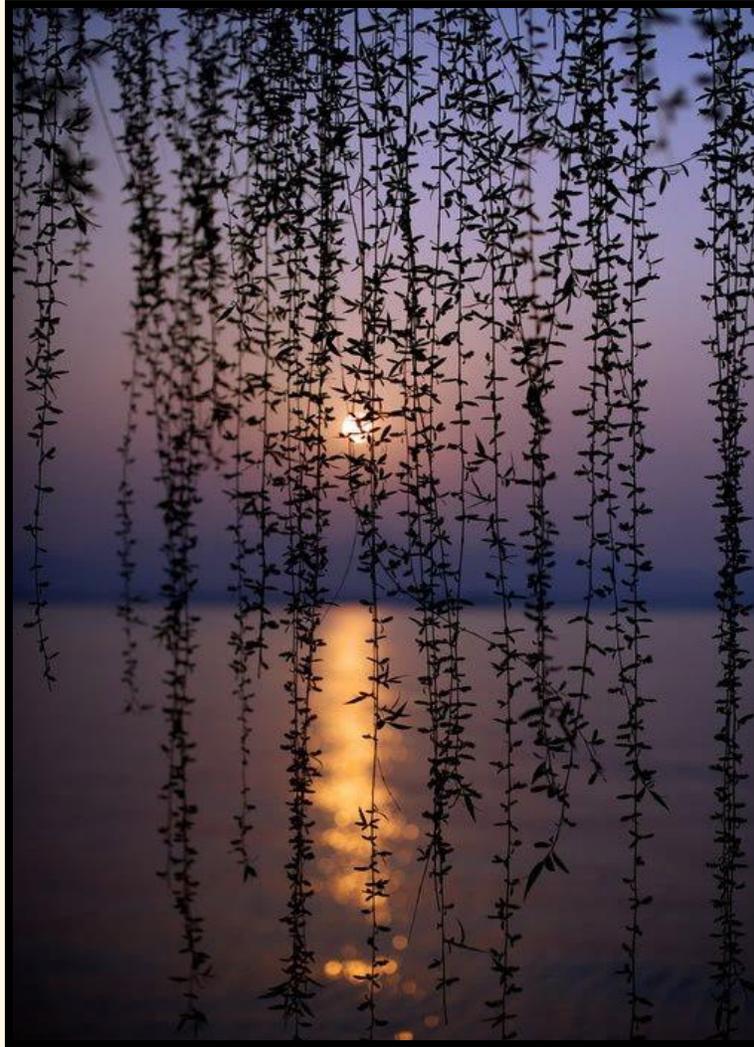


**Service for the Ordination of
Barbara Papagian**



**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.”
John 15:1**

**First Congregational Church of Manchester
In partnership with the Hillsborough Association
Of the New Hampshire Conference,
United Church of Christ**

**May 16, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

**SERVICE FOR ORDINATION OF BARBARA PAPAGIAN TO CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY**

MAY 16, 2021

PRELUDE

Adam Peithmann

WELCOME

Rev. Kevin Pleas

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive)

Ray and Kay Vercoe

One: Be still and know that God is near.

All: God is our refuge and strength.

One: Be still and know that God is reliable.

All: There is a river whose streams gladden God's City.

One: Be still and know that God is in control

All: Come, see the Lord's deeds.

One: Be still and know that God is to be worshipped

All: Now know that I am God. Be still and know that God IS

OPENING PRAYER

Carol Soucy

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:1-16

Tom Irving and Eleanor Stetson

SERMON

Rev. Kevin Pleas

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Richard Slater
Associate Minister, N.H. Conference, UCC

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

GREETING

Linda Lannin,
Moderator, Hillsborough Association

Moderator: Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers of the earth. The Hillsborough Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

All: To God who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Mrs. Selma Naccach-Hoff,
Moderator of First Congregational Church, Manchester
Rev. Donna Vuilleumier and Ron Schneider,
Committee on Church and Ministry

