task  
there is ministry.

**Story for All Ages:**

*Father's Day*

Deborah Bond-Upson

**Today is Father's Day.**

Today we have a new father, indeed an expanded family with us. Alan, Eva have brought Mark and Carl into their family, and thus into our church family. And we celebrate this today. Could you stand Alan, Eva, Mark, Carl? We will look for you in the reception following.

Fatherly love. Love that is strong, love that protects, love that expects us to contribute. Fatherly love.  
When you think of your father, what comes to mind?

I remember my father's loving look. The way he listened and sparkled that what my brother said, or I said, his eyes twinkled to hear the words of his child. And he was kind, he was generous, he protective. He did not want us to be hurt. He wanted us to be kind. He wanted us to use our brains and our hearts. And we wanted him to be proud.

Does anyone know how the first father's day came to be?

This holiday now celebrated on behalf of all 68 million fathers in the United States?

It started with one young girl in a church, like this.

Sonora Smart was the oldest child of a civil war soldier, William Smart. Sonora's mother died in 1898 when Sonora was a teenager, and she saw her father care for her six sisters and brothers, including an infant. Sonora helped her father, working hard to raise those children.

One day Sonora sat in church and heard the minister preach a Mother's Day sermon. Mother's Day had just recently been invented. But Sonora did not sit thinking with sadness of her mother. And Sonora did not sit thinking with sadness that she Sonora had had to take care of the other children—

instead of going out and having a fun time. No, Sonora sat in the church and thought of her father who was the guiding force in raising those children. Her father had dreams for Sonora and for her sisters and brothers, and he took care of them.

After church, Sonora went to the minister. . . Do you know who the ministers are here today—ministers, please rise! Ministers are people who are standing by to listen, to help, to give good advice, to inspire you to be your best. . . Look at these ministers, because like fathers, they are always on your side.

So, as I was saying, Sonora went to the minister, Rev. Conrad Bluhm, and asked him if he would help her to propose that Father's Day be established, so that fathers like hers would be honored for all they do. And the minister did help. And the proposal did win at the Spokane Ministerial Alliance.

On the very first Father's day on June 19—today's date—but in 1910, Rev. Bluhm delivered a sermon called "The Knighthood that Never Retreats". And at that service, Sonora sat with her husband and her son. And each of the children there was given a red rose. And each of the children gave their rose to their father.

(Deborah hands a rose to each child, children bring roses to their fathers and return)

Let us all think of our fathers.

Our birth father, our adopted father, our uncle, a teacher or minister who cared.

Let us think of those who have fathered us.

Fatherly love. We are grateful for it.

### **Singing the Children to Class**

Jasmine Stiefel /ALL

Go with wisdom, go with wonder, go to meet a brand new day.

Learn to see the light within your, as we send you on your way. -Jaie Ariana Livingston

### **Responsive Reading**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Lisa Wong-Jacobs

Lisa--Erasmus says: "Creep not upon the earth, my brother, like an animal.

*ALL-- Put on those wings which Plato says...*

Lisa -- are caused to grow on the soul by the ardor of love.

*ALL-- Rise above the body to the spirit,*

Lisa-- from the visible to the invisible,

*ALL-- from the letter to the mystical meaning,*

Lisa-- from the sensible to the intelligible,

*ALL-- from the involved to the simple."*

### **Meditation**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Mickey Selwyn

Let us enjoy together a moment of peaceful meditation.

From the sound of the singing bowl, we will take one minute for reflection.

sound the bowl -- one minute elapses-- sound the bowl

### **Offertory**

*North Shore Rain* -Dennis Graue

Ensemble

### **Witnessing the Offering**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Joan/ALL

In all of our dimensions,

We fuel the life of this church.

It's a little odd to be preaching the Ordination sermon for one's wife. To ordain, you know, is to invest with ministerial or priestly function and power. Fortunately, it's you who are doing the Ordaining and not me. I mean, imagine: Deborah and I are having an argument, which we never have, but let's just say, if we did, I could always reach back and say, "hey--now don't forget, I invested you with ministerial and priestly power. You owe me."

That imaginary conversation puts me in mind of a funny story. A true story. I was writing a sermon, and Deborah asked me what it was about, and I said, well, the title is "Accepting a Certain Someone As Your Personal Savior." And she didn't snort, exactly, but kind of tossed her head, and said "I'm your personal savior. And walked on down the hall.

