



invites you to

THE ONLINE ORDINATION OF

Denise M. Cawley



Sunday, July 26, 2020, 2:00 pm CST
BradfordUU.org



Ordination of Denise M. Cawley

Ordination Ceremony takes place online at BradfordUU.org

Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist
Kenosha, WI

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Virtual Robing Room

1:30 pm CST – Seminarians and Ministers Gather in Virtual Robing Room

Ministers and seminarians, please gather at **1:30 pm CST** for the virtual robing room at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86127525971>

Hosted by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Ordination Marshal and Minister of Religious Education, First Unitarian Society Milwaukee

Ordination Service

2:00 pm CST – Watch the Ordination online service at BradfordUU.org
(View the service on the home page)

Post-Ordination

Following the ordination, there will be a brief gathering on Zoom for Denise to thank her supporters: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226885293>

Live In-Person Car Parade

Those in the area join us to give Denise a congratulatory send-off in the car parade. Please line up in front of Bradford Community Church at **4:30 pm** to offer best wishes to the newly ordained Reverend Denise M. Cawley. Decorations, signs and fun are welcome for the parade.

Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist
5810 8th Ave, Kenosha 53140

Questions or concerns? Contact Denise: 2MagicDenise@gmail.com
or call her at **414-412-9990**

Order of Service

Prelude: “This is Me” – The Greatest Showman

Images: Denise M. Cawley’s life and major moments leading to her ministerial call
Alex Poyner, Music Coordinator, Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, Kenosha, WI

Processional: “Allegro in E Major” by Christopher Grainer

Call to Worship & Welcome: The Reverend Erik David Carlson, Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, Kenosha, WI

Chalice Lighting: The Reverend Doctor Monica L. Cummings, Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, Kenosha, WI

Greetings & Welcomes:

Cheri Taylor, Major Gifts Officer, Stewardship & Development, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, MA

michael munson, Co-Founder and Executive Director of FORGE, Milwaukee, WI

Tanya Atkinson, President, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, read by
Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Blessing from Denise’s home church: First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
The Reverend Dena McPhetres, Associate Minister and The Reverend
Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister

Music: “Good Enough” – This is Lea

The Meaning of Ordination: The Reverend Jeanne Pupke, Senior Minister,
First Unitarian Universalist Church, Richmond, Virginia

Reflections on Reverend Doctor Florence Buck: read by The Reverend Doctor Nicole Kirk,
Associate Professor, The Reverend Doctor J. Frank and Alice Schulman Chair in Unitarian
Universalist History, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago, IL. #BuckIt

Reading: Excerpts from “Braiding Sweetgrass” – by Robin Wall Kimmerer, read by
The Reverend Suzelle Lynch, Unitarian Universalist Church West, Brookfield, WI

Music: “Kindness” – Toshi Reagon

Images of Denise’s art inspired by nature while #PrayingTheLake and #PrayingTheTrees

Homily: The Wisdom of Trees, The Reverend Tandi Rogers, Affiliate Faculty
Meadville-Lombard Theological School and Learning Strategist, Congregational Life
Conflict Engagement at Unitarian Universalist Association

continued

Order of Service *continued*

Music: “Sanctuary” – written by Carrie Newcomer, soloist: Amanda M. Thomas, Music Director, accompanied by Carl Kennedy, 2nd Unitarian Church of Chicago

Offering: The Reverend Doctor Matthew Johnson, Senior Minister, The Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford, IL

Two worthy organizations for your choosing have been selected by Denise in honor of this ordination: The offering will be a split-plate to support the Living Tradition Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Association which supports ministers in times of great stress and need as well as Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin where Denise was a Chaplain at the Water Street Abortion Clinic. Make checks payable to Bradford UU or visit: BradfordUU.org/ordain to donate online.

