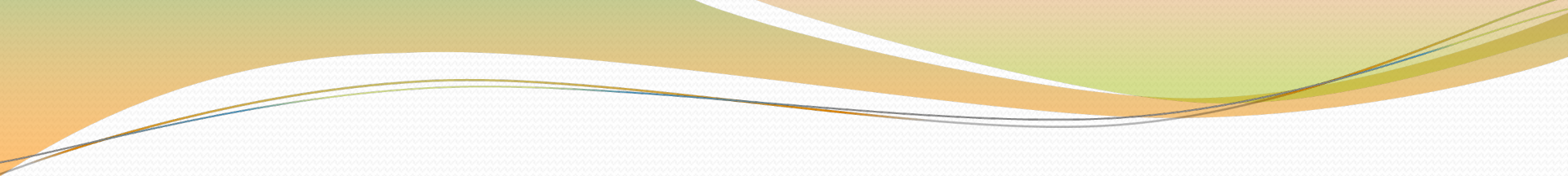


Tending to Unitarian Universalist Women's Ministries



- Congregationalists ordained Antoinette Brown Blackwell in 1853 and she later fellowshiped with the Unitarians
- 1863 – Olympia Brown was the first Universalist woman ordained
- By 1868 there were four Universalist women ministers in America: Olympia Brown, Phebe Ann Hanaford, Augusta Jane Chapin and Ruth Augusta Damon Tabor

- In 1871 Unitarians ordained their first woman minister, Celia Burleigh
- 1873 Marmora Devoe Moody was the first woman graduate at Meadville Theological School in Meadville, PA; they began admitting women in 1868
- By 1890 – 70 Unitarian and Universalist women were ordained

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- In 1910, 684 women were working as ordained ministers of all denominations in the entire USA
 - By 1920, 130 Unitarian and Universalist women had been ordained
 - Only three women clergy served Universalist congregations in 1959-60

- In 1968, only two percent of Unitarian Universalist ministers were female or a total of 21 women
- In 1978, only six percent (or 57 of the total 916 Unitarian Universalist ministers) were women
- In 1988, out of a total of 1,108 ministers, women numbered 276 or 25%

In 1998, 49% of all
clergy active in
Unitarian
Universalist
ministry were
women, that is
504 women
among a total of
1,035 ministers



In 1999, women represented 51%, or the majority of the total Unitarian Universalist ministers



Female Clergy Milestones

- Olympia Brown – ordained in 1863
- Dianne Arakawa – fellowshipped in 1978
- Yvonne Seon – fellowshipped in 1981
- Patricia Jimenez – fellowshipped in 1994
- Danielle Di Bona – ordained & fellowshipped 1998
- Lilia Cuervo – ordained & fellowshipped 1999
- *118 years gap between the first woman ordained & the first woman of color*

First Ordained Black Unitarian Universalist Female Clergy

- Rev. Dr. Yvonne Seon-Wood – 1981
- Rev. Dr. Adele Smith-Penniman – 1982
- Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley – 1986
- Rev. Toni Vincent – 1989
- Rev. Marjorie Bowens Wheatley – 1994

First Ten Black UU Clergywomen

- Rev. Dr. Yvonne Chapelle-Seon – fellowshipped 1981
- Rev. Dr. Adele Smith-Penniman – ordained & fellowshipped 1982
- Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley – ordained 1986; fellowshipped 1986 (parish) & 1996 (community)
- Rev. Toni Vincent – ordained 1989; fellowshipped 1987
- Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley – ordained & fellowshipped 1994
- Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper – fellowshipped 1999
- Rev. Alma Faith Crawford – ordained & fellowshipped 1995
- Rev. Dr. Thandeka – fellowshipped 1996; ordained 2001
- Rev. Shana Lynngood – fellowshipped 1999; ordained 2001
- Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt – fellowshipped 1999; ordained 2001