I'm happy to be able to say that's very true about me and us. And I know—'cause I'm paying attention--that quite a number of you are likewise blessed to have partner in life or a *good* friend who saves us from whatever dumb thing we've done out of habit or pride or insecurity. Those of us who are so blessed should give thanks for these our saviors who so love us, that ...

Deborah and I have both fallen in love with Hawaii, and with the aloha spirit, and with the spirit of ohana. For all of you who helped us learn and feel and get with it, mahalo. Mahalo nui loa.

Ministry is mostly about love. About increasing it, and bringing it to the people who need it most.

Here at 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian, we have at the core of the congregation, a group that does essential ministry. It isn't elected, so its members go on about their ministry business year after year. It has unpublicized meetings. In these meetings, the needs of congregants about whom there are concerns, the needs get discussed, in complete confidentiality.

I'm talking about the committee that can't settle on a name: the Caring Committee, the Shared Ministry team, the Lay Ministers. Name, shname. It's what they do that counts. I've observed the tender and considerate consideration this group employs when dealing with suffering from health problems and transitions and losses. It's marvelous to behold the virtually boundless good will that emanates from this bunch. Talk about the spirit of aloha! They are

Mickey Selwyn, first among equals  
Lisa Wong-Jacobs  
Joan Schumacher  
Lorraine Fay  
Paul Davis  
Marilyn Bornhorst, and  
Nan Kleiber

Of the seven Lay Ministers are all here and up front tonight except Paul, who sends regrets. I want everyone to know this resource exists, and that you can put your trust in their smarts, their knowledge, and their good intentions. They are grown-ups in the best sense of the word, a sense in this case of having a quietly spiritual mission of shared ministry.

I want also to say a little something about the shared ministry I have had with Deborah for the past 35 years. We are both members of what was once called the committed generation. We were brought up committed to liberalism and peace and civil rights and cooperation and sharing.

After the 60s, our outlet for these energies was education, which is a kind of love, and therefore a kind of ministry. She and I have been on the same page all our lives together, raising our four children, making a living, and trying to make things better. Education is about as good a way to make things better as there is.

And there is hardly a better expression of love than treating these young learners as if they are individuals. Our technology has the power to educate individually, according to individual talents, interests, and needs.

Long before seminary, Deborah was inspired by theology. In seminary, the ideas of radical respect for each person got a big boost. The President of Starr King School, Bob Kimball, was the literary executor of the great Protestant theologian, Paul Tillich.

Deborah began writing a benediction last week, but as the spirit moved her writing, it got a little longer than people expect benedictions to be, so I've chosen to incorporate it here in this sermon, so you can hear about her ministry in her own words:

*Being with you here,  
Drives my theological roots deep and wide.  
Growing from potato tubers in North Dakota  
Our farmer faith entwining  
With buttonwood trees in Brooklyn;  
Sprouting spring yellow forsythia  
By my teenage bedroom New Jersey window  
As I read Paul Tillich's "The Courage to Be",  
Huddled under sheets late at night with a flashlight.*

*Our small Unitarian Fellowship met in a basement and  
The three Watchung Mountains surrounding our valley had been worn flat,  
Part of the Appalachian range emerged 460 million years ago.  
From this low flat view I first "got" Tillich's truth  
That we are all connected to the "ground of being".  
We have only to know it, to allow it in, and through.*

*To more fully "get it" Tillich pointed me to his teacher Martin Buber.  
Buber said you cannot fully be an "I"  
until you have encountered another as a "Thou". Not an "it".  
Love, is a subject-to-subject relation. Not a subject-to-object relation.  
Practicing I-Thou relations, supported by the peace- and race politics of my life  
Lead me to my Quaker Swarthmore College  
And on to Starr King School for the Ministry, where Bob Kimball, Tillich's editor, taught.  
Perhaps tutorials with Bob,  
Where he suggested one ask of everything: "Who does it serve?"  
Where I was radically affirmed in whoever I was (and am)  
The I-Thou relation, from that tutorial is more my model of learning than anything else.  
How to get each child into a setting with a teacher who believes there is good in them- Whatever it may be,  
That is my mission.*

*Shield volcanoes began creating Oahu only 4 million years ago – 1/115<sup>th</sup> the age of my Appalachians,  
And new land emerges on the island of Hawai'i as we speak;  
And Loihi is forming, under the sea.*

