Parvey leaves MIT

By Lani L. Johnson

Laurie Parvey, MIT Lutheran chaplain for the last five years and the first woman ever ordained at Harvard, has gone to Geneva, Switzerland, to set up an office for study of the community of women and men in the church for the World Council of Churches. She leaves behind duties at Harvard, and University Lutheran Church in Cambridge to accept the two-year appointment.

In her final sermon in the MIT Chapel in December, Parvey spoke of Christians as a people "set apart," noting that the Chapel itself was intended to be "in" MIT but not "of" it. Parvey recalled that when she first came to the campus in 1972, the general attitude was that science was clearly apart from religion and that morals would only "mess up" the mind. She added, "Now, growth of faith and learning are integrated into the process of what we are becoming."

At a dinner held in her honor after the service, Parvey commented on the increased visibility of the MIT religious programs. "They told me in 1972 that a mid-week service was needed, the chaplaincy at MIT is being assumed by Jessica Crist, third-year Harvard Divinity School student, who has been there at MIT since 1976."

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