GB: Hi, I'm Gene Bergman, Vice President of the Board of our society and a member of the Search Committee that recommended Reverend Mara.

MF: Hello. I'm Martha Fitzgerald. I'm a past president of the board, a member of the search committee, and a long time member of this church.

GB: We want to welcome everyone here and give an especially warm welcome to all of you who are not part of our congregation. Many of you came from far away and we want to thank you for joining us and gracing our wonderful congregation and city.

MF: The installation of settled ministers is an important ritual. It is the culmination of a democratic process, a three-year period of discernment and discovery about who we are and where we are going. Now we are ready to install our fifteenth settled minister. She is preceded most recently by Rev. Gary Kowalski, Rev. Bob Senghas, and Rev. Gaston Carrier. After a vote by our 400 members to hire Rev. Mara Dowdall, today we seal the deal. Together we promise to be true to our shared mission:

"to inspire spiritual growth, care for one another and our community, seek truth, and act for justice." GB: Rev. Mara is the first settled woman minister in our society's 200+ year history and she and Ben, her husband, have deep roots in Vermont and Unitarian Universalism. It was not easy to get such an amazing minister. The seven members of the search committee engaged in an almost year long process. It was hard, grueling in many ways. We met many wonderful candidates, brilliant, warm, challenging. We learned about them as whole people and about our own congregation, this extended family of ours, in the same way. As many of you recall, all did not go as planned, but through that disappointment came great opportunity, for it opened up the chance for Mara to seize the time; our time. And she did. Those of you who heard that incredible sermon "Who Saved You?" today know what I mean.

MF: After the Installation ceremony we invite you to go directly to the parlors through one of the doors behind me.

There you will find delicious food and a reception line for our newly installed settled minister.