

## Report of the 2016-17 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee submits this slate of candidates for terms beginning July 1, 2017. Election will take place at the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, May 21, 2017, when nominations may also be offered from the floor.

	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term ends</b>
<i>Officers of the Congregation*</i>	President	Joan Pederson	6-30-18
	Vice President	Jim Proctor	6-30-18
<i>Board Members</i>	Trustee	John Eatinger	6-30-20
	Trustee	Joseph Harrington	6-30-20
	Alternate Trustee	Christine Harrell	6-30-18
<i>Council Chairs</i>	Program Council Co-Chairs	Betty Holcomb	6-30-18
		Cheryl Wegner	6-30-18
	Religious Education Council Chair	Mary Clare Bietila	6-30-18
	Social Justice Council Co-Chairs	Andrea Freerksen	6-30-18
Evan Freund		6-30-18	
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Member	Kris Barker	6-30-18
	Member	Lisa Christensen Gee	6-30-18
	Member	John Saphir	6-30-18

Trustees serve for three-year terms. Dates when the terms of continuing trustees will expire:

- *June 30, 2018:* Margot Horn, Joan Pederson, and Jim Proctor
- *June 30, 2019:* Beverly Bennett and Dennis Koehn

\* Only continuing and incoming trustees are eligible to serve as President or Vice President. Terms of both offices last one year, but incumbents are eligible for re-election if their terms as trustees continue beyond June this year.

Respectfully submitted,

2016-17 Nominating Committee: Lisa Christensen Gee, Jean Hester, John Saphir

## **BIOGRAPHIES, 2017 SLATE OF CANDIDATES**

### **Joan Pederson, President**

Joan Pederson is a trustee entering the final year of her term on the board. She also serves as the congregation's current president, sings in the choir, and volunteers in the church office—retirement is a wonderful thing! She joined First Unitarian in 1971, met Bette Sikes (now her spouse) here a year later, and continues to love worship, long-time friends, and the richly varied community that have challenged and sustained her here for a very long time. Her previous involvement at First Unitarian has included teaching Religious Education, serving on all three of our councils and on a wide range of committees and task forces, representing the congregation as a delegate at denominational meetings locally, regionally and nationally, and previous terms on the board and as president about 15 years ago.

### **Jim Proctor, Vice President**

Jim Proctor has been a member of First Unitarian Church of Chicago for many years. He currently sings in the church choir and participates in the Men's Group, the Global Studies Group, and the Committee on Ministry. He is serving for the second time on the Board of Trustees, and in the past, he has served on the Worship & Music Committee, the Growth Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Search Committee for our ministers, Rev. Teri & David Schwartz. He has twice served as a mentor in our Coming of Age program and twice served as a facilitator in the Our Whole Lives program.

### **John Eatinger, Trustee**

John Eatinger is a longtime professional photographer who has worked in a health care delivery system for 18 years. He has been a member at First Unitarian for 10 years, actively involved in church life with his fabulous wife, Lisa Martin-Eatinger, and his two girls, Quinn (12) and Keiran (9). John has been involved with the Our Whole Lives coming of age program, membership committee, spiritual pluralism group, and 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration committee. He has also volunteered for the Religious Education program throughout the years, as well as doing outreach for the homeless. John has provided many wonderful photographs for the congregation, specifically the annual group membership photograph. John brings to the Board of Trustees the perspectives of having worked as a tradesman in a creative field and as the parent of young children. He is committed to the long-term viability of First Unitarian as his spiritual home and is dedicated to the work ahead to ensure the church continues to serve his children and other new and potential families.

### **Joseph M. Harrington, Trustee**

Joseph Harrington currently serves as an Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he is also liaison/representative to key stakeholders and local health agencies in Cook County. Joe brings a wealth of board experience to First Unitarian Church: he has served in a leadership capacity on numerous city, state and civic health related boards, and holds professional memberships in many such organizations dating back from 1980 to the present. Joe has been a member of First Unitarian since December of 2001. Joe has served on the Program Council and facilitates the First Unitarian Men's Group. He loves music and has called upon his many friends who are musicians to participate in a church service he leads. Having first preached in the church as a student at Meadville Lombard in the summer of 2006, Joe enjoys regular opportunities to participate in worship services.

### **Christine Harrell, Alternate Trustee**

Christine Harrell became a member of First Unitarian in 2013. She has served as alternate trustee of the Board since July 2016. Previously, she participated in the Committee on Ministry and volunteered at the Talent Auction. She currently is the coordinator of the Young Adult Group as well as a worship associate. She also meets periodically with the UU Christian group. Christine loves First Unitarian's diversity, welcoming spirit, and commitment to social justice. In her professional life, Christine is a teacher in Chicago Public Schools. She is the union delegate for her school and a member of the Chicago Teacher Union's CORE caucus (Caucus of Rank and File Educators). She earned her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education at De Paul University and Master of Education at Christian Brothers University (Memphis, TN). Christine is a lifelong Chicagoan. Born and raised in the West Ridge neighborhood, she now lives in Bronzeville with her three cats: Francis, Vinnie and Salma.

