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SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH CALLS NEWS MINISTER

The members of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha called Reverend Scott McNeill as their new settled minister. The church unanimously voted on his call in May and he began work in August, moving here from Chicago with his partner, The Reverend Sarah Gettie Burks.

Rev. McNeill has a background in social justice work, an excellent fit for Second Unitarian, which is known in the Omaha area for social justice projects including preserving the environment and LGBTQ rights. In 2004, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee awarded Rev. McNeill their youth activist award for his social justice projects in fighting homelessness, registering voters, and anti-poverty work.

“Beginning this ministry with the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; this community and I share a vision of joy-filled, hope-inspiring and justice-seeking ministry that welcomes all souls to this religious home,” said Rev. McNeill.

Rev. McNeill’s first service will be August 22, entitled, “Chasing Fireflies on a Summer Night.” He will preach with his “firefly stole” – a religious vestment that will spark imagination and whimsy, along with reverence for all of life. Visitors are welcome at all services, which begin at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 3012 S. 119th Street in Omaha.

Tom Peterson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said, "We were delighted when Rev. Scott McNeill accepted our call to become Second Unitarian Church's settled minister. We eagerly anticipate beginning a new chapter together in the life of this church, and the renewed energy that Rev. Scott's arrival has brought to our congregation."

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (VA) ordained Reverend McNeill in May of 2010. While completing his Master’s degree, he was appointed to the Unitarian Universalist Association’s *Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee*, a committee charged with working on racism and oppression. Rev. McNeill is a graduate of UNC-Asheville in Race and Gender Studies. In 2010, Meadville/Lombard Theological School, affiliated with the University of Chicago, awarded him The Charles Billings Prize in Preaching and The Clayton Bowen Prize in New Testament Studies upon completion of his Master of Divinity degree.

Also please visit http://www.secondunitarianomaha.org/?id=about_minister

More on Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha is a liberal, welcoming church, where all people count and thinking is honored. The church was established due to growing westward Unitarian membership, with current facilities dedicated in 1974. The mission of the Church is to grow as a

beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.

Also please visit www.SecondUnitarianOmaha.org

More on Unitarian Universalism

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish-Christian roots. It has no creed. It affirms the worth of human beings, advocates freedom of belief and the search for advancing truth, and tries to provide a warm, open, supportive community for people who believe that ethical living is the supreme witness of religion. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a religious organization that combines two traditions: the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825.

Also please visit <http://www.uua.org/>

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