



Did you know Constance Mary Coltman...

Constance Mary Coltman was one of the first women ordained to Christian ministry in Britain, when she was ordained by the Congregational Union of England and Wales on 17 September 1917.

Born in Putney in London, Constance Todd grew up in a Presbyterian family who attended the Putney Presbyterian Church. After attending Saint Felix School, Southwold, as a boarder she read history in Somerville College, Oxford.

She became conscious of her call to ministry but was told that it would be impossible in the Presbyterian Church of England. In 1909, the Congregational Council considered the question of ordaining women. The principal of the (then) Congregational college, Mansfield College, Oxford, was persuaded that her call was genuine and, in 1913, she was accepted as a student there, where she obtained her London Bachelor of Divinity degree.

Her candidacy for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments was tested and accepted by the King's Weigh House congregation in Mayfair, in 1917. After her ordination, presided by William E. Orchard, a Presbyterian, and assisted by Congregationalist ministers, she ministered there jointly with her husband, Claud Coltman.

Constance was not a campaigner, but supported younger women who felt called to ministry, and helped found the Fellowship of Women Ministers and the Society for the Ministry of Women. She was a friend of Maude Royden, who served as assistant minister at the nonconformist City Temple, and contributed a chapter to Royden's book *The Church and Women* (1924).

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org



Call To Worship

L: We are keepers of the Way.

C: We come, aware of our place as 21st Century pilgrims.

L: May we bring to this worship hour and to our very lives, a commitment to refashion this world for Christ.

C: May we renew and cherish our life together, as God's free people.

Invocation (in unison)

Let Your holy presence be among us, O Lord, in this year of remembrance, that we, being made aware of the conviction and character of those before us, may enter into our inheritance, standing firm in the convictions for which they ventured to this new world freedom. Let our forebears' dedication to freedom and righteousness be their gift to us this day, and all our tomorrows. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard