

The ordination of Roberto Rosso

On the same weekend as the Transylvanian Unitarian Church celebrated its 440 years of existence and survival, Dr. Roberto Rosso from Italy travelled to Copenhagen to be ordained into the Unitarian ministry. With the support of the Danish Unitarian congregation, Roberto received ordination from the hand of Superintendent Pastor Knut Heidelberg of Norway. The service was held on Sunday, November 16, 2008. Roberto became the first Italian to receive ordination inspired by the Transylvanian Unitarian tradition.



Preparations for this extraordinary event in the history of Unitarianism started many years ago when Roberto founded the first Unitarian congregation in Italy. 2005 he travelled to Romania and there visited Unitarian pastor Sándor Szilárd and his congregation. Roberto was baptized and confirmation in the Transylvanian Unitarian Church.

Later informal talks took place between Unitarians in Norway and the Unitarian bishop of Sweden, Ragnar Emilsen, once ordained to the Unitarian ministry by bishop Lajos Kovács of Romania. The question of how to ordain pastors for Unitarian ministry was discussed, and it was decided to call Roberto for ordination.

But the road towards the ordination should not be without complications. The month for the ordination was first set to June this year in Bela Bartok Unitarian

Church in Budapest. But the first complication started when Bishop Ragnar so sadly died in February. Then in June the Superintendent Pastor from Norway qualified for handing over the ordination became seriously ill and unable to travel to Budapest. Still Roberto went to Budapest and together with the Bela Bartok Unitarian congregation and Pastor Léta Sándor he received the ceremony blessing and prayer.

For some time it was uncertain if the ordination could take place this year. But then a positive response from Mr. Preben Bovin of the Danish Unitarian Church arrived and it was arranged that Roberto should receive his ordination at the Danish Unitarian Church.

To see photos and videos of the ordination, please visit <http://roberto.unitarkirken.no>