Mrs. Naccach-Hoff: With joy, First Congregational Church, Manchester, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, after carefully considering the call to ordained ministry of Barbara Papagian, respectfully requests that the Hillsborough Association ordain Barbara Papagian to the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ, consistent with scripture and with the traditions of the church universal, and according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Vuilleumier: The Hillsborough Association has reviewed the request of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Barbara Papagian concerning her fitness for ministry in Christ's church. We are pleased, on behalf of the United Church of Christ, to authorize the ordination of Barbara Papagian into the Christian ministry. Barbara Papagian servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your consent to receive ordination into Christian ministry.

Mr. Schneider: The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant reformers.

Rev. Vuilleumier: It affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the gospel in church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.

Mr. Schneider: Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an association, in cooperation with the person and a local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

EXHORTATION

Linda Lannin

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Her I am! Send me!” How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! The messenger announces victory and says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The Spirit of God is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those who are bound.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATE

Rev. Vuilleumier and Mr. Schneider

Rev. Vuilleumier: Barbara, before God and this congregation, we ask you: Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and are you ready with the help of God to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?

Barbara Papagian: I do.

Mr. Schneider: Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well as in the public duties of our office?

Barbara Papagian: I do, relying on God’s grace.

Rev. Vuilleumier: Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking the truth in love?

Barbara Papagian: I will, relying on God’s grace.

Mr. Schneider: Will you be faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, in administering the sacraments and rites of the church, and in exercising pastoral care and leadership?

Barbara Papagian: I will, relying on God’s grace.

Rev. Vuilleumier: Will you keep silent all confidences shared with you?

Barbara Papagian: I will, relying on God’s grace.

Mr. Schneider: Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?

Barbara Papagian: I will, relying on God’s grace.

Rev. Vuilleumier: Do you accept the faith and order of the United Church of Christ; and will you as an ordained minister in this communion, ecumenically reach out to all who are in Christ and show Christian love to people of other faiths and people of no faith?

Barbara Papagian: I will, relying on God’s grace.

ACCLAMATION

Rev. Vuilleumier: Will all clergy and delegates of the Hillsborough Association, please stand, if you are able.

People of God, you have heard the promises Barbara has made. What is your will?

Hillsborough Association Members: By the grace of God, Barbara is worthy! Let us ordain her. Come, Holy Spirit.

Mr. Schneider: Will Barbara’s family and friends please stand, if you are able and join with the Association members in response to the next question. Will you support Barbara in the ministry of Christ?

Hillsborough Association Members, Family, and Friends: We will.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Gordon Rankin, NHCUCC Conference Minister

Rev. Gordon Rankin: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God’s call to ministry in the lives of faithful people and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry.

All those who wish to participate in the laying on of hands will be called forward. You also may symbolically participate in the laying on of hands by outstretching your hands forward.

ORDINATION PRAYER

Rev. Gordon Rankin

Those who have come forward for the laying on of hands return to their pews.

***DECLARATION**

Linda Lannin

Barbara, in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Hillsborough Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you to be ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED

Rev. Maureen Frescott

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Mrs. Pamela LeBlanc

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Barbara Papagian

POSTLUDE

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Jeanine Finefrock: First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Barbara Papagian as its Associate Pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Hillsborough Association install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Linda Lannin: The Hillsborough Association has reviewed the request of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Barbara Papagian, and we are pleased to install her as your Associate Pastor and teacher.

Ms. Linda Lannin: Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

EXHORTATION

Ms. Linda Lannin: Hear these words from the apostle Paul: “We beg you, or brothers and sisters, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

We urge you, our sister, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God want of you, in your life and in Christ Jesus. Amen

COVENANT

Rev. Pleas: Dear Friends, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Rev. Barbara Papagian to minister in this place as Associate Pastor and teacher and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry.

The Hillsborough Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ has been led to call you as Associate Pastor and teacher; are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Hillsborough Association?

