



## Annual Meeting 2019 Nominees for Officers, Prudential Committee, Deacons, and Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee submits to the congregation the names of the following members for election to the positions and for the terms indicated at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2, 2019. All terms begin on July 1, 2019.

**The Nominating Committee:** Ann Boyd, Lyn Bradford, Dianne Mailloux, Merritt Meyer, John Petell, Kelley Smith, and Jay Glasson, PruComm Liaison

### Prudential Committee Officers

**A Note on the Elections for the Presidency:** In accordance with the church by-laws, a President-Elect is chosen each year to serve a three-year term; the current President-Elect (**Cheryl Bartholomew**) becomes President (for a 1-year term) and the current President (**John Simmonds**) becomes Past President (for a 1-year term).

#### **Michael Cappelli, President-Elect**

Michael began attending First Unitarian in the 1980s, becoming a member with his wife, Sarah, in 2001. For the past 11 years, Michael and Sarah have been teaching in our Sunday school, and their children, Andrew and Matthew, have participated in religious education since birth. Michael previously served on the Prudential Committee, holding the position of Clerk for five years, and has served as a member of the Committee on Ministry. In addition, Michael is an occasional member of the First Unitarian Community Band. Michael holds degrees in Fine Arts and Computer Science and works as a web/software developer and systems analyst. Currently, Michael is an IT project manager for Johnson & Wales University. Michael was raised in a family that instilled the importance of community service.

#### **Cheryl Bartholomew, President** (elected in June 2018)

Cheryl and her husband, Neil, came to First Unitarian in early 2000, seeking community and a spiritual path with a democratic process, rather than a patriarchal or hierarchical structure. They quickly found a home here and became members that spring. Shortly after her arrival, Cheryl joined the re-forming Membership Committee and later became co-chair. She has also served on the Religious Education Committee and was co-chair of that committee. Cheryl spent several years on the Budget Committee and, more recently, has become involved with the History Committee and the Food Pantry. Cheryl retired last year from 20 years of public school teaching and she looks forward to becoming more involved in church leadership.

#### **John Simmonds, Past President** (elected in June 2017)

John has been an active UU throughout his adult life and played myriad roles at the UUA and at each of the congregations where he was a member. John joined First Unitarian in 2007. He has served on the Prudential, Stewardship, Worship, and Ministerial Search committees and has been a long-standing member of one of the more eclectic Chalice Circles. Professionally, John is a software engineer in the financial industry.

#### **Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk** (one-year term)

Claire signed the book at First Unitarian shortly after moving to Rhode Island in 1995. She and her three children had attended the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg for a few years prior to that. Jane, Hannah and John attended RE at First Unitarian through middle and high school and Hannah has continued as an active adult member. Claire was a charter facilitator for a Small Group Ministry and served for several years on the Worship Committee.

## Announcing the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Providence

*Sunday, June 2, 2019, at 12:00pm*

In accordance with the by-laws of the First Unitarian Church of Providence, the Annual Meeting of the Church for the election of officers and members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Deacons will be held on the church premises on June 2, 2019.

Five percent of the membership number most recently reported to the Unitarian Universalist Association, or 25 Voting Members, whichever is greater, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

All questions at Church meetings, except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Articles of Incorporation or in the by-laws, shall be determined by a majority of those voting on such questions. Questions may not be voted on by proxy or absentee ballot. However, Voting Members who are disabled or incapacitated may apply for an absentee ballot seven days before a meeting. Absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk or his or her designee prior to the meeting.

***Only those who have been Members for more than three months, who are over 16 years of age, and who in some recorded manner within the previous year shall have contributed to the financial support of the Church shall be entitled to vote.\****

If you are not a Voting Member, you may still attend and speak at the Annual Meeting, but you may not vote. *Robert's Rules of Order* governs all duly called meetings of the Church.

**\*Please Note: You are a Voting Member if you meet these three criteria:**

- 1. You signed the church Membership Book on or before March 2, 2019.**
- 2. You are over 16 years of age on June 2, 2019.**
- 3. You have made an annual pledge of financial support to the Church, paid in full or in part during the previous twelve 12 months (since June 2, 2018).**

**If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote at the Annual Meeting, please call the church office (401.421.7970).**

Claire and Hannah sing in the choir, and Claire serves on the Music Committee, including a term as chair. Claire holds a master's degree in Piano Pedagogy from Temple University and plays piano for several summer services each year. She taught piano for many years, but since 2001 has been the Family Supports Coordinator at the Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College, working for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. Claire enjoys reading, walks in the woods or at the beach, cooking, and light gardening.

**Roberta Groch, Treasurer** (one-year term)

Roberta has served as Assistant Treasurer on the Prudential Committee since 2017 and is a member of the Finance Committee. She has been chair of the Nominating Committee, a member of the Religious Education Committee, and a teacher in the Religious Education program for six years. In her previous job at a redevelopment agency, Roberta spent ten years supervising the annual audit, created budgets, balanced accounts, supervised consultants, and paid vendors. She has been attending First Unitarian for over 25 years.