*Infant islands a world away from my New Jersey youth.  
And here it is I found Aloha.  
The presence of God's breath  
God's breath is in us  
We are God's breath  
Encompassing each other.  
This breath breathes what is between the I and the Thou of Buber  
And not only do we have a constant Aloha reminder of right relation in the culture to buttress our theology,*

*But also these spiny cathedrals of young mountains  
Cloaked in softening luscious growth all hues of green  
Shrouded with crowns of mist,  
Diving into clear waters,  
The mountains of this place feel like the ground of being rising up to face us at eye level.*

*We are the luckiest of Unitarian Universalists  
To have this climate, this geography, this culture, this aina  
All to scaffold our memory if what we know is true:  
We are all connected,  
Our spirits are alive,  
What pains a child in Haiti pains us,  
The jade waters that lift a honu in Lanikai lift us.  
My "I" to your "Thou", my "Thou" to your "I",  
Each sensing the experience of the other,  
Allows us to be united with all else.  
In Aloha, the presence of God's breath.  
Being with you here.*

(back to Lee's words)

Hawai'i itself is like a Cliff's Notes to theology.

Aloha - we are in the presence of God's breath.

And yet the breath in question is your breath and mine.

We breathe God's breath when we come together, each regarding each as a subject, as a thing having a spirit, even if it is we who ordain it.

Ah. If only Martin Buber and Paul Tillich could have had a year in Hawai'i, as we have. I imagine them walking together, and Paul saying to Martin, these people experience the ground of being better than people in Europe. And Martin replying to Paul, yes, and these people practice I-Thou better than any people I know. God is here in the exchange of breath, in the Aloha.

## Music

"Sophisticated Lady" – Duke Ellington

Julian Showkeir & Ensemble

Introduction by Lee: "Sophisticated Lady" is a jazz standard, composed as an instrumental in 1932 by Duke Ellington and Irving Mills, to which words were added by Mitchell Parish. The words met with approval from Ellington, who described them as "wonderful — but not entirely fitted to my original conception." That original conception was inspired by three of Ellington's grade school teachers. "They taught all winter and toured Europe in the summer. To me that spelled sophistication". We will hear it as it was intended, an instrumental ballad to 3 teachers.

## Greetings

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Geraldine Laybourne

*From Nephew Sam*

Sometimes there's someone  
who says what a heart can feel.  
That's our Deborah.

*From Daughter Gwendolyn*

A summery gal  
constantly moving forward  
into the sunshine

*From Niece Emmy A Haiku for My Aunt Deborah*

She stays up so late  
Because she has work to do  
Loving us so much.

*From Sister Gerry*

Our clan's minister  
Set us on our course, Bonds set  
titanium strong.

Her currents churn,  
learning is a human right,  
shhh! she answers how.

Stay away gray day  
mama don't like that color  
makes her sinus drip.

*From Son Max*

Midnight oil, on fire  
Eyes and hands, on hearts and minds  
Lives of our children

**Greetings**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Catherine Graham

**From the Reverend John Buehrens**

Longtime Minister at All Souls Unitarian New York City  
Former President of the UUA  
Minister, First Parish in Needham

Dear Deborah,

Gwen and I send you heart-felt congratulations, prayers, and blessings as the ministry you have long exercised as a creative professional in the realm of educational opportunity and quality is now recognized in its spiritual dimension by our religious community.

With warm good wishes,

John

**From the Reverend Marge Keip**

Starr King Classmate of Deborah's  
Former Co-Minister, With her husband Fred, of the Monterey Church  
Very Highly Regarded Accredited Interim Minister

I'm simply tickled that you're becoming ever much more richly **you**, Deborah!

And hoping that you two savor co-ministry as we have, and find wonderful ways and places to do it.

I'll be thinking of you fondly on Sunday, Deborah, having envisioned this for you, since warm Starr King days together.

Abundant blessings - for you and those whose lives and hearts you touch,

Marge

**From the Reverend Dr. Robert Kimball**

Longtime President, Starr King School for the Ministry, During Deborah's Studies

Deborah,

What a fun surprise to get your letter. It's compounded by my talking about you with granddaughter Jill, last Saturday, I was telling long ago (for me) stories of this unusual lady educator who was one of those exciting students – friend, colleague – in the sk presidency period. I have always assumed education was a life calling with you; perhaps even genetically grounded.

And now you take the ordination step. According to Roman (and high Episcopalian) theological mullings, you emerge from the sacrament ontologically different. My hope is you will continue elementally human.