Prayer & Reflection: The Reverend Doctor Rodney Lemery, Director of CLF Prison Ministry, Church of the Larger Fellowship, Boston, MA

Hymn: #396 “I Know This Rose Will Open,” soloist: Amanda M. Thomas, Music Director, accompanied by Carl Kennedy of 2nd Unitarian Chicago

Charge to the Minister: The Reverend Christe Lunsford, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Florida

The Rite of Ordination: Within our Unitarian Universalist tradition, the authority to ordain ministers rests solely with the local congregation. On this sacred and joyous occasion, we have come together in response to Denise M. Cawley’s deep sense of calling and commitment to liberal religion as tool for justice and ethical action in our communities. Acknowledging the recommendation of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, and by the authority and consent of the members of this congregation, we have elected to ordain Denise to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Members of Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, please rise in body or in spirit.

Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist Leadership:

Jack Dudley, President, Co-Chairs Internship & Ordination Committee Jennifer Burns and Katie Traxel, and Denise’s committee on ministry members: Dani Lockwood, John W. Terhardt, Barb DeBerge

Yoking of The Reverend Denise M. Cawley – Streaming Laying of Hands –

Ribbons of Community: UUA Ministerial Candidate, Matthew Aspin and Wise Guru, Aidan O. Cawley-Hefter

Charge to the congregations: The Reverend Erik David Carlson

Gift to Bradford UU: The Reverend Denise M. Cawley and The Reverend Erik David Carlson

continued

Order of Service *continued*

Extending Ministerial Welcome: The Reverend Karen Armina, James Reeb UU Congregation, Madison, WI

Hymn: #1024, “When the Spirit Says Do,” soloist: Amanda M. Thomas, Music Director, accompanied by Carl Kennedy of 2nd Unitarian Chicago

Extinguishing the Chalice: Feel free to join in speaking out loud the following words written by Aidan O. Cawley-Hefter and Matt Aspin:

*The extinguishing of this light is not an ending, but rather a beginning.
A new seed of hope has been planted this day.
Life always begins under the dark warm cover of yesterday’s leaves.*

Benediction: The Reverend Denise M. Cawley

Closing Hymn: #1017, “Building a New Way,” soloist: Amanda M. Thomas, Music Director, accompanied by Carl Kennedy of 2nd Unitarian Chicago

Ribbon Ceremony: Denise’s family and congregation will extend ribbons of ministry into the community

Postlude: “We Write the Stars” – The Greatest Showman, Alex Poyner, Music Coordinator, Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, Kenosha, WI



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Gratitude

Ministry is not done alone and midwifing a minister into being is created within an amazing community. There are more people who have listened, encouraged, taught, loved, donated and held me during this process than I can name: my gratitude overflows. I am going to name some of you and please know you are wildly important to me even beyond who is here.

Thank you to my son, Aidan Ocean Cawley-Hefter for loving and supporting me all the way through this journey. You are an amazing kid who is quite the truth-teller, empath and minister yourself.

Thank you, Mom, Lorri Cawley for raising me around religious community and always being my advocate. Your support has carried me.

Michael Proft my dear friend and brother — where would I be without having you to bounce ideas off of, to talk theology with and to read and edit so many papers and sermons? Thank you for sharing this journey with me.

Anne Hefter, thank you for your encouragement at just the right time to go to seminary. Thank you for supporting this journey and investing in our faith. Thank you for supporting our son Aidan in growing up as a person of faith who seeks justice. Thank you for investing in this life-saving faith of Unitarian Universalism. I am so grateful.

Matt, thank you for all the conversations, the laughter and constantly exploring theology. Thank you for all the joy, ongoing support and love in this journey. I am so glad you are alongside me.

Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist & Reverend Erik David Carlson, I am appreciative you helped to grow me into a minister. Thank you, Reverend Erik, for being an excellent supervisor letting me lead and try out new ideas. I value all the time you invested into Unitarian Universalism through my ministry. You, Alex and Krystal have been great supports in my passage. The Board has been a stupendous partner too. All of you have taught me so much. I am grateful Bradford was my learning lab. I am delighted to be ordained in the pulpit Reverend Doctor Florence Buck built. Thank you, congregants and volunteers for your love.

My Internship and Ordination Committee with co-chairs Jennifer and Katie have rocked it and each John, Barb and Dani have blessed me with being an exemplary Committee on Ministry. I will hold all future Committee's on Ministry to the standard you set.

Meadville Lombard Faculty, Staff and Board of Trustees it has been a great pleasure to learn from and alongside you. Thank you for growing me into a minister.

