

The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 16, 2021

11:15 a.m.

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| I. | Call to Order | Mark Bender |
| II. | Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes | Mark Bender |
| III. | Remarks from the President | Mark Bender |
| IV. | Nominating Committee Report | Michelle Boehm |
| | Board of Trustees | |
| | Elect Tony Panciera, Patricia Geenan & George Bledsoe for 3 yr. terms. | |
| | Nominating Committee | |
| | Elect Susie Seidelman & Kristine Hansen for 3 yr. term and Jessie Moffat for 1 yr. term
(finishing for Heather Hanson). | |
| V. | Financial Condition Report | Noreen Gilbertsen |
| Vi. | Stewardship Report | Mark Chamber & Lynne Jacoby |
| Vii. | Support of Strategic Planning Direction | Dave Becker & Julie Bock |
| | VOTE: The congregation affirms its support for pursuing Option 3 to grow church income
to achieve financial sustainability, and that we as a community will take the necessary steps
to do so. | |
| VIII. | COVID Reopening Plan | Erik Alexander & Lisa Koneazny |
| IX. | Remarks from the Associate Minister | Rev. Dena McPhetres |
| X. | Remarks from the Senior Minister | Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom |
| XI. | New Business / Comments from the Congregation | Mark Bender |
| XII. | Adjournment | |

NOTE: As is customary, the Board of Trustees will hold a brief meeting Via Zoom following the Annual Meeting in order to formally elect next year's Officers.

Candidates for the Board of Trustees



George Bledsoe

Since joining First Church in 2008, George Bledsoe has served as Coