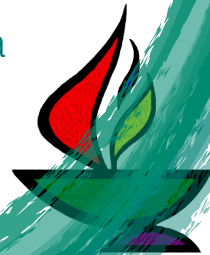




Grounding *in Love*

The Installation Ceremony of
Rev. Carin Bringelson
at Peoples Church
Unitarian Universalist
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
April 27, 2024
2:00 p.m.





Service of Installation – with Rev. Carin Bringelson and

The Gathering

Prelude *New Blues*, by Deborah Henson-Conant – Rachel Avery

Processional Marshal: Rev. Kristy Stuart
#311 *Let It Be A Dance* – Brianna Buhr

Welcome Steve Hershner, Peoples Church Board President

Greetings from the UUA Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt

Greetings from the Region Rev. Lauren Wyeth

Call to Worship and Lighting the Chalice Rev. Erik Carlson and
Miles Carlson

Opening Hymn *My Roots Go Down*, by Sarah Pirtle – Brianna Buhr

Depth & Sustenance

Time for All Ages *Something, Someday*, by Amanda Gorman and
Christian Robinson – Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Invitation to Generosity Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Offertory *Gratitude*, by Kim Robertson – Rachel Avery
Today's offering will go to **The Living Tradition Fund**, which
provides three types of support for Unitarian Universalist
ministry. Donate at: <https://peoplesuu.org/donate/>

Meditation/Prayer rev. theresa rohlick

Sermon *Grounding in this Day, in this Place* – Rev. Jullan Stoneberg

Interlude *We Rise*, by Batya Levine – the Peoples Church Choir

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Ritual

Act of Installation Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck and Steve Hershner

Exchange of Gifts Laura McGraw, Installation Team Chair

Charge to the Minister Rev. Margalie Belizaire

Charge to the Congregation Rev. Wendy Williams

Blessing the Hands of Shared Ministry Rev. Chris Long

Returning to the Service of Life

Closing Hymn #1017 *Building A New Way* – Brianna Buhr

Chalice Extinguishing and Benediction Rev. Carin Bringelson

Postlude *Blackberry Blossom* (Traditional, arranged by Kim Robertson) – Rachel Avery



*Please join us for a reception
in the Mary Andre Room following the Installation*



Worship Leaders

Rachel Avery (she/her) has been playing piano since she was 6 and the harp since she was 16, and she enjoys playing music and singing in the choir at church. Her entry into the Unitarian Universalist faith coincided with her move to Madison, Wisconsin with her wife Terri in 2004. There they started attending James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation and met Rev. Carin and Bev for the first time.

Brianna Buhr (any/none) is the offspring of Bev Buhr and Rev. Carin and grew up in James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation. With a background in vocal performance and expressive arts therapy, Bri will graduate with a Master's in Counseling Psychology next month and will begin practicing as a therapist in Madison, Wisconsin.

Rev. Kristy Stuart (she/her/hers) is a Palliative Care Chaplain serving at University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio. She met Rev. Carin at Meadville Lombard Theological School in their first class together, "Ministry as Improvisation."

Steve Hershner (he/him/his) is a life-long Unitarian Universalist who grew up in Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist (PCUU) and has been president of the Board of Trustees since 2022. He has been enjoying serving more recently – his last stint on the Board was over 20 years ago.

Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt (she/her) was elected in June 2023 to serve as the tenth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Her twenty-year ministry has included serving as a parish minister, seminary professor, scholar and environmental ethicist, and public theologian.

Lauren Wyeth (she/they) is the Faith Development Specialist and a Congregational Life Consultant with the MidAmerica Regional Staff, where she is the primary contact for Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist. Lauren had the pleasure of co-facilitating Rev. Carin's ministry start-up retreat for the congregation in October 2023.

Worship Leaders, continued

Rev. Erik David Carlson (he/him/his) serves as the Lead Minister at Bradford Unitarian Universalist in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Raised UU and grounded in social justice, Rev. Erik has held leadership positions at every level of our association including as a UUA Trustee, staff chaplain at numerous youth and young adult events. and co-author of religious education curricula. He is married to Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, through whom he first met Rev. Carin and Bev, and is father to Miles.

Miles Carlson (he/him) is 11 years old and in 5th grade. Miles loves music and is learning to play the trumpet and piano. In his free time, Miles loves his family, basketball, Minecraft, origami, and playing with Legos.

Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson (she/her/hers) is the Minister of Religious Education at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her journey includes being a public-school teacher, UUA Youth and Young Adult Leader, and Blessed at Pridefest co-creator. Rev. Kimberlee and Rev. Carin shared Madison as a home, Meadville as a school, and grew close during the pandemic as colleagues and dear friends.

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker (she/hers) serves the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley in Rockton, Illinois where she lives with her wife, Gloria Perez, and beloved Shetland Sheepdog, Parker. After a long career as an Accredited Interim Minister, her claim to fame is having served as an interim in all the “I” states – including at Peoples Church (2006-2008). She also served as the interim at the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Madison, Wisconsin (2012-2014) where she first met Rev. Carin, who was a lay leader at the time.

rev. theresa rohlick (she/they/dia) graduated in 2019 from Meadville Lombard Theological School, the very place she first met Rev. Carin. The friendship that started in seminary has continued and grown as they remain connected even across many states. rev. theresa is a half-time Minister of Pastoral Care at First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, and also serves as liturgist on the worship team.

Worship Leaders, continued

Rev. Jullan Stoneberg (she/her) currently serves as Interim Minister to Unitarian Universalist Church West, just outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Upon Rev. Jullan's arrival there in 2022, Rev. Carin took up the role of local collegial welcome wagon, ensuring that Rev. Jullan felt connected. What began with shared meals and domino games and continued with regular check-ins, is now a trusted and rewarding friendship.

Peoples Church Choir was reconstituted in fall of 2023 under the leadership of Karen Pierce and Kathleen Mavity. They have a great time exploring and sharing music from around the world. Those participating today are Kelsey Anthony, Ezra Benion, Shelbi Benion, Bev Buhr, Bryan Davis, Kris Davis, Jim Federer, Emily Hoselton, Linda Levy, Kathleen Mavity, Karen Pierce, Judy Price, and Josh Wagner.

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek (she/her) has been a member of Peoples Church since 2007 and has participated in many teams and committees. Most recently she served as the Chair of the Ministerial Search Team, which had the privilege of introducing Rev. Carin to Peoples Church. She and her husband live in Cedar Rapids with two demanding dogs, many books, and a stockpile of yarn.

Laura McGraw (she/her) has been a member of Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist for nearly 30 years. As a member of the Ministerial Search Team, she had the privilege of meeting and spending time with Rev. Carin during the search process. Laura has served as the Chair of the Installation Team in preparation for today's delightful event.

Rev. Margalie Belizaire (she/her) is currently the minister of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Florida where she has been serving since 2021. Prior to this position, she was the assistant minister at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, New York. She and Rev. Carin met in seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Rev. Wendy Williams (she/her) entered Unitarian Universalism at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Madison, Wisconsin, where she and her partner, Betsy, were befriended by Rev. Carin and Bev! Rev. Wendy currently serves

Worship Leaders, continued

as the Senior Minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. Her ministry is devoted to nurturing religious community with each and all – to deepen spiritually, connect authentically, serve respectfully, and love radically.

Rev. Chris Long (he/his) is the current Minister of Congregational Life at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. “Under His Care” in his position at the Church are the experiences of members from birth throughout and at the end of their lives. This includes pastoral care and counseling, the religious education experiences of members, and social justice programming of the Church, within the Church and in the community. Rev. Chris first met Rev. Carin, Bev, and Bri as he became a member of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation – nearly 25 years ago.

Rev. Carin Bringelson (she/her) grew up United Methodist in Lincoln, Nebraska, finding Unitarian Universalism while in high school. She attended college at Grinnell College and Howard University, then worked in Washington, DC before moving to Madison, Wisconsin where she settled and raised a family for 26 years, marrying Bev Buhr in 2000. With masters degrees in Educational Policy Studies and Library & Information Studies, she flourished as a librarian.

After many years of lay leadership in her home congregation – particularly in the areas of racial justice and stewardship – Rev. Carin graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2020. She served First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin as their intern minister and Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church of Hartland, Wisconsin as their contract minister before enthusiastically accepting the unanimous vote by members of Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist to serve as their called minister in 2023.

Rev. Carin self-identifies as a *#PandemicMinister* who had to limit the number of people attending her ordination in person, which took place August 8, 2020.

Hence, Rev. Carin is deeply moved by the family members, friends, and colleagues who are here with her in person (and online!) today, celebrating the start of a thriving shared ministry with the members and friends of Peoples Church.



A Message of Gratitude

Ministry is always a shared endeavor – never the work of one individual alone.

