

July 14, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of King's Chapel:

We are delighted to announce that Amelia Nugent has agreed to become the Assistant Minister at King's Chapel, beginning with us on Monday, August 7, 2017. Amelia has remarkable gifts for ministry, especially in the areas of worship and preaching, social justice, children's ministry, adult education, and pastoral care. The Search Committee, the Wardens and our Senior Minister are convinced that we will be richly blessed by Amelia's ministry among us. We give thanks that she has chosen to serve God at King's Chapel.

Amelia graduated from Harvard Divinity School in May 2017, where she was awarded the Presidential Scholarship. During her time at Harvard Amelia received the Donald Wells Preaching Prize from the Massachusetts Bible Society, and served as a ministerial intern at Old South Church in Boston, where she has led worship in all three services, facilitated book and bible discussion groups, and initiated a "dinner church" during Lent. During Divinity School Amelia also worked as a Chaplain at the Essex County Correctional Center, and at Maine Medical Center Hospital, serving the pediatric, orthopedic surgery and general medicine floors. While an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke college Amelia led the student Unitarian Universalist organization.

Prior to Divinity School, Amelia was a faith director for Equal Marriage legislative campaigns in Oregon, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Jersey; she continued as a consultant to the American Civil Liberties Union while preparing for ministry. Through these experiences, Amelia has become a prayerful, thoughtful and practical strategist about how to call forth people of faith on issues of importance, so that persons on all sides of an issue can engage in dialog, even through difficult conversations, in order to achieve constructive and meaningful change. We look forward to Amelia's input as our church continues to seek effective ways to seek social justice in our city, an important commitment of both our members and our leaders.

Amelia also has a deep and passionate commitment to children, and ideas for our church school, stemming from her work after college as a preschool teacher while serving with Teach for America in an Arizona Head Start program.

Late this spring, we began to offer prayers at our weekly Sunday services, seeking guidance for our Search Committee and support for the person whom we would be calling as our Assistant Minister. Our Committee's efforts had been diligent, time-consuming, and challenging; we had not yet reached a result, and wondered if we would need to adjust our hopes and dreams. Our Committee Chair asked the Vestry and Council to pray for us.

Then in late May, Amelia was “approved for ordination pending call,” the status she needed before applying for ministerial positions. Within days, we received her application, she graduated from Harvard, and we sought an interview. At the conclusion of our meeting with her, Amelia asked to close our interview with a prayer. She left the room and in unison we concluded that our prayers had been answered.

In gratitude and delight,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel Gomez-Ibanez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, Senior Warden
Levina Wong, Junior Warden
Joy Fallon, Senior Minister

on behalf of the Search Committee:
Levina Wong, Chair
Dean Denniston, Member of Vestry, and former Senior Warden
John Natoli, Chair of Adult Religious Education
Amanda Pickett, Council Member at Large
Cathy Price, Chair of Membership