

A True Calling
By Nannene Gowdy

A few years after joining the Haverhill, MA Universalist Unitarian Church, I became what we called then the Superintendent of Sunday School. I started attending the Mass Bay District Fall and Spring Rallies regularly and truly loved them. In March 1975 I went to the Spring Rally with other parishioners and came home high on the experience.

When I arrived home I found that my former husband had arranged a surprised birthday party for me. Friend and relatives I hadn't seen in years were there. It was another high.

After I had been home for about one-half hour, I told the gathering to be quiet, I had an announcement to make. I had no idea why I said that or what I was going to say. When everyone was quiet, I told them I had decided to go into the UU ministry.

It had never been a conscious thought before that minute. The reaction was interesting—half of the people said, “WHAT? YOU?” The other half said, “I was wondering when that was going to occur to you.”

The more I thought about my announcement, the more it made sense. Ministry combined my gifts and my interests. I have also always considered it a true “calling”.