We as a congregation are reminded once again of our interconnections as we embody a shared ministry that honors the gifts of all those who choose to live out the mission of Peoples Church: *Leading compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action.*

Rev. Carin also knows that her professional ministry wouldn't be possible without the love that has grounded her throughout her life and into this current call. So, together, we thank the following groups and individuals for their support of Peoples Church:

Rev. Carin's family of origin and family of choice: Bev Buhr, Brianna Buhr, Rev. Julie Bringelson, Dr. Richard Bringelson, Dr. Liwana Bringelson, and Dr. Dawn Bringelson

The 2024 Installation Team: Marta Hershner; Marcy Mattison; Laura McGraw, Chair; and Judy Price

Head Usher: Kathy Juba

The Van Vechten Guild, for hosting the Reception, complete with flowers

Today's Tech Team: Bill Hart and Jackie Wedeking

The PCUU Board of Trustees: Kris Davis; Sue Davis; Steve Hershner, President; Marcy Mattison; Cate Sheller; and Lu Wilcox

The PCUU Ministerial Search Team: Charlie Cizio; Steve Hershner; Kathleen Mavity; Laura McGraw; Robyn Miessler-Kubanek, Chair; and Susan Petersmith

The PCUU Staff: Christine Kullander, Walter Robidoux, Jackie Wedeking, Matt Wilde, and Jordan Wylie

The Faculty and Staff of Meadville Lombard Theological School, for divinity school education and the space to surrender to ministerial formation

The Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, for ministerial support and professional development resources

The Unitarian Universalist Association, for congregational support and resources to develop vital lay leadership

And of course, the PCUU Members and Friends, for their dedication to this church community, and for grounding in love



Act of Installation

ROBYN MIESSLER-KUBANEK, CHAIR OF THE SEARCH TEAM:

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, the Act of Installation symbolizes a pledge between the members of a congregation and the minister they have chosen. The relationship is based on mutual confidence, respect, and trust – and is undertaken by mutual consent.

Are the members of Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist ready to install the Rev. Carin M. Bringelson as our settled minister?

MEMBERS OF PCUU:

Yes, we are.

STEVE HERSHNER, PRESIDENT OF THE PCUU BOARD:

Rev. Carin, we have chosen you as our settled minister, to live among us, to learn and love alongside us, to accompany us, to challenge and inspire us. We have chosen you to join us in embodying our mission of leading compassionate lives through spiritual growth and just action. Are you prepared to accept the invitation of this congregation to its ministry?

REV. CARIN BRINGELSON:

Yes, I am, with your help.

STEVE:

I invite all the members of this congregation to rise in body and/or spirit to offer our pledges to Rev. Carin.

MEMBERS OF PCUU:

We pledge to bring our enthusiasm, our joy, and our hope to this congregation – and to recognize that the shared work of the congregation is for all of us, never for our minister alone.

We pledge to communicate directly and with compassion, expressing appreciation early and often.

We pledge to take risks, ever learning from our experiences and experiments, admitting our mistakes with humility and honesty.

We pledge to approach one another with openness and curiosity, finding ways to increase understanding and deepen connections.

We pledge to honor your personal and professional boundaries, encouraging your continued growth as a professional religious leader.

We pledge to engage with you in this shared ministry in a manner that is sustainable and life-affirming.

REV. CARIN:

With deep gratitude and great joy, I humbly take up the ministry to which you have called me. Grounding in Love,

I pledge myself to you – with courage and creativity guiding my way.

I pledge myself to nurture compassion and loving kindness; to bear witness to the pain and promise of life; to co-create justice, healing, and wholeness in our world; and to embody the living tradition of our faith.

I pledge myself to this work, knowing that, like those who came before me and those who will come after, I do not do this alone.

In the name of all that is holy, I pledge myself to our shared ministry.

STEVE:

In formal recognition of our election of Rev. Carin by a unanimous vote and of her acceptance – and by the authority accorded to me as President of the Board of Trustees of the Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist – I now declare that you, Rev. Carin Bringelson, are officially installed as our settled minister.

ROBYN:

Will all who have not yet risen – colleagues, family, and friends – please rise in body and/or spirit to bear witness to this Act of Installation?

ALL GATHERED:

We do hereby affirm this installation and this ministry. We promise to support and encourage Rev. Carin and Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist. May both the minister and the church be blessed with strength and wisdom in the years of hard and holy work ahead. May your shared ministry be a blessing to this congregation and to the world.

