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The President to listen, the lady to preach

Chicago Daily News

When President Gerald Ford goes to church, a woman may do the preaching.

The Rev. Patricia Park, an ordained deacon, is clergy assistant to the rector of Immanuel-On-The-Hill Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Va., which Ford attends.

Mrs. Park, who was ordained last May, has preached at the church while the rector, the Rev. William L. Dols, Jr., has been on vacation.

She expects she will be preaching monthly at the church. "It's in my contract," she told the Chicago Daily News.

Ford is an Episcopalian who, according to a friend "made a recommitment" to

Jesus Christ three years ago.

That was during a pregame service for the Dallas Cowboys in Washington that Ford "happened to show up at," Billy Zeoli, of Muskegon, Mich., said last December.

In a magazine article last month, Ford referred to Zeoli, a producer of evangelical films, as a friend who has introduced him to Christian athletes.

Zeoli refers to Ford as "a growing Christian (who) has accepted Christ as his Savior."

According to Anna Cunningham, the church's lay assistant for a year, the President has attended church "pretty much every week when he's in town."