

Rev. Judith Swahnberg

Judy is a second career pastor, having discerned a call to ministry while serving as a lay leader in the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church. During her tenure there as Chair of the Board of Deacons, she began a weekly prayer and meditation group called Still Waters. What started as a small group meeting for Lent ended up instead meeting for a decade, and the Lenten journey became the path Judy eventually followed to Andover Newton Theological School, which Judy entered as a student on the morning of September 11, 2001.

Judy grew up in Keene, NH and is a graduate of Wellesley College, where she majored in English. She also has an MBA degree from Simmons College School of Management, and studied poetry at Radcliffe College. She completed her Clinical Pastoral Education at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and received her MDIV from Andover Newton Theological School in 2006. She completed an 8-month Spiritual Direction program in 2007.

Judy's ministry connects her both to the larger church and to advocating for compassionate care. She serves on the Kenneth Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care Board of Directors, and on the Philanthropic Council of the Developmental Medicine Center at Children's Hospital, Boston. Judy is a Trustee of Andover Newton Theological School, and serves on the Metropolitan Boston Association's Board on Ministerial Standing and on the Board of Ministerial Aid.

Union Congregational Church called Judy as Associate Minister in June 2007, and she was ordained in October 2007 and installed in May 2008. She is delighted to serve the congregation with her colleagues, Abby and Jon Paul. Judy is a worship leader and preaches often, yet her primary focus of her ministry is prayer and pastoral care.

She and her husband of 28 years, Carl Novotny, live in Wellesley. They have four grown children, five grandchildren and two dogs.