Meadville Students and Alums, Goddess, you are fine and amazing people. I am wildly appreciative to love this world alongside you. Our colleagues are the smartest people I know. I am amazed by you.

continued

Gratitude *continued*

My home church, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, I heard my call with you all and I am indebted to growing my ideas of parish leadership witnessing the variety of lay leaders and guest ministers who taught me ministry has many paths and styles.

The Mermaid Group – you loved me during some of my most difficult days. With Kimberlee’s leadership and your ongoing love, I am here. You taught me the power of connected community. Thank you to all my friends and family who held me, who prayed and donated along the way. I promise to keep doing good in our world.

To all the ministers, lay leaders, seminarians, family and friends in my community who I grew and learned alongside. There are so many of you I want to thank because your love multiplies in me:

All the Ancestors Who Dreamed Me
into Ministry
Lex Allen
My beloved animal companions,
Henry Pickles and Teddy
My Ann Arbor Family
Jennie Arbogash
Rev. Karen Armina
Rev. Wayne Arnason
Matt & Cece Aspin
Rev. Lee Barker
Rev. Margalie Belizaire
Julie Bock
Debbie Bonilla
Rev. Molly Brewer
Carin Bringelson
Desmond & Edward Britt
Jason Burns & Nathan Brunner
My friends from Starr King #BUCKit
Rev. Dr. Florence Buck
Omega Burckhardt
Jennifer Burns
Rev. Erik David Carlson
Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
Kelly Catarozoli
Aidan O. Cawley-Hefter
Community Care Chaplains
Staceyann Chin
Kristina Church
Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel
Faithe Colas
Aaron Douglas and Mike Cook

Ryan and Derek Cronwell
Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings
Barb DeBerge
Holly Fluty Dempsey
Marianne DiBlasi
The UUA Central Midwest District
& SEWIMINS
Amy Doczy
Jack & Kathleen Dudley
The Duncan Family
Dr. Amy Elliot and Dr. Jon Duris
Dayna Edwards
Karyn & Bill Elliot
Carolyn Feldt & Family
michael munson & FORGE
LGBT Door County friends
Rev. Rebecca Gant
Diane Giles & Gayle Clark-Taylor
Camille & Bill Graves
Kristin Hansen
Rev. Elizabeth Harding
Rev. Dr. Linda Hart
Cindy Kick Harris
Kiya Heartwood
Anne M. Hefter
The Hefter Family
The Herbst Family
Dr. Mark Hicks
Rev. Scot Hull
Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson
Jen Johnson
Chihiro Kase

continued

Gratitude *continued*

Rica Kaufel
Rev. Drew Kennedy
Bobby Kilgore
Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk
Rev. Dr. Rodney Lemery
Karen Leo
Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey
Dani and David Lockwood
The Luciano Family
Rev. Christe Lunsford & Dianna Ott
Rev. Suzelle Lynch
Rev. Kim Mason
Rev. Dena McPhetres
Elaine Meszaros
Bruce and Barbara Mickey
The MKE LGBTQ Community Center
Family
Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Gemma Guenther O'Day
Rev. Mariela Perez-Simons
Lora Powell-Haney
Alex Poyner
Michael Proft & Max
Rev. Jeanne Pupke
Toshi Reagon
Rev. Tandi Rogers
Rev. Theresa Rohlck

Krystal Rose
Liz & Pat Ryan
Rev. Misha Sanders
Whitney Schadeberg
Rev. Craig Schwalenberg
Greta Seidohl
Amy Siegesmund
Rev. Connie Simon
The Sinacola Family
Rev. Jane Smith
Rev. Sarah Sochko
Kristy Stewart
Cheri Taylor
The Planned Parenthood Team
John W. Terhardt
Amanda M. Thomas & Heather Godbout
Rev. Dr. Geof Tio
Katie Traxel
Rick DiDonato & Rebecca Valentine
Jeremy Hanson & Shannon Wallace
Kay Watson
Jessica Wegner
Rev. Lynnda White
Jason Wood
Ted Yang
Rev. Steve Yoder

UUA Principles and Covenants

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large;
The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life
Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

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