

I have great faith in this congregation. I have great hope for this church. I've given a lot, but I've been given a lot, too. More than anything I have gratitude. I trust that this congregation will continue to grow and become even deeper and more powerful. The world needs us.

— Barbara Hubbard, March 28, 2019



A Celebration of the Unrestricted Gifts of Barbara Hubbard

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 4:00 PM

Sanctuary at Unity Church and Livestream: bit.ly/bhretire



Order of Service
Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.
*Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE Ahmed Anzaldúa

PEALING THE BELL

WELCOME | KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME Rev. Kathleen Rolenz
Unison: We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth and the warmth of love.

*SONG Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (89)

OPENING WORDS Louise Livesay

The Unrestricted Gifts of Barbara Hubbard

WITHIN These Bricks and Beams Lorelee Wederstrom

AMONG Stewardship as Spiritual Practice Rebecca Flood

BEYOND All That We Cannot See Sara Ford

MUSICAL OFFERING You Are the New Day Oasis Singers
King's Singers Barbara Hubbard
Rev. Mary Bohman
Louise Miner

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS Jackie Smith

*HYMN OF COMMISSION The Holy Place We Call Home (see insert)
Commissioned by the congregation of Unity Church in honor of Barbara Hubbard.
Words by Marg Walker | Engraving by Bob Peskin | Music by Jim Scott

RITUAL OF LEAVE-TAKING Louise Livesay

Louise: Barbara, we have not only relied on you, but we have also laughed and cried, worked and played alongside you. You have ministered to Unity Church and to the wider community with your mind, heart and spirit.

Barbara: I am grateful for all the ways in which Unity Church has helped me to grow in integrity, service and joy. As I retire, I carry with me not only all that I have learned, but all that I have loved about this congregation and this liberal religious faith which we share.

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness and accept that you must leave us for a time to find a new rhythm without the daily demands of this work. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure.

Louise: Will you, the members and friends of Unity Church–Unitarian, now release Barbara Hubbard from serving as the executive director of Unity Church? Will you welcome and embrace her as a member of the congregation, and honor the boundaries needed to reimagine what is next for her and our life together?

Congregation: We will.

Louise: Barbara, will you now release this congregation from turning to you as the executive director?

Barbara: I will.

All: With gratitude for all that we have shared, with hope in the present and faith in our future, we look forward to the next chapter of our shared lives. With joy and gratitude, we now begin a new journey. May it be so.

RITUAL OF INSTALLATION Louise Livesay

Louise: We understand that in our church, the executive director position is not only a job, but also a calling. It is a calling to the ministry of governance, of administration, of supervision and stewardship. You are charged with a myriad of tasks that help us live into our vision, mission and ends. Do you now accept these duties in your role as executive director?

Laura: To the board and members of Unity Church, I accept this ministry and will aspire to practice it with integrity, in service to our ends, and with joy that grounds and animates our work.

Congregation: Laura Park, we are grateful for your leadership and pledge our support, as together we strive to embody wonder, open-hearted engagement and courageous action. May it be so!

PRAYER Rev. KP Hong

MUSICAL RESPONSE Seasons of Love Celebration Choir
Words and music by Jonathan Larson

BENEDICTION Louise Livesay

*POSTLUDE Life Calls Us On (see insert) Ruth Palmer, piano

Unity Church resides on the homelands of the Dakota Nation. We honor with gratitude the people who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and their ongoing contributions to this region. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota Nation, and we wish to interrupt this legacy, beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about this place.

To access the Sanctuary's assistive listening system, please switch your hearing aid to "T" or request headphones or assistance from an usher. Large print programs are also available by request to an usher.