

## Ordination of Kelli McNeal

- Prelude** "History Has Its Eyes on You" from *Hamilton*
- Processional** #1028 Fire of Commitment
- Welcome** Jan Phillips, Billy Davidson
- Greetings** Ordination Committee
- Call to Worship** Rev. Jay McNeal
- Lighting the Chalice** Tracy Eck, Ron Eck, Brian Eck
- Message for All Ages** Frederick by Leo Lionni
- Invitation to Generosity** Amanda Hays  
Living Tradition Fund and UU the Vote
- Offertory** "Dear Theodosia" from *Hamilton*
- Special Music** "Love Has Brought Me Here" by Greg Greenway
- Reading** Rev. Eileen Hix
- Hymn** #123 Spirit of Life  
Led by First UU Church of Richmond Choir
- Sermon** Rev. Sherman Logan
- Music** "Draw the Circle Wide" First UU Richmond Choir
- Prayer and Meditation** Rev. Dr. Isabel Call
- Music** "Here I Am Love" First UU of Columbus Choir
- Act of Ordination** Jan Phillips, Billy Davidson, Denise Rimes

## Exchange of Gifts

#298 Wake Now My Senses - verse 1

## Laying on of Hands

Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn

#298 Wake Now My Senses - verse 2

## Hand of Fellowship

Rev. Pat Owen

#298 Wake Now My Senses - verse 3

## Charge to the Minister

Rev. Walter Clark

#298 Wake Now My Senses - verse 4

## Charge to the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie

#298 Wake Now My Senses - verse 5

## Benediction

Rev. Kelli McNeal

## Closing

#1017 Building a New Way

## Postlude

"What Else Can I Do" from *Encanto*

Thank you all for coming to this ordination ceremony! I know some of you traveled from far away to be here. I know there are many of you from around the country watching online. Whether I have personally met you or not, you are a part of the fabric of my journey and my call. Unitarian Universalism is lucky to have each and every one of you.

To the congregations who came together to co-ordain me, thank you. First UU Richmond, you taught me how to be a minister. You stood by me when I was new in the pulpit and I stood on my tiptoes as a nervous habit, and up through the end of my ministry with you all. You taught me to be humble and gracious. You showed me kindness and patience. You will always be my home congregation and hold a special place in my heart. First UU Columbus, you have taught me how to lean into my ministry. You have journeyed alongside me through a global pandemic, when we needed to be creative and experiment. You have taught me to open my eyes to a whole world of opportunities, expanding my understanding of Unitarian Universalism. You showed me compassion and grace. You gave me a place to do what I love and continue growing into my ministry. Thank you!

**To my family:** I can't even put into words how grateful I am for each and every one of you. You have walked this journey into ministry with me. You have listened when I needed to talk, read sermons to give me feedback, supported me through all the highs and the lows, and humbled me when my hair has looked a mess on camera! As we learned more, together, about UUism, and what it means to be a minister, you helped me to see that this is what God was calling me to do. Thank you for always being you, and for asking me hard questions. I love you all!

**To Jay:** I love you. I wouldn't be here if you hadn't helped me see how Macro Social Work was the path I was supposed to take. It was that path that brought me to First UU Richmond, and here to First UU Columbus today. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. You put up with me reading the same sermon over and over and over again to make sure it was how I wanted it. And you never hesitated when I said, I think this is what I'm supposed to do. Thank you for being you.

**To my Ordination Committee:** Anita, Carolee, Debra, Denise, Jay and Tamara, wow! It has been a ride! Thank you for dedicating your Tuesday evenings to making this Ordination happen. Thank you for all of the things behind the scenes that I don't even know you worked on. Thank you for loving me, and loving on me when I needed encouragement. And thank you for never giving up on me, even when I missed deadlines that I told you I would make. Each and every one of you has played a crucial piece in my path to this moment, and I can't tell you how thankful I am for that. I love you all!

**To the Reverend Jeanne Pupke:** I can never put into words or thank you enough for what you have done for me. I will never forget when you told me that there was an opening for a new ministerial intern and I laughed because I wanted nothing to do with ministry. You taught me that above all else, we are called to love our people. If you were here right now, I know that you would tell me to trust my call, and to be me. I miss you terribly. Your stole sits in my office as a daily reminder of the valuable lessons that you taught me. Thank you for being you. I dedicate this ceremony, and my path forward to you.

First Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Columbus  
&  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Richmond



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Kelli McNeal

*Love Your People*

Saturday, August 27, 2022