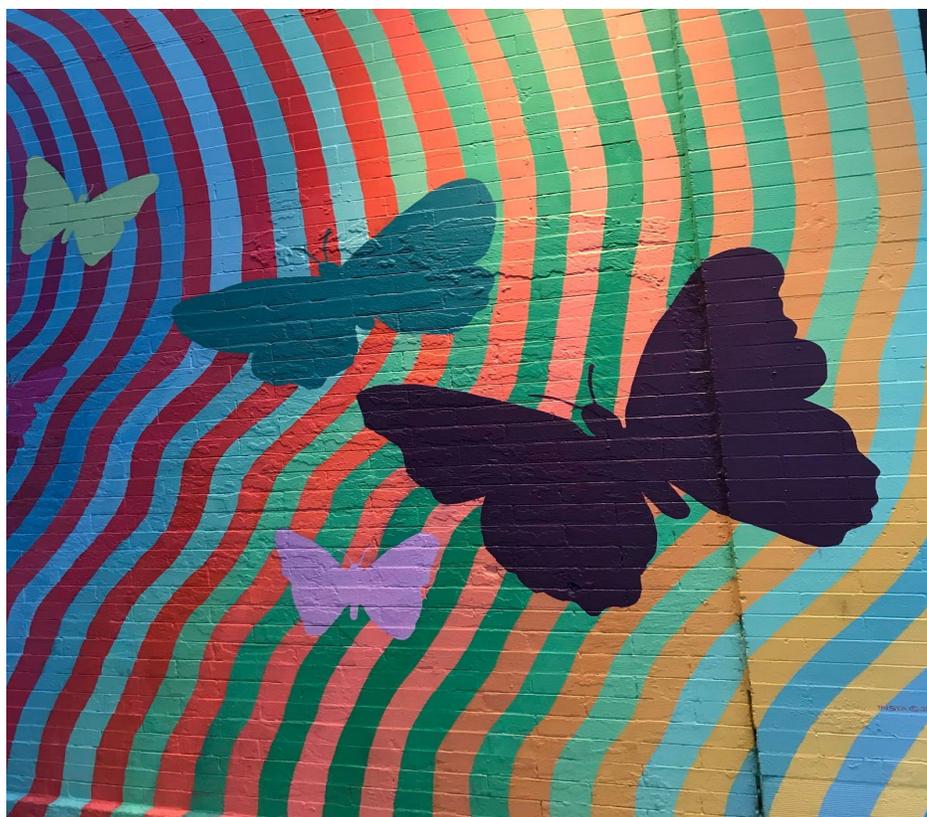


The Ordination of Margalie Belizaire

By The Unitarian Church in Westport
and The Unitarian Society of Hartford

Saturday, May 30, 2020 @ 3:00pm



Service of Ordination

Gathering Music

Inviting the Ancestors

Viola Abbitt

Processional Hymn - "We Shall Be Known" by Mamuse and UU The Vote Virtual Choir

Welcome

Kristen Leddy & Sue Smolski

Call to Worship

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr

Lighting The Chalice

Jennifer Johnson & Rev. Rodney Lemery

Blessing

Rev. Jessica Star Rockers

Anthem - "Clay and Water" by Margaret Becker

Greetings

Paige Ingram - BLUU
Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer - UUMA
Woullard Lett - UUA

Reading

Rev. Heather Rion Starr

Musical Reflection - "Wake Now My Senses" # 298

Sermon - "A Faithful Becoming"

Rev. Sofia Betancourt

Inviting the Offering

Antonia Bell-Delgado & Kristina Church

Offertory Music - "How Can I Keep from Singing" & "The Miracle of Morning" - Amanda Gorman

Meaning of Ordination

Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson

Act of Ordination*

Joseph Rubin & Ken Vogel
USH & TUCW Board Presidents

Presentation of the Stole

Internship Committee**

Prayer & Laying of Hands

Rev. Constance Simon

Right Hand of Fellowship

Rev. Meg Riley

Charge to the Minister

Rev. John Morehouse

Benediction

Rev. Margalie Belizaire

"Recessional"

Everyone

***Act of Ordination**

USH President Board of Trustees:

Margalie Belizaire, having received the recommendation of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and by the authority of a vote of the members of the board of The Unitarian Church in Westport & The Unitarian Society of Hartford, today we affirm your call to serve the cause of liberal religion and desire to ordain you to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. We offer you ordination as a privilege bestowed upon us by our free church. Are you prepared to embark, formally and fully, upon the path of ministry mindful of both the privileges and responsibilities this ministry brings?

