



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island
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The Reverend Emily Melcher Biography

Emily Melcher is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and a singer and songwriter. She was born and raised in Redlands, CA, where she participated in a youth circus, choirs, and musical theater.

She was a high school exchange student in Sweden, and went on to earn both the B.A. and M.A. degrees in Scandinavian Languages and Literature. Emily married her long-time Swedish friend and sweetheart, Anders Hornblad, in Sweden in 1985.

A noted translator and performer of Swedish troubadour music, Emily is also a songwriter. She writes from her own experiences at the intersection of creativity, psychology and spirituality. She describes singing and songwriting as contemplative and creative practices that foster and inspire wholeness and a deepening connection to the spirit of life and love. She has recorded four CDs.

Emily's call to ministry came, and was nourished, in her home congregation, First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin. She earned the Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, and was ordained to the UU ministry in 2009.

Emily found her first ministry position, and what was to be her calling for several years, in interim ministry. She served as interim minister with congregations in Vermont, Connecticut, and Washington.

Emily is currently enrolled in a Doctorate of Ministry program in Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Practice, and Strategic Leadership at Claremont Theological School, where her focus is on developing a sustaining and sustainable practice of ministry.

In August, 2018, she joyfully accepted our call to serve half-time as the professional minister in our congregation where all share in the ministry.

You can learn more about Emily's music and ministry on her website:
<http://www.emilymelcher.com>.