Rev. Papagian: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Pleas: Members of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, will you affirm your covenant with your Associate Pastor and teacher?

Local Church Members:

We, the members of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, receive Rev. Barbara Papagian as our Associate Pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Rev. Pleas: Members of Hillsborough Association, will you affirm your covenant with First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and its pastors and teachers?

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

We, the members of the Hillsborough Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Rev. Richard Slater: Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant, Rev. Barbara Papagian to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on her, on the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and on all the churches of the Hillsborough Association that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up you church, and converting sinners to you. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil.

And at the last, by your grace, receive us in your eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, on God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

DECLARATION

Rev. Pleas: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Hillsborough Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as Associate Pastor and teacher of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICES OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Mr. Adam Peithmann; Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH

Rev. Kevin Pleas; Senior Pastor of First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH. Kevin has supported and encouraged me through my commissioning and now my ordination. He is my clergy mentor for my work on my Master's in Divinity program.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Kay Vercoe; Sister and brother-in-law of Barbara Papagian and active members of Laconia Congregational Church, Laconia, NH

Mrs. Carol Soucy; A long time active member of First Congregational Church, Manchester, New Hampshire where she has sung in the choir for many years. She is also my personal mentor for my work on my Master's in Divinity Degree program.

Ms. Michelle Harrington; An active member at First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH where she has sung in the choir for many years.

Mr. Tom Irving; A long time active member of First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH. Tom is a member on my church Member in Discernment Committee.

Mrs. Eleanor Stetson; A long time active member of First Congregation Church, Manchester, NH. Eleanor is a member of my church Member in Discernment Committee.

Rev. Richard Slater; Associate Minister for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. Richard has supported and encouraged me through the Commissioning and Ordination processes.

Ms. Linda Lannin; Moderator for the Hillsborough Association.

Mrs. Selma Naccach-Hoff; Moderator for First Congregational Church of Manchester, NH. Selma has been a member of the church for many years and has been a huge support for me.

Rev. Donna Vuilleumier; Co-Chairperson of the Committee on Church and Ministry for the Hillsborough Association and Senior Pastor of Smith Memorial Church, UCC, Hillsborough, NH.

Mr. Ron Schneider; Co Chairperson of the Committee on Church and Ministry for the Hillsborough Association and member of First Congregational Church of Pelham, NH.

Rev. Gordon Rankin; Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Maureen Frescott; Member of the Committee on Church and Ministry for the Hillsborough Association and Senior Pastor of Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC. Maureen has been my Member in Discernment Advisor for the years that I was working on my Commissioning and my Ordination.

Mrs. Pamela LeBlanc; A long time active member of First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH. Pam is on my church Member in Discernment Committee.

Mrs. Jeanine Finefrock; A long time active member of First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH. She is a Deacon and has served on many committees.

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you to Reverend Shayna Appel, Sandra Frades, and their team who worked hard to put this special Zoom ceremony together.

A big thank you to all the members of my church family at FCC. You have been so very supportive of me, and I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family.

Special thanks to Linda Bonetti and Lauren Henderson, our Administrator and Administrative Assistant. Their support and creative ideas have helped to make this day even more special.

Special thanks to Jeanine Finefrock who has kept me organized and on top of all the details of my ministry, and to Peggy Neveu, whose cookies have kept my energy level up and funny stories have brightened my days.

Special thanks to Carol Soucy who has been a calming presence during my journey to ordination and has advised me on the education piece of the journey.

A very special thanks to Adam Peithmann who has been most patient with my technology ignorance, and who has spent many hours preparing our beautiful Sunday services.

Special thanks to David Penn, who is my faculty advisor at Sioux Falls Seminary. He has always been available when I have questions and is guiding me through my Master's in Divinity Program.

Very special thanks to my best friend, Larry Dearborn, who has patiently calmed me down through the stresses, and keeps me laughing.

Most of all I thank Ray and Kay Vercoe, my sister and brother-in law, who have always been there for me through some really bad times and lots of good times.