

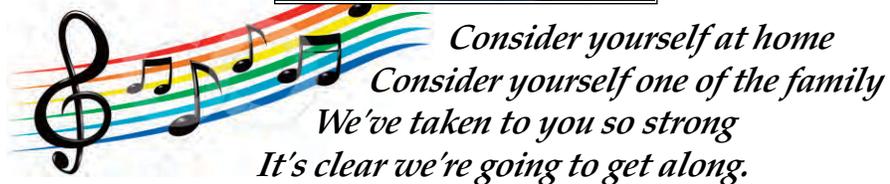
Hold the Date

for the

INSTALLATION

of The Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse as Senior Minister
of The Unitarian Church in Westport
Sunday, November 22, 2015, at 4:00 pm

All are Invited!



*Consider yourself at home
Consider yourself one of the family
We've taken to you so strong
It's clear we're going to get along.*

These are the lyrics from the musical “Oliver” that we sang on Sunday May 3 after Rev. John Morehouse accepted our congregation’s call to be our new senior minister. Since that auspicious beginning, John has already well and truly established himself in our community. (Or in the words of the song, he is “well in.”) We are becoming used to his preaching style, his management skills, his warm inclusiveness, his optimistic personality, and his vision for our future. What more is needed to make him “one of us?”

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Actually it turns out there is a final important step: his formal installation as our senior minister. “What?” you may be thinking. “Hasn’t he already been installed?” Perhaps “yes” in practical terms; yet it is part of our long tradition that a formal installation service takes place several months after a new minister begins actual ministry in a church. The installation service is an important ritual which has two major functions. First, it’s the public recognition that the new minister is settled in the church, highlighting the bond between the minister and the congregation. Secondly, through the participation of other area clergy and religious professionals and representatives from the community and the denomination, it proclaims that our self-governing congregation does not exist in isolation. Rather, it is an interwoven part of the wider community and the Unitarian Universalist movement.

This is going to be an amazing event. Invitations are now being mailed out to clergy and religious professionals in all UU congregations in the UU New York Metro District and some in adjoining districts, as well as to local clergy of all religions and denominations, lay members of the local inter-faith group, and local political and business leaders. You will see an impressive colorful procession of clergy and dignitaries coming into our sanctuary, bedecked in their finest robes (a special stole has been ordered for Rev. Morehouse). This will be followed by an inspiring worship service.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

- **The Rev. Barbara Fast, our former associate minister who is now the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, Conn., will be the official marshal of the procession.**
- **The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, president of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, will deliver the sermon.**
- **The Rev. Gretchen Weis, minister of Murray Unitarian Universalist Church in Attleboro, Mass., will deliver the “charge to the minister.”**
- **The Rev. Debra Haffner, our endorsed community minister, will deliver the “charge to the congregation.”**
- **The Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., will “extend the right hand of fellowship” (the formal welcome into the local UU clergy).**
- **The Rev. Frank Hall, our minister emeritus, will lead us in prayer.**
- **Michelle Garvey, chair of our board of trustees, will lead us through the act of installation. (Remember, only a congregation can install a minister).**

There will be other speakers and participants to be announced. All in all, the order of service will be something to treasure as a memento of this landmark event in the life of our church.

Will there be food and drink? Of course! An elegant festive buffet will be laid out in the foyer and adjoining areas where we will mingle and celebrate after the service.

The dress code is dress up and have fun!

An informal committee has been formed to plan this event, consisting (in alphabetical order) of **Denny Davidoff, Doug Davidoff, Ellie Grosso, Chuck Harrington, Kristen Leddy, Morgan Leddy, and John Mason**. Many others will be asked to help in various roles. Feel free to talk to any committee member if you have questions or would like to be involved.

The Installation Committee