**David Francis, Assistant Treasurer** (one-year term)

David signed First Unitarian's membership book in 2017, but he joined his first UU church in Rochester, MN in 1970. He currently serves as chair of Finance Committee, which oversees the church's endowments, and sings an enthusiastic bass in the choir. Earlier, he served two terms as Treasurer of the Westerly Land Trust, implementing their first computerized accounting system and first member-donor database. David earned a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering/Biotechnology from Carnegie Mellon University. Now retired, his career included 24 years with IBM in varied roles, plus nearly a decade as an independent consultant.

## Prudential Committee Members

Prudential Committee members are elected to three-year terms, except when filling an unexpired term.

**Greg Kniseley, Social Justice Liaison** (three-year term)

Greg was raised a Unitarian in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He moved to Providence in 1989 and during the early 1990s became a member of First Unitarian. Greg has served as an RE teacher, Coming of Age mentor, and member of three committees – RE, Ministerial Search, and Worship. Recently, he joined the Art Collective. Greg has been a professor at Rhode Island College since 1990. He and his wife, Susie Dorr, have two daughters and five grandchildren. Greg enjoys travel and photography, listening to diverse points of view in a men's book club, and playing racquet sports and the spiritual Circle Game known as golf.

**Edythe Warren, Personnel Committee Liaison** (three-year term)

Edie lived in Providence for 37 years and now lives in Warwick. She is a practicing attorney in Rhode Island. She is most proud of her efforts in raising two thoughtful, self-sufficient, and caring boys. She joined the church when Tom Ahlburn was minister and served on the RE Committee with Cathy Seggel. Presently, she is active in the Women's Alliance and chairs their Finance Committee. Edie is Vice-President of the board of Sojourner House, is a member of their Finance, Governance, and Personnel committees, and chairs the Strategic Planning Committee. She is vice-chair of the Providence Harbor Commission.

**David Spremulli, Spiritual Development Liaison** (for one year to fill an unexpired term)

Dave has been a member of First Unitarian Church for the past 20 years and has attended for 25 years. Over the years of his membership, He

has served on the Prudential Committee, the Deacons, the Fellowship Committee, and the Adult Education Committee. He is currently serving on the History Committee and is an active member of Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island. In addition, Dave assists with the monthly CFS food pantry distribution. Prior to his retirement (a while ago), he held the position of East Greenwich Town Assessor.

Continuing Members of the Prudential Committee are:

**Samantha Cole**, Community Life Liaison

**Tiffany Reed**, Stewardship Liaison

**Carolyn Mailloux**, Strategic Planning

## Right Relations Advisory Committee

**Jay Glasson, Chair**

Jay and his wife, Tori Smith, joined the church in 1987. Jay is a past member of the Prudential Committee and was elected Church President in 2017. He has served on the Finance, Personnel, Stewardship and Parish House Building Design committees. Jay has taught in the RE program, been a Coming of Age mentor and is part of the leadership team for Harvest the Power. A lawyer by profession, Jay has provided pro bono legal advice to the church for many years.

## Deacons

Deacons are elected to three-year terms, except when filling an unexpired term.

**Tony Allen** (three-year term)

A church member for almost 50 years, Tony was first elected to the Prudential Committee in 1974, at the end of the ministry of the Rev. Brooks Walker. At that time, he also served on the Ministerial Search Committee that brought Rev. Tom Ahlburn to our pulpit in 1975. During his many years on the PruComm, Tony was Clerk, Treasurer, and President. These days, he serves on the Finance Committee and the Benevolent Society, recently formed to encourage "planned giving" to the church after one's death. On Sunday, he helps his wife, Irene, with her book-selling table in the Atrium.

**Nori Duncan** (three-year term)

After graduating from Brown University in 1971, Nori was a librarian there for 38 years. She began attending First Unitarian in the late 1970s and signed the book in 1979. Starting about 2008, Nori volunteered for the Food Pantry, and from 2010 to 2017 she was co-chair of the Community Food Share Committee. She served a term on the Prudential Committee, representing the Social Justice Ministry. Nori has served on the board of the Women's Alliance, including as President 2016-2018. She is also a member of the Transylvania Partner Church Committee and was a participant in the 2012 and 2015 pilgrimages to visit our partner church. She has been a member of the same Chalice Circle for about a dozen years and has been its facilitator for four years.

**Karen Silva** (three-year term)

Karen was introduced to First Unitarian by a friend when she moved to Rhode Island more than 25 years ago. However, she did not officially sign the book until Rev. James Ford arrived. Many years ago, Karen was part of a group for single members of the congregation called Transitions. Karen arranged for a number of speakers in the Transitions series. Over the years, Karen has ushered many Sundays and has provided flower arrangements for the Meeting House four Sundays a year. In addition, she has been a member of the CARE Committee and, most recently, has co-chaired the Membership Committee. Karen is currently the department chairperson of Graduate Business Programs in the College of Business at Johnson & Wales University.

