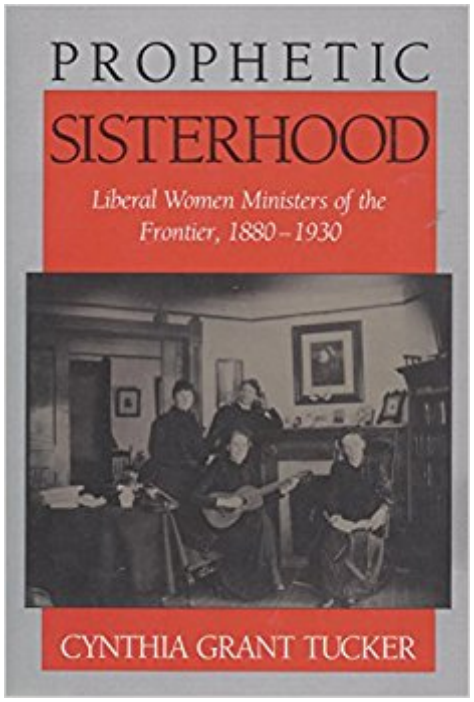
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Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers Of The Frontier, 1880-1930



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Synopsis

"Prophetic Sisterhood" documents the struggles of a courageous group of nineteenth-century women to find a place in the liberal denominations of American religion. They left the security of their homes and endured great hardships in fulfillment of their desire to minister to congregations on the western frontier. Their questioning of traditional ministerial roles led to the creation of a domestic ministry whose scope extended far beyond the pulpit to suffrage, social settlements, and the peace movement. But because they were women, they failed to gain institutional acceptance. "In "Prophetic Sisterhood", the conspiracy of forgetfulness around women in ministry is challenged. The book contains historical substance, readable stories, and methodological insights." - Barbara Brown Zikmund. "Cynthia Tucker's "Prophetic Sisterhood" fills a major gap in the study of women and religion in America. It is invaluable as the only documentation of a support system of female ordained ministers in the nineteenth century." - Rosemary Keller.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cynthia Grant Tucker is Professor of English at The University of Memphis and author of Kate Freeman Clark: A Painter Rediscovered; Healer In Harms Way: Mary Collson, A Clergywoman in Christian Science; and Spirited Threads: The Art of Writing of Patricia Roberts Cline. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a well told story how the earliest women ministers - there were many - accepted parishes in

the "West" (now the Midwest) when clergymen preferred the comfort, money, and status of East Coast pastorates. These seminary-educated liberal women were very active ministers to their members covering largely rural areas. They networked with each other since support was nearly nonexistent from their Eastern headquarters.

This account of the Iowa Sisterhood thoroughly merits its warm reception by Unitarian Universalists and others. Thoroughly researched and lucidly narrated, it reveals the courage, dedication, tact, and skill of Mary Safford, Eleanor Gordon, and their many colleagues who founded liberal congregations in the Midwest, a region where few Harvard-trained male Unitarian clergy would settle, and where those few typically would not settle long. Midwestern Unitarians sped the progress of American Unitarianism in a liberal direction, and the women of the Iowa Sisterhood were at the vital core of that process.

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