

Rev. Viola Abbitt (she/they) loves Unitarian Universalism and has great faith in its potential as a driving force in making a positive change in the lives of people and in the world as a whole.

Rev. Viola served as the settled minister at Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists in Virginia Beach, VA for six years, prior to coming to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs. Before that she served as the half-time minister for two Unitarian Universalist congregations in New York State, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie and the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, and the Intern Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield in Massachusetts. In addition to the congregations she has served in various capacities, she has had the privilege of preaching in congregations in Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Ohio and St John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She also served as a Minister of the Week at the Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Saco, Maine in the Summer of 2021, and at the International Affairs Conference at Star Island in New Hampshire in the Summer of 2025. During her time here, she will also be serving as the Minister for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Glens Falls.

Rev. Viola was a contributor to the liturgical materials for the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Campaign in 2018, *BLUU: Notes An Anthology of Love, Justice, and Liberation*, and an upcoming anthology to be published by Skinner Books. She is currently a member of the Nominating Committee of the UUA, an Advocate in the UUA's Office of Ethics and Safety and a Good Officer with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. She previously served on the UUA's Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee and the board of Camp Unirondack in Lowville, NY. She is a member at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady.

Prior to ministry, Rev. Viola was the Director of the Office of the Ombudsman in New York State where she managed a state agency program responsible for advocating for the rights of incarcerated youth in the juvenile justice system. Before that she was a Deputy Bureau Chief in the New York State Attorney General's Office where she supervised the prosecution of cases involving environmental crime, tax fraud, securities fraud and public corruption. Earlier in her

legal career she served in Bronx County, New York as an Assistant District Attorney and later as the Deputy Counsel for the Borough President of the Bronx.

Rev. Viola received an MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School, a JD from Fordham University School of Law, an MSLS from Long Island University and a BA from Binghamton University. She was a participant in the Spiritual Direction program at The Rowe Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center in Rowe, MA.

Rev. Viola likes to be in nature, thinks of herself as an amateur photographer, and is a lover of games, autobiographical books (paper and audio), science fiction and horror movies, and all forms of dance and music. She has one adult son who also shares her love of music and has made a career of it.

Rev. Viola currently shares her home with her two rescue cats, Cricket and Fluffy.