Love, Bob

**From Arliss Ungar**

Chair of the Balasz (Balash) Scholarship

Former Starr King Board Member

Honorary Degree Recipient Starr King School for the Ministry

Congratulations, Deborah

I am delighted for you, for your church and for the UUA.

Arliss Ungar

**From Arthur Ungar**

Mt Diablo UU Church, Walnut Creek, CA

Former UUA Trustee from the Pacific Central District

Dear Deborah

It's great news that you are going to be ordained by Honolulu. You certainly had to travel a long distance (and time) to get there. I remember our working together on fund raising for Starr King School for the Ministry, and the excellent work you did on the search committees. It will be very interesting to see how becoming ordained affects your relationship to the UU church. I've been told that ordination is a life-changing event. You'll see.

Love, Art :32

**From Joann Pickens**

National Chapter Services Director

Parents for Public Schools

Deborah,

Congratulations on your ordination. What a wonderful milestone in your life!

Thanks for all the great work you are doing to help get the Hawai'i chapter up and going!

Given the choice of Fayetteville, AR or staying on in Hawai'i, I think I'd opt to commute!

Joann

**From the Reverend Marsh Agobert**

Dear Deborah,

I've been stunned to find that not all ministers possess the capacity to connect to others with the heart. Deborah, you have that gift, as some would say, 'in spades.'

Your mind perceived, and I think correctly so, the critical nature of education in our country in particular and our world in general. You have an exceptionally sharp intellect and you know how to wear it without threat or condescension to colleagues and witnesses. In fact, you wear it as a means to serve.

Love, Marsh

## **From the Reverend Clark Olsen**

Minister in Berkeley, CA at the Morristown NJ Fellowship

Later UUA Vice President of Programs and Planning

Clark was one of many ministers who answered Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's call to witness in Selma, AL, Clark was walking with Rev. James Reeb, when they were attacked by segregationists, and Reeb was killed.

Dear Deborah,

I am thrilled to know that you are being ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry on June 19.

I remember when you first came to be our intern minister at the Morristown (NJ) Unitarian Fellowship while I was minister there. You brought to the congregation and to me personally a creative spirit that I've never forgotten and always admired. For starters, you surprised everyone by asking to live in the attic of the Fellowship's 70-year old mansion, a space that was barren, dusty and hardly used. You imaginatively transformed the space by wrapping the pillars and assembling other ingenious makeshift furnishings. Then in addition to your creative, caring work with the Fellowship program and people, late at night in your attic space you were conferring with your future husband Lee in managing your fledging Education centers -- incidentally running up (and paying for) a telephone bill which totaled more than your monthly compensation from your work at the Fellowship. From that beginning years ago, I have admired your creativity, energy and dedication in all your life choices.

I have no doubt with this choice to be ordained in the ministry, officially recognizing your life-long passions and pointedly focusing them in a slightly different mode, you will be a major force in church and community as well as in our larger denomination. I celebrate with you and others this addition to your life's work. And I welcome you to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, as a loving friend and dedicated colleague.

Fondly and in faith,

Clark Olsen

## **The Act of Ordination**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Carla Allison

Within our free church tradition, the authority and the privilege to confer ordination lies solely within each congregation. Ordination is a unique ritual and moment that occurs only once in the life of a minister. In the life of our church, First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, this will be the first ordination in our 59 year history.

It is a special privilege for our congregation to exercise our authority to ordain Deborah Bond-Upson, who has worshipped with us, who has devoted her energy and skills to the welfare of this church, and who has done so with pastoral care, and who has been inspired by our church to integrate her ministry more fully with our denomination. Her path to this moment has taken her through seminary to graduation with a masters degree in divinity, through her clinical pastoral education, internships at Unitarian Universalist societies in Morristown, NJ and Palo Alto, CA, achievement of preliminary fellowship, and decades of service in education. On June 12th the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu voted to ordain Deborah Bond-Upson to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. It is with great pride that we gather for this sacred purpose today.

Deborah, please join me (retrieves hand held mic from side stand and stands to the front right of Carla—nearer our seats)

Deborah, are you ready and willing to undertake the commitments of Unitarian Universalist Ministry?

**Deborah:** I am ready and willing.

(mic handheld—hands to Charlotte)

**Carla:** Congregation Members, please rise, and reading from your order of service, let us unite voice and spirit and proclaim:

**Congregation:** We the members of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu recognize your calling and do hereby ordain you, Deborah Bond-Upson into the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

May you find and speak the truth, practice peace, and work for justice.

