

Living Water Association, ONE
Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ
Worship and Meeting
First Congregational Church, Hudson, Ohio
January 11, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Opening Music Rev. Rachel McDonald

Words of Welcome Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

***Call to Worship** (Responsive) Rev. Dr. George Graham

Based on Isaiah 60

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Many: And the glory of our God has risen upon us.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around!

Many: We will see and be radiant; our hearts rejoice.

One: The Holy One will be our everlasting light,

Many: And God will be our glory!

***Prayer of Invocation**

***Opening Hymn** "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

Scripture Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith

Introduction of the Candidate Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Sermon Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen

Hymn "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Sermon Talkback

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins

Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum Rev. D'Agostino

Search Team Presentation

Motion to Elect Rev. Dr. Elene Larssen

Discussion of Motion

Vote – to vote, scan the QR code with your camera or
visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) on your device and enter code 2954377



Presentation of the Results

Prayer of Blessing Rev. Charlene Smith

Closing Hymn "Called as Partners In Christ's Service" (see insert)

Benediction Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen

Adjournment of Meeting

*Please stand as you are able

Hymns for the Day

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the creator's praise arise, Allelujah, Allelujah!
Let the redeemer's name be sung
Through every land and every tongue,
Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah!

Eternal are your mercies God;
Your truth stands ever high and broad: Allelujah, Allelujah!
Your praise shall run from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more,
Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah, Allelujah!

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Chorus

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings, we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know, that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way."

Chorus

The Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen – Biographical Information

The Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen currently serves as Generosity Officer for the National Ministries of the UCC, where her work has supported impactful ministries and strengthened communities of faith across the Mid-Atlantic Region. Previously, Dr. Larssen has served as Associate Conference Minister in the Minnesota Conference; Senior Minister, First Congregational Church Long Beach, CA; Associate Minister, First Congregational Church of LaGrange, IL and First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, CA; and Campus Minister and Adjunct Faculty of Memorial Chapel, United Campus Christian Ministry at Stanford University.

In addition, Elena has offered leadership on several boards, including the UCC's Antoinette Brown Society and Working Group and Founding Co-chair of the 2030 Clergy Network. Elena served on the Committee on Ministry Ethics Committees for the Northern California-Nevada and Southern California-Nevada Conferences. Currently, Dr. Larssen volunteers extensively as a Trustee of the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and Chair of the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (Pensions Boards). A light-hearted retreat leader and guest teacher, she blogs for "Vital Signs" on ucc.org and is faculty with the Damascus Project.

Dr. Larssen holds both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, receiving distinction for her dissertation entitled, "The Pandemic Pivot: What We Learned That Will Lead Us Forward." A graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, CA (BA in Literature), Elena holds professional certificates in Theater (Conservatory at American Musical Theatre of San Jose), Civic Leadership (Leadership Long Beach, Class of 2017), and is completing the Executive Credential in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute at Indiana University; she has been asked to teach in that program in 2025.

Dr. Larssen is married to Rev. Mark Pettis, also a UCC pastor. Both Californians originally, they settled in Cleveland in 2021 to serve the UCC. They have an elementary school-aged kiddo, a basset hound, and enjoy travel.

Living Water Association, ONE
Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ
Worship and Called Meeting

To Consider the Election of

The Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen

As Transitional Association General Minister
of the Living Water Association, ONE



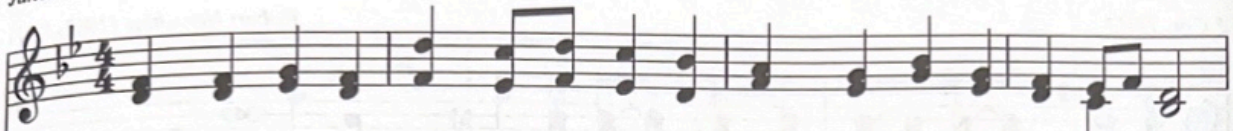
First Congregational Church, Hudson, Ohio
January 11, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



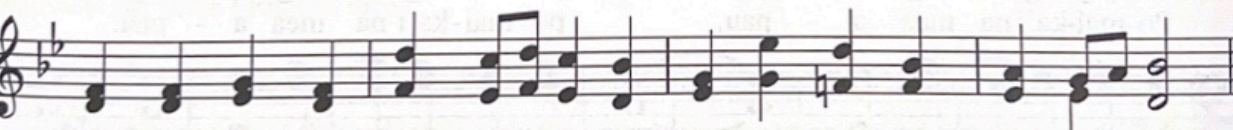
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