Continuing members of the Deacons are:

**Jim Barfoot** (until June 2021)

**Katy Killilea** (until June 2021)

**Judie Knilans**, (until June 2021)

**Joe Fisler** (until June 2020)

**Maxwell Pounder** (until June 2020)

**Megan Smith** (until June 2020)

## Nominating Committee

Three Nominating Committee members are elected each year to serve two-year terms.

**Paul Brule** (two-year term)

Paul, along with his then-future wife, Gail, joined the church and were later married at First Unitarian in 1980. They have been active in the church ever since. Paul and Gail's two daughters were dedicated at First Unitarian and participated in the entire RE program. Paul has been a teacher in the Church School program for approximately 25 years. He has also assisted on the Finance Committee and filled a vacancy with the Deacons. Paul is an attorney who, along with a colleague, started a law firm in 1987. He has shared his professional knowledge with the church by speaking at various functions relating to estate planning as well as charitable giving. Paul also assisted in the recent preparation of a booklet used by First Unitarian regarding planned giving.

**Elissa Emerson** (two-year term)

Elissa Emerson was delighted to be introduced, in 1974, to a religion that accepted her Jewish friends along with the Christians! She had been a member of seven UU congregations prior to her attendance at First Unitarian Church of Providence almost eight years ago. Elissa has served elsewhere as choir member and congregation president, board member, membership chair, co-chair of adult singles, co-chair of parish suppers, program chair, accompanist, worship associate, and speaker. At First Unitarian, she has been in the choir, Chalice Circle, Care Crew, Sanctuary Steering Committee, Worship Committee, Women's Alliance, the CFS Food Pantry, and the Lay Ministry Team.

**Lisa Rose** (two-year term)

Prior to moving to Rhode Island in 2001, Lisa and her family were members of the UU church in Franklin, MA. Once they settled into their new home in Lincoln, Lisa and her daughter, Sarah, and son, Daniel, became active in the First Unitarian RE program. In the early days of the CFS food pantry, Lisa and her children volunteered as food sorters prior to each distribution. Over the years, Lisa has been involved in First Unitarian as much as time, family, and circumstances have allowed. In addition to teaching in the church school, Lisa has volunteered with the Loaves and Fishes Mission, the Neighborhood Social Justice Committee, the CFS food pantry, and through membership in the Women's Alliance, she has assisted with the Antiques & Uniques Indoor Yard Sale and has been a cook for the Women's Alliance luncheons.

Continuing members of the Nominating Committee are:

**Ann Boyd**

**Merritt Meyer**

**Kelley Smith**

## Annual Meeting Agenda Items

The Annual Meeting will include several important pieces of business, including:

- Approval of last Annual Meeting Minutes (June 2, 2018) – Claire Rosenbaum
- Election of Officers 2019-2020 – Merritt Meyers, Nominating Committee Chair
- Proposed Motions (see below):
  - Budget surplus waiver
  - Ordination request
- Annual Commitment Drive Acknowledgment - Cynthia Rosengard and Joe Fisler
- 2019-2020 Budget Review & Approval – David House & Roberta Groch
- President's Report – John Simmonds
- Senior Minister's Report – Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay
- Incoming President's Remarks – Cheryl Bartholomew

## Motions for Consideration by the Annual Meeting

The following motions will be offered for discussion and action at the Annual Meeting:

### 1. Ordination Request from Lisa Garcia-Sampson:

Lisa Garcia-Sampson is seeking ordination from our church. She will appear before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee – the credentialing body of the Unitarian Universalist Association – in December 2019. The purpose of this motion is to seek congregational approval to ordain Lisa. She has estimated that it will cost approximately \$1,500 to host ordination activities; Cheryl Bartholomew has agreed to lead an effort to raise the necessary funds.

**Motion:** We, the members of First Unitarian Church of Providence, agree to ordain Lisa Garcia-Sampson, after she is credentialed for service by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministerial Fellowship Committee, assuming funding is available outside of the budget.

### 2. Waiver for Use of Surplus Funding:

A few years ago, the congregation approved a motion to use any surplus monies from the current year's budgeted income for maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and grounds.

Given all the renovations that have occurred during the past few years, the Prudential Committee would like the congregation to approve a waiver of that stipulation so that any surplus monies from the budgeted income in fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 can be used by the Prudential Committee to fund mission-critical projects, programs, or staffing requests that occur during the church year that could not be funded due to current budget income limits.

In fiscal year 2022 and beyond, any surplus monies from the current year's budgeted income will be set aside for building and grounds.

**Motion:** To allow any surplus monies from the budgeted income in fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 to be used by the Prudential Committee to fund mission-critical projects, programs, or staffing requests that occur during the church year and could not be funded due to current budget income limits, and to resume funding of building and grounds with surplus money from current year's budgeted income, beginning with fiscal year 2022.