



**Faith**  
UNITED CHURCH *of Christ*

*Service of Installation*  
of  
*The Reverend Doctor Theodore Brelsford*  
as  
*Pastor*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

8651 Boston State Road, Boston, NY 14025 • 716-941-3529  
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**PRELUDE** *Chanson*, by John Rutter  
Leslie Ann Brelsford, flute  
Ruth Foley, piano

**\*PROCESSIONAL** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* gray hymnal, #20

**GREETINGS FROM FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOSTON**  
Lois Thurnherr, Search Committee Member

**GREETINGS FROM the NEW YORK CONFERENCE of UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Rev. Gary Ferner, Associate Conference Minister

**GREETINGS FROM THE WESTERN NEW YORK AREA CHURCHES IN COVENANT**  
Rev. Elizabeth Duffy, Moderator, WNYACIC  
Pastor, Zion UCC, Tonawanda

The Western New York Area Churches in Covenant, consisting of the Western Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Northeastern Region - Western Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) greets you in the Name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and earth.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

*All respond:* Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**TIME OF SILENCE**  
Rev. Katherine Dean, member, Faith UCC Boston

**\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**People: And also with you.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Leader: Grace and peace to you for the One who is, and who was, and who is to come.  
**People: Amen.**

Leader: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one God, one faith, one baptism, one God sovereign of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

**People: Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gifts.**

Leader: Christ appointed some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.

**People: Christ did this to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, and for serving a broken world.**

Leader: And so we come together in oneness of faith and in certain knowledge of the Son of God.

**People: We come to bring glory to God only, and to celebrate God's gracious gifts to all of us.**

Leader: In this spirit of unity and purpose, let us worship God.

## INVOCATION

Rev. Gary Gossel, Sr. Pastor, Ebenezer UCC, W. Seneca

## SCRIPTURE READING ISAIAH 58:6-12 (NIV)

Karen Winter, member of Faith UCC Board

## ANTIPHONAL READING PSALM 70 (trans. Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*)

You take delight, O Radiant One, in gracing me with  
new life!

**O Beloved, come and renew me!**

Let me face my weaknesses and all that confuses me,  
that keeps me from joy!

**I seek forgiveness for my wrongdoings,  
I desire only You!**

Let me begin anew, as a child at its mother's  
breast, who basks in love.

**May all who seek You rejoice and be glad!**

May all who surrender to You say evermore,  
"My joy is in the Beloved!"

**Yet I am lowly and fear-filled; hasten to me,  
Beloved!**

You are my strength and my joy; O Beloved, come  
and renew me!

\*HYMN *Here I Am Lord*, (Taylor Publications, PPT)

## SCRIPTURE READING I CORINTHIANS 12:1, 4-7, 12-13, 27-28 (NRSV)

## SERMON "Gifted for the Common Good"

Rev. Dr. M. Bruce McKay, Pastor Emeritus, Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC, Buffalo

\*HYMN *Together We Serve*, black hymnal, #2175

## SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

### Presentation

**Local Church Representative** Corky Forney

Faith United Church of Christ, Boston, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called The Reverend Doctor Theodore (Ted) Brelsford as its pastor and teacher, and respectfully requests that the Western New York Association install him in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

**Association Representative** Rev. Elizabeth Duffy

The Association has reviewed the request of Faith United Church of Christ, Boston, NY. We have prayerfully examined Rev. Brelsford and are pleased to install him as your pastor and teacher.

Ted, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church.

Installation confirms and celebrates the covenant 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**

#### **Association Representative**

*Addressing all:* Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, 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.

*Addressing pastor:* We urge you, our brother, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

*Addressing 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 wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **Covenant**

#### **Association Representative**

*Addressing the congregation:* Dear friends, Faith United Church of Christ Boston has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called The Reverend Doctor Theodore (Ted) Brelsford to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives him as appointed by God for this ministry.

The Western Association has declared that he has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

*Addressing the pastor:* Ted, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that Faith United Church of Christ has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant?

#### **Pastor**

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.

#### **Association Representative**

*Addressing the congregation:* Members of Faith United Church of Christ Boston, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

#### **Members of the Church**

We, the members of Faith United Church of Christ receive Ted Brelsford as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

#### **Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Representative**

Rev. Elizabeth Duffy

Members of Western New York Area Churches in Covenant, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with Faith United Church of Christ Boston and its pastor and teacher?

#### **Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Members**

We, the members of the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant, gather with you, the people 4

and the pastor and teacher of Faith United Church of Christ Boston, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

### **Prayer of Installation**

Rev. Gary Ferner, Associate Conference Minister

Let us pray: Gracious God, our Creator, Redeemer, you have called us to make promises before you; help us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work.

Bless, we pray, your disciple Ted to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on him, on the people of Faith Church and on all the churches of Western New York Area Churches in Covenant, 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 complacent, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and freeing those bound by sin.

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 love and glory, for you are our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer.

*All respond:* Amen.

### **Declaration**

#### **Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Representative**

Rev. Elizabeth Duffy

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Western Association and the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of Faith United Church of Christ Boston!

*All respond:* Thanks be to God!

\*HYMN *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*, black hymnal #2237

#### **WORDS FROM SEARCH COMMITTEE/CONGREGATION**

Ginny Taber, Search Committee Chair

#### **WORDS OF APPRECIATION**

Rev. Dr. Ted Brelsford

#### **CALL TO OFFERING**

(Today's offering will go to Western Association Scholarship Fund)

#### **CHARGE TO PASTOR and CONGREGATION**

Rev. Gary Burdick, Pastor Emeritus, Faith UCC

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Paula Gustafson, Pastor, St. Peter's UCC, W. Seneca and former member of Faith UCC, Boston

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*, black hymnal 2241  
(Please allow clergy to recess first)

*Everyone is invited to join us for refreshments and fellowship  
in the Fellowship Hall downstairs*

*The Western Association of the New York Conference  
and the members of Faith United Church of Christ thank you  
for attending and sharing this very special occasion with us.*

**Faith United Church of Christ, Boston** was formed in 1960 by the joining of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church of Boston (founded 1834 as a German Reformed congregation) and The Boston Community Church (founded ca. 1931). Construction of our current building was completed in 1965 and additional classrooms, offices, and elevator were added in 1982.

**Rev. Dr. Ted Brelsford** came to Faith UCC as Transitional Pastor in May 2019 and was formally called as Settled Pastor in October 2022. Ted is a graduate of Slippery Rock State University (BA), Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Emory University (PhD). Prior to coming to Boston, he was pastor of Orchard Park Community Church, Orchard Park, NY where he was ordained in 2009. From 1998 to 2008 Ted had an academic career at Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta, where he continues to hold an appointment as Associate Professor and teaches occasional online or short on-campus courses in the areas of Religious Education and Practical Theology.