May you increase in wisdom and stature.

May you increase in wonder and spirit,

May you find and share connection and meaning,  
May you protect and promote the interests of those who cannot protect themselves,  
May you ease suffering and encourage joy.  
In all ways, may your ministry be a blessing to you and the world.

**Carla:** Members, please remain standing  
(At this time Charlotte comes forward to right left side of pulpit—nearer musicians)

**Charlotte:** (handheld mic—hand to Deborah)  
Deborah, as a leader and a supporter, you have touched our hearts and minds and souls. To remind you of Hawai'i this stole has been crafted of Hawaiian Kapa, pounded from wauke plants. We congregants have signed this stole to remind you of our support for your ministry. May it surround you and embrace you with our blessing, always and forever.

**Deborah:** (handheld mic—hand to Nan)  
With reverence and joy, a deep sense of obligation and opportunity, mindful of its privileges and responsibilities, here with this congregation, in this rare and beautiful place, receiving this ordination and your blessing, I pledge to minister towards a world made fairer, kinder, safer and more aware.

**Carla:** Will the larger community of friends, family and colleagues please rise. (slight pause) Reading from your Order of Service will **everyone** join me in proclaiming:

**All:** We recognize and affirm you, Deborah Bond-Upson, as an ordained minister.  
May you be a source of hope and truth and comfort to those around you.  
Go forth with our blessing.

**Laying on of Hands of Fellowship** (in front of pulpit, handheld mic) Nan Kleiber

**Nan:** We will now all join the ancient laying on of hands ritual, which comes to us through Jewish and Christian roots. This ritual confers blessing and authority from us gathered here.

Clergy and ordination participants, please come forward and lay hands on Deborah now.  
Let our hands become conveyers of our blessings and hopes.  
Let our hands share warmth and wisdom of ours selves and families, from ages past and ages hence.  
Let the energy of power and hope flow into her ministry.

**Now Everyone,**  
Please stand in body or in spirit, please move forward to form circles around Deborah.  
Let those who are nearest step forward and lay their hands upon the participants, and for those behind, lay hands upon the shoulders of the people in front of them, until our sanctuary is linked in a web of caring and mutual goodwill.  
Let us feel this in our hands and in our bodies as it gathers and grows.  
Let us enter this ancient powerful physical prayer, with our silent breathing together....  
And now let us chant "om Shanti", "Om" means presence "Shanti" means "peace".

"Om Shanti"  
"Om Shanti"  
"Om Shanti"  
"Om Shanti"  
"Om Shanti"

Let us resume our seats.

## **Prayer of Ordination**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Rev. Dr. Terrance Robinson

Let us pray.

This precious moment stands apart as we use our authority to ordain this woman to our ministry.

We pause to give thanks for this religious community of free spirits of which we are a part.

We are grateful to be members of this church that inspires us in our ongoing quest for the truth; a church that encourages us to search for better ways of living together.

We remember the efforts of pioneering women and men who struggled and suffered for the right of freedom-loving people to seek the truth wherever it might be found.

We are grateful for all those who have devoted their lives to the ministry in our liberal religious faith. Because of them, our lives are more complete.

Spirit of life and love, enter as we pray, particularly into the life of Deborah, as she accepts the responsibilities and obligations of ministry.

May the spirits of our liberal religious forbears bless this service and this minister whom we ordain today.

May the thoughts and prayers of her living colleagues give strength and support to Deborah's life and ministry.

May our thoughts and prayers follow and support her work.

May her message be clear and her work be strong, may this ministry bear great fruit in the progress and protection for human souls and our beloved communities.

God bless this minister and her ministry. **Amen.**

## **Charge to the Ordinand**

(at pulpit with self mic)

Leland Bond-Upson

Make the word flesh: approach others from the wholeness of your being, and look to these others as instances of humanity, as beings of great value, as a part of our universe, like yourself, with their own wholeness of being.

Have the Courage to Be – The courage to be is the courage to accept oneself, in spite of being unacceptable. Draw strength from the ground of being.

Know that if you were truly not acceptable to God, you would not be alive.

Remember that being religious means asking passionately the question of the meaning of our existence, and being willing to receive answers, even if the answers hurt.

Remember, with Erasmus, to put on those wings which Plato says are caused to grow on the soul by the ardor of love.

Remember, with Gerard Manley Hopkins, to give glory to God for dappled things, for all things counter, original, spare, strange.

