

Election, June 2021

Candidates for the Nominating Committee



Debra Boyd

I've been a Unitarian Universalist for nearly 17 years. During that time I've served in volunteer leadership at the congregation, former District, and national UUA level. How we cultivate, identify, and support leadership is important to me. I believe that we need everyone, and we need a diversity of experience, background, orientation, and history to lead us into the future. However, we all have unique gifts and talents. So, my aspiration is to engage with an amazing Nominating Committee in the mystic art of matchmaking between you and volunteer leadership opportunities so that the congregation can benefit from your gifts and you can be successful and supported in placing love at the center of our congregation as we transform ourselves and our world. I can't wait to learn how you want to contribute to making our faith community more radically inclusive and just.



Christine Davidson

Christine has been involved in many various aspects of church life at First UU. She's served on teams, task forces, and as a staff member. She is involved in the wider UU world through volunteering with Summer Institute and General Assembly. She finds typing bios awkward and isn't sure what makes sense to put here as you either know her at this point and have an opinion or haven't met her yet and how do you form an opinion from five or six sentences? Christine has a vested interest in making sure we get good candidates and a strong culture of leadership at FUU because it makes it a better place for members and friends and cuts down on staff stress because they can focus on their jobs; which again makes First better for everyone.

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Pam Conley

I am a semi-retired voice over talent where I was active in union organizing and negotiations for several years, serving as Pres. of the Columbus/Dayton/Cincinnati Local and on the National Board of AFTRA. My work for equal opportunities for women and minorities in television and radio make First UU Columbus a perfect fit.

The Chalice Choir, under the direction of Brandon Moss, introduced me to a talented and interesting group of people, some of whom are becoming close friends. Revs. Marian and Eric and some absolutely fascinating members, welcomed me by sharing their stories at coffee hour. This past pandemic year emphasized the importance of cherishing friends and family and living life in a positive, supportive community. This will be my opportunity to meet more of you and to help make everyone feel involved and welcome at First UU.



Ron Payne

Born: 06/21/1940; BA OSU August 1962; married 08/26/1962; ordained Deacon United Methodist Church June 1963, ordained Elder UMC October 1966; M. Div. Methodist Theological School in Ohio 1966, while student at MTSO participated in March Selma-Montgomery; D.Min 1980 Graduate Theological Seminary; served as local church pastor at typical variety of congregations 1963-2001; retired 2001, at retirement serving congregation as senior pastor in congregation of 900 members; part-time pastor in retirement 2002-2008. As retiree Volunteer in Park Nat. Park Service Big Bend Nat. Park 2008-2014 Winters. Member of First UU since Oct. 2019.

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Julie Carr Smyth

Julie Carr Smyth was raised at First UU Columbus, the daughter of one of the church's early members, the late Peggy Carr, who joined in the 1950s when the church was located on 11th Avenue on Ohio State campus. After living outside Columbus for some years, she has been regularly attending the church since returning to Columbus in 2000, including singing alto in the Chalice Choir, serving as a mentor for the Coming-of-Age class and volunteering with Our Whole Lives and UU Cares. Julie is a journalist with The Associated Press. Her career has taken her to newspapers in Orlando, Florida, and Albany, New York, where she met her husband, Al. They have one grown daughter, Caroline.



Steve Molk

- First went to the church at 5 or 6 years old when it was in the "consecrated barn" on 11th Ave. on OSU campus.
- Started in Sunday school in the older part of the current building in 2nd grade. Attended through 12th grade.
- Participated in Liberal Religious Youth throughout high school. Attended meetings, cons, and summer camp (OPIK).
- Began attending "adult" choir in 11th grade. Have been in choir continuously (except for college years) from 1970 to the present.
- Signed membership book at age 16 (1970). Church member for over 50 years.
- Served on Social Responsibility Committee (precursor to Social Justice Committee and Justice Action Ministry) in the 1970's and 1980's. Was a BREAD team member this year.
- Served on the Green Team with Tom Baillieul around 2008 to 2012. Performed a hazardous chemicals inventory.
- Served as youth group adviser (with Seth Kraut) in the 1990's for several years.
- Served one term on the Nominating Committee (in 1980's/1990's?).
- Have donated fundraising nature hikes and fossil hikes to the church auction since its inception.

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Pat Hoffman

I have been a UU since shortly after my marriage, when my husband (Episcopalian) and I (Methodist) decided we wanted to explore other denominations to find one that "fit" us at that time of our life. I had been active in the Methodist Student Movement while in college and participated in regional activities. We found the West Shore UU Church in Cleveland, and I was on the Board and assisted the Director of Religious Education and helped set up a cooperative day care called Play Day for families with preschool children. This was about 50 years ago and we might have been one of the first churches to have a coed bathroom and gender specific sandboxes (chosen by the kids!).

In Key West, where I ran an 18 room B & B after my divorce, I was part of the fellowship during its time of growth and move into more permanent housing.

When I moved back to Ohio, I found First UU, joined a covenant group and helped with pre-church breakfasts. (I was in a "I don't want to be in charge of anything but will be a dog's body where needed" time of my life). I have been active in BREAD and the women's covenant group almost since my first days in the church. I have also served as a greeter and usher at the first session of church and helped in the computer army for the live auctions for the last several years.

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Candidates for the Board of Trustees

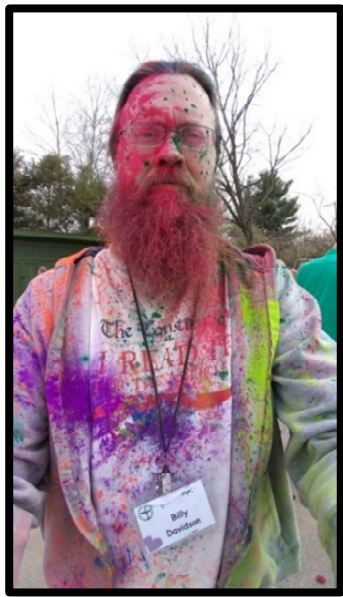


Julie Pinsonneault

I am a lifelong UU, originally from suburban Philadelphia. I met my husband Marc (also a lifelong UU) when we were teens in LRY- the UU youth group at the time. We married in college and joined First UU in 1995 after we moved to Ohio. Our kids Maddie and Max grew up in the church. Maddie and her family are active UUs on the west coast in Vancouver, Washington.

I have been a choir member since Max was in middle school, and, in the past, I have been active in planning and organizing social and fellowship events including some fellowship pledge dinners, a mother-daughter book group, a women's group that still meets today, and the annual Labor Day Retreat. I have served on the nominating committee twice and served on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Meadville District of the UUA for 6 years.

At work, I just started a new job at Ohio State as a program manager for Program Grants Development at the Comprehensive Cancer Center that I am excited about. I enjoy traveling to see my kids and grandkids.



Billy Davidson

Billy was raised in the southeast. He attended college in the region and lived there for several years before moving to Columbus. Billy has 5 children, all of whom attended SYC, and are currently active in the RE program. So you could say he is both invested in and an advocate of these programs. He strongly believes in our social justice programs and wants to find ways to help us achieve their goals as a community. You may have seen Billy cooking breakfast on some Sunday mornings pre-covid.