### **Betty Holcomb, Program Council Co-Chair**

Betty Holcomb's journey to Unitarian Universalism began in college at Northern Illinois University, where she experienced diverse spiritual growth going to a Methodist church different from the black sect (The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church) where she was raised. She officially came to Unitarian Universalism in 1974 to give her children a religious upbringing without "fire and brimstone." She has been a member of three congregations: Columbia, MO., Deerfield, IL and now, First Unitarian Church of Chicago, her spiritual home. Currently her partner-in-life, Reginald K. Rush, her two children, Walter A. "Butch" Anderson, Jr., Jala L. Anderson, and her granddaughter, Phoenix Rose, occupy her emotional heart. Her social action efforts are occupied by ranting for reproductive, gender, and racial justice.

### **Cheryl Wegner, Program Council Co-Chair**

Years ago, Cheryl took an online test called "What is your religion?" It told her she was 100% Unitarian Universalist and 90% Neopagan. So she tried them both out and liked them both. She and her daughter visited First Unitarian for the first time in December 2001. As it happened, it was the Sunday of the holiday pageant. As they stood there kind of tentatively, Colleen Grogan swooped down on them, said "We need shepherds," and whisked her then 8-year-old daughter away. She knew then that this was my kind of place (her daughter wasn't so sure!). Over the years, Cheryl has served a 3-year term on the Religious Education Council, acted as leader of the Earth-Based Group of the Spiritual Pluralism Project, and taught Sunday school for a few years. Recently, she has been attending the UU Christian group (still not a Christian, though), has helped resurrect the Adult Education Committee, and is currently organizing the annual auction (with a lot of help). She thinks she has the energy for a few more events.

### **Mary Clare Bietila, Religious Education Chair**

Mary Clare Bietila brings a wealth of experience as an educator with a diverse background in events and project management. She currently works part-time for SSA managing professional development programs for social workers. Before joining SSA, Mary Clare directed continuing education programs for Columbia College and managed outreach programs for Loyola University. Before moving to Chicago in 2010 she was a high school teacher in Fairfax County, Virginia. She has a Master's in Education from The George Washington University and is originally from Richmond Virginia. In addition, Mary Clare is a writer and patient advocate who supports cancer patients with a focus on parenting and sexual health during and after treatment. She is the current chair of the Communications Committee, a member of the Belonging

Committee, and developed the social justice curriculum for Religious Education this year. She has been a part of First Unitarian since 2010 and became a member in 2016.

### **Andrea Freerksen, Social Justice Co-Chair**

Andrea Freerksen has been a member of First Unitarian since June 2014 and began attending in April of 2012. She is co-leader of the Black Lives Matter Task Force, which she started in November 2015. She currently serves as UU co-liaison for Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition and is an active participant in the Visioning Team for youth and young adult UUs in Chicago. She is connected to and involved with the movement for Black Lives and issues related to immigrant rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ issues. Andrea holds an MA from University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. She is fluent in Spanish and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and therapist at a Chicago community mental health clinic. She sings in the choir regularly and attends young adult outings at First Unitarian.

### **Evan Freund, Social Justice Co-Chair**

Evan Freund is an accomplished health services executive and consultant. He served as Executive Director and COO of ambulatory medical care and HMO delivery systems in Chicago for over twenty-five years, where he focused on the development of services for underserved populations—urban and rural. He holds an MA from the University of Minnesota in Political Science/Public Administration, and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Evan has been head of the Criminal Justice Task Force at First Unitarian Church of Chicago since 2016, and a board member of Freereentry.org. Evan has extensive experience consulting charities (managing strategic planning and board development projects) and serving in many volunteer capacities, including as a volunteer employment strategist at the CARA Program, Chair of the Board of Directors of Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, and board member of Citizens for Global Solutions. Evan has been married for 48 years to Nan Freund, an educational therapist, has two married adult sons, and two grandchildren.

### **Kris Barker, Member of Nominating Committee**

Kris Barker has been a member of First Unitarian Church for 14 years. She came to Chicago with her husband Lee and her daughter Ava (age 15) from Pasadena, California in 2003. She has served the church in several capacities over the years, including co-chair of the Religious Education Council, chair of the Senior Ministerial Search Committee, and as a member of the Board of Trustees. She has also taught in the Sunday School Program, served on the Mission Statement Task Force, and the Ken Schug Renovation Task Force. She is a registered Landscape Architect and owner and partner at Barker Evans Landscape Architecture, LLC. B.E.L.A. is an award-winning design studio serving clients throughout the Midwest and West on a range of projects, including commercial, institutional and residential endeavors.

### **Lisa Christensen Gee, Member of Nominating Committee**

Lisa Christensen Gee has been coming to First Unitarian since 2012. She loves singing with the choir, working with the Worship Arts Committee, participating in adult education courses, and coordinating dance pieces for church pageants and events. She has served on the Nomination Committee for two years. Lisa and her husband Matt live in Hyde Park where she works from home as an advocate for fair tax policies and Matt runs his business doing data analysis for social good.

## **John Saphir, Member of Nominating Committee**

John Saphir is a life-long Unitarian Universalist. He was raised at First Unitarian Church, raised his five children at First Unitarian, and his three grandchildren attend special events at First Unitarian. John as served two terms as president of the Board (thirty years apart!). Other volunteering service has included serving on the Religious Education Council, teaching in the Religious Education program, leading the children's apple picking event to NW Indiana, serving on the Investment and Finance Committees, and working on the sale of Fenn House. He currently also serves on the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Foundation Board (MUUF).