Remember, with Wm. Butler Yeats, that we must laugh and we must sing, for we are blest by everything—everything we look upon, is blest!

Remember, with Paul Tillich, that faith is the state of being ultimately concerned, and that ultimate concern is concern for the totality of life.

Remember, with Martin Buber, that all real life is in meeting, and connecting.

With our blessing, go now out, go and minister to a world that needs your love and your talents. Will the congregation say Amen.

## **Right Hand of Fellowship**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Rev. Robert Fraser

It is a tradition in the service of ordination for a colleague to offer the right hand of fellowship to one crazed enough to enter the fold of ordained ministry." I am not the author of those words, but they ring true. Now, why would one say that?

I suspect it is because you are called to leadership by a community of individualists who are wary of all authority and hold in a death grip the sacred power of congregational authority.

A full expression of a complete welcome to fellowship can be found in the Guidelines and Bylaws of our UUMA. I have them here – 22 pages, with proposed amendments. This carefully crafted "Code of Professional Practice" describes the "disciplines of ministry". Designed to facilitate understanding and discussion between congregation (or agency) and minister, as well as among ministerial colleagues."

Here it is the letter of the law, in advice and caution. Here are the nuts and bolts of survival and prosperity for Congregation and Minister. These guidelines help us keep the ideals of ministry close to reality.

I won't read them all at this time: but certainly your future congregations will need to be familiar with them.

But, for us to embrace the spirit of the law, we need only to look at all of the ingredients of this Ordination Service, which you have chosen to reflect our ideals of ministry.

This Ordination Service is already your contribution, as a minister to this congregation.

And, as I think of the years of experience of hundreds of ministers and congregations that has produced these codes of professional practice from our Fellowship of Ministry my thoughts go to the words of the processional hymn.

"Rank by rank again we stand" "Over the years' memorial store, honored days of comrades gone before, lives that speak and deeds that beckon join we now their ageless song."

The words of Bucky McKeeman on Ministry "ministry is a quality of relationship that beckons forth hidden possibilities leading us into deeper more relevant relationship standing for human dignity and equity speaking and living the highest we know

"Wherever there is a meeting" like this one "that summons us to our best selves" there is ministry

The words of Sonora regarding father's day "Ministers are people who are standing by to listen, to help, to give good advice, to inspire you to be your best."

Terry's prayer reminding us of who we are as a free church of the ideals that sustain us, and of all those who have made this community possible.

The Hymn we are about to sing calling us to "feel the deep power of being in all"

To join with each pilgrim who quests for the true to take as our neighbor both stranger and friend to wake now our vision of ministry clear

I encourage you, Deborah to preserve all the thoughts and actions of this day

Perhaps keep it a little book of guidance and support, to help you minister to yourself in difficult times, and as you minister to all those who lie before you all those to whom you offer yourself as a Unitarian Universalist Minister.

I am honored to have been a part of this day your ordination. I am privileged to welcome you with The "Right Hand of fellowship"

**Concluding Hymn #298**     *Wake Now My Senses*

Jasmine Stiefel/All

*Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;  
feel the deep power of being in all;  
keep, with the web of creation your vow,  
giving, receiving as love shows us how.*

*Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;  
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;  
honor the beauty and wisdom of time;  
suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.*

*Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear;  
brighten my pathway with radiance here;  
mingle my calling with all who will share;  
work toward a planet transformed by our care.*

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

ALL

Quench this outward blaze,

Inflame our inward spirit.

**Benediction**

(at pulpit with stand mic)

Deborah

Living in this gorgeous corner of the Universe  
Where the culture is more "of love" than other corners,  
We could forget that there is suffering around the world.  
But we will not forget, for:  
Our own lives bring pain and need, reminding us of our oneness with our brethren of every nation.  
Our faith urges us to look for injustice, inequity, and pain, and to address it.  
To devote our intelligence, our skill, our heart, our spiritual power  
to find solutions for our family, our church, our state, our country, our world, our universe.

Let Us:

Love ourselves so that we need not be self-conscious,  
Love others so that we need not be self-centered,  
Love our community so that we may make life better together,  
To love God, the universe and the forces of nature  
so that we are not mired in the small  
but live large.

**Singing Bowl**

(rung by Lee)

**Recessional***When the Saints Go Marching In*

Ensemble



***Please join us in the Gallery on the Pali for a Reception in Honor of  
The Mair Family, Father's Day, and this Ordination.***