

glen thomas **rideout** | d.mus.a.

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ARTIST BIOS

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## dr. glen thomas rideout

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### ARTIST BIO

Addressing the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, The Rev. Otis Moss III described him as “without a doubt, one of the greatest ministers and gifts to this nation.” With gladness, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout works as one of Unitarian Universalism’s most active artists, liturgical thinkers, teachers and leaders of worship and music.

Dr. Rideout has served as music minister in eight faith traditions, led and taught groups of Unitarian Universalists in more than a quarter of the nation’s states, and conducted musical ensembles in twenty nations. Glen Thomas has led and taught in partnership with the UUA’s United Nations Office, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and as part of the Distinguished Worship Team for the Harper-Jordan Memorial Symposium of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU). In January, he was appointed to the adjunct faculty of Meadville-Lombard Theological School.

His work with the Rev. Julica Hermann de la Fuente and the Rev. Erika Hewitt created “De-Centering Whiteness in Worship,” a leading resource for anti-racism work in congregations. His writing is published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and Skinner House. *With Matt Meyer, the Rev. Sara Green, and the Rev. Sofia Betancourt, he helped to launch the Annual Songleaders’ Convergence—a gathering to empower Unitarian Universalist song leaders.*

Dr. Rideout is Director of Worship and Music for First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. In his thirteenth year with the community, he leads the pioneering collaborative worship method he created with the Rev. Gail Ruth Geisenhainer [*‘gai-zIn-he-nə*] (*GUISE-in-hay-ner*) in 2014, and has led the congregational and ensemble music programs to national recognition.

*A winner of the esteemed American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Conducting Competition, Dr. Rideout has conducted extensively for Michigan's finest orchestral ensembles, including as a chorusmaster for the University of Michigan's Grammy-nominated recording of Milhaud's Orestian Trilogy. Dr. Rideout has been selected to lead the 2020 ACDA Central Division Treble Honor Choir in February.*

Glen Thomas is grateful for the mentorship of Jerry Blackstone and Philip Olsen, Karen Sams and Dr. Jamie Washington, Dr. Melissa Rose and Bruce Dudley—his instructors in of conducting and piano. And he is proud to acknowledge the African Methodist Episcopal and Unitarian Universalist traditions, whose elders have been his mentors and colleagues for over twenty years.

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## ARTIST BIO

Addressing the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, The Rev. Otis Moss III described him as “without a doubt, one of the greatest ministers and gifts to this nation.” With gladness, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout is among Unitarian Universalism’s most active artists, theologians, teachers and leaders of worship and music.

Dr. Rideout has served as music minister in eight faith traditions, led and taught groups of Unitarian Universalists in more than a quarter of the nation’s states, and conducted musical ensembles in twenty nations. Glen Thomas has led and taught in partnership with the New England and Pacific Western UUA Regional Assemblies, UUA’s United Nations Office, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance, Finding Our Way Home, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and as part of the Distinguished Worship Team for the Harper-Jordan Memorial Symposium of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU). This year, he joins the faculty of Meadville-Lombard Theological School as an adjunct instructor.

His work with the Rev. Julica Hermann de la Fuente and the Rev. Erika Hewitt created “De-Centering Whiteness in Worship,” a leading resource for anti-racism work in congregations. His writing is published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and Skinner House. *And Glen Thomas has contributed to Arnason & Rolenz’s Worship That Works (second edition), Nancy McDonald Ladd’s After The Good News, Hewitt & Brooks’s Sparks of Wonder: Theme-Based Ministry for the Whole Congregation, and Kimberley Debus’s The Worship Whisperer podcast. With Matt Meyer, the Rev. Sara Green, and the Rev. Sofia Betancourt, he helped to launch the Annual Songleaders’ Convergence—a gathering to empower Unitarian Universalist song leaders.*

In his fourteen year, Dr. Rideout is Director of Worship and Music for First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, leading the uncommonly-collaborative, team-worship process he created with the Rev. Gail Ruth Geisenhainer [ˈgai-zIn-ˌhe-nə] (GUISE-in-hay-ner) in 2014. With Ann Arbor's community of musicians, he leads annual the BIG sing in Ann Arbor as founding director, a subversively-nonprofit choral festival for all people.

*His most prized professional recognitions include first prize, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Conducting Competition; community singing projects underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Glen Thomas Rideout Endowed Vocal Scholarship (vested by Dave and Nancy Lyman with the University of Michigan). Dr. Rideout has conducted the University of Michigan Chamber Choir, the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club and the Manhattan Chorale—a professional ensemble of New York City. He has prepared choruses for Jerry Blackstone (University of Michigan Symphony Band and Choirs), Kenneth Kiesler (University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra), Antonia Joy Wilson (Midland Symphony Orchestra) and Brett Mitchell (Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra).*

*Glen Thomas has sung as a guest of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, the Mark Morris Dance Group, the University Musical Society, the Star-Spangled Music Project, and for the investiture of Judith E. Levy to the United States Federal Court. Dr. Rideout will lead the 2020 ACDA Central Division Treble Honor Choir in February.*

Dr. Rideout holds a degree in voice from Vanderbilt University and graduate degrees in conducting from the University of Michigan. He is trained in piano performance at the Peabody Institute, through the African Methodist Church, and by Dr. Melissa Rose, and jazz pianist Bruce Dudley. His experience and practice of preaching, liturgical leadership, theology, and music ministry with elders of the African Methodist Episcopal and Unitarian Universalist traditions number more than twenty years. He was, and will

ever be, the student of the Rev. Gail Ruth Geisenhainer, the Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington, Dr. Jerry Blackstone, and maestro Philip A. Olsen.



## Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout

ARTIST BIO (UU, brief)

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor's Director of Worship and Music, Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout leads the collaborative worship process he created with the Rev. Gail Ruth Geisenhainer (GUISE-in-hayner) in 2014. Ann Arbor's worship and music have become a denominational leader in congregational singing, ensemble spiritual practice, and liturgical imagination. Dr. Rideout's poetry and sermons have been included in Unitarian Universalist worship, meditations, clerical conferences, seminary and leadership certification syllabi internationally. He is published by Church of the Larger Fellowship, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and Skinner House.