Margalie: I am

USH President: Will the members of The Unitarian Church in Westport & The Unitarian Society of Hartford now raise their hands and together say the following words posted on the screen:

Church Members:

We, the members of both congregations do hereby ordain you, Margalie Belizaire, to the ministry of Unitarian Universalism. Wherever you are called to serve, we charge you to speak the truth as you see it in the spirit of love and compassion, and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We charge you to be a prophetic and healing voice in the midst of change. We challenge you, to transform the work through acts of love, justice, and compassion.

Reverend Margalie:

It is with gratitude, grace and intention that I accept this ministry to which you ordain me. I will endeavor to serve faithfully in service of inclusivity, connection and justice, with hope, love and kindness as the primary tools of choice in my ministry. And as you accompany me in this journey, I will do amazing things, for you will hold a mirror to me as I hold one to you.

TUCW President:

Margalie's family, friends, colleagues, please raise your hands to join in affirmation of this act of ordination and together say the following words posted on the screen:

Family, Friends, Colleagues:

Margalie, with joy and pride, we affirm your ordination. May your ministry nourish you and become a source of healing in the world.

TUCW and USH President:

Let the people say "Amen"

All: Amen!

Viola Abbitt - Viola Abbitt, MDiv, JD. Since September 2019, Viola Abbitt has been serving as the half-time minister for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie and the First Unitarian Society of Westchester in New York. She was a contributor to the liturgical materials for the Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Campaign in 2018 and served on the President Search Team for Meadville Lombard Theological School. She is currently a member of the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the board of UU Wellspring.

Antonia Bell-Delgado - Antonia Bell-Delgado is a GenderQueer Seminarian who attends Meadville Lombard Theological School in the Master of Divinity program. After an extensive career in Social Work, she answered her call to Ministry. Antonia is the Intern Minister at The UU Congregation at Montclair (Montclair, NJ). Antonia is also the Senior Learning Fellow at the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt - Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt serves as Associate Professor of Unitarian Universalist Theologies and Ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry. Her academic work focuses on environmental ethics of liberation in a womanist and Latina feminist frame. She served for four years as the Director of Racial and Ethnic Concerns of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and briefly as its Interim Co-President.

The Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer - Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer is currently one of the Co-Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, the Director of Ministries for Collegial Care. She is also the Minister Affiliated with First Parish, in Northfield, MA. Melissa is married to Rev. Evin Carvill Ziemer (who serves on the UUA's Congregational Life staff). They live in Easthampton, MA with their two young children and two older dogs.

Kristina Church - Kristina Church is the Consulting Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamburg, New York. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School, and a Master of Social Work degree from Columbia University. Kristina lives in Buffalo, New York with her husband, Greg, son, Rafael, and their pet labradoodle, Onyx.

Paige Ingram - Paige is a nomadic Southern and Mid-Western based Black Muslim troublemaker and faith-rooted organizer and abolitionist. Paige is a facilitator, trainer, speaker, and collage artist. Currently she serves on the BLUU Organizing Collective Board and as the community organizer. In her work, Paige addresses anti-blackness, policing, gentrification, anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, and violence against womxn and non-binary people locally and nationally, connecting them to broader global liberation struggles.

Jennifer Johnson - Jennifer Beth Johnson is a 2020 graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School with a Master of Divinity degree. She currently serves as Intern Minister at First Parish Chelmsford and as a Learning Fellow with Church of the Larger Fellowship, alongside Margalie. Jennifer lives in Franklin, MA with her partner and two teenage daughters.

****Kristen Leddy** - Chair of the Internship Committee and joyous supporter of Margalie's ministry.

The Rev. Dr. Rodney Lemery - The Rev. Dr. Rodney Lemery serves as the Minister of the Worthy Now Prison Network with The Church of the Larger Fellowship and part-time Justice Minister at the Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek, CA.

Woullard Lett - Mr. Lett is Regional Lead for the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. His work contains a mix of the transactional and transformational in supporting religious professionals, lay leaders and congregations. He continues to seek the sacred in the secular in both his professional and personal life.

****Wendy Levy** - Wendy Levy, Psy.D, has been attending the Unitarian Church in Westport for over 20 years. She is actively involved with the Immigration Community Support Network, Safer COngregations Committee, Intern Committee, and Chamber Choir.

The Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse - Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse is the Senior Minister of the Unitarian Church in Westport, CT. John was Margalie's internship supervisor and serves as Adjunct Faculty at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

****Bob Perry** - Bob has been an active member at Westport for 30 years. He is a recently retired middle school special ed teacher who has been involved in many aspects of the church community over the years. A particular point of pride was his work with the high school youth group, initially serving as a volunteer, then as the first paid advisor for a total of 12 years. Bob is the incoming chair for Westport's Intern Committee.

The Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson - Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson serves as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork, in Bridgehampton, NY. She also serves on the boards of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), The UU Women's Federation (UUWF), and UU Class Conversations.

The Rev. Cathy Rion Starr - Rev. Cathy Rion Starr serves as Co-Minister at the Unitarian Society of Hartford with their partner in life and ministry, the Rev. Heather Rion Starr, where we have had the privilege and honor of Margalie's presence for the last few years. Rev. Cathy is a queer white minister, organizer, and parent of 2 amazing kiddos (3 & 7). Prior to returning to Connecticut (where they grew up), Cathy served as Minister of Social Justice at All Souls Church in Washington, DC, and in Oregon for two years before that. Cathy's background is in racial justice and anti-racist community organizing in the San Francisco Bay Area. Cathy brings a passion for relationship-building, strives to hold complexity and contradictions honestly, and seeks more spiritually grounded justice work. Cathy also loves making music, contemplative and contemporary worship, dark chocolate, gardening and being silly.

The Rev. Heather Rion Starr -Rev. Heather Rion Starr has served for six years as Co-Minister of the Unitarian Society of Hartford with her spouse, Rev. Cathy Rion Starr. Rev. Heather also serves as Consulting Minister for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, Connecticut. Together the Rion Starrs quarantine with 2 rambunctious children, Robin (age 7) and Braden (age 3), and a new addition to the family: hamster Flippsie. Rev. Heather is a life-long UU, born-and-raised in Portland, Oregon, a Starr King School for the Ministry graduate ('05), and has lived in several other states but feels more-and-more at home among the small cities, towns, winding roads and ample ice cream shops of Connecticut.

The Rev. Meg Riley - Rev Meg Riley is wrapping up decades as a religious professional this summer. Her last 10 years have brought the privilege of serving as Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, where Margalie Belizaire has been a Learning Fellow for the last two years.

Joseph Rubin - Joe Rubin is President of the Board of the Unitarian Society of Hartford. He has been an active member of the congregation since 1985.

The Rev. Jessica Star Rockers - Rev. Jessica Star Rockers serves as the Minister of Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bremerton, WA.

The Rev. Constance Simon - Rev. Connie Simon was called as minister by First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati in 2018 and was a classmate of Margalie's at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Sue Smolski - Sue Smolski found Unitarian Universalism in 1985. She is currently a member and Worship Associate at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT.

****Arnela Ten Meer** - Arnela Ten Meer is a member of the Unitarian Church in Westport and a proud member of Margalie's Ministerial Team!

****Shanonda Nelson** - Shanonda Nelson is the proud mother of two beautiful young adults, both in college. She is a member of The Unitarian Church in Westport and a member of Margalie's Intern Minister Team.

****Jerusha Vogel** - Jerusha Vogel has been a UU all her life and her mother was a UU minister. She believes strongly in the message of this faith and has been so glad to help Margalie and others become ministers.

Ken Vogel -Ken Vogel is the president of TUCW Board of Trustees. In his 15 years as a member, he has served two stints on the board for a total of 10 years, including six years as treasurer. He is also active in Small Group ministry. His wife Jerusha is also an active member, and both his children went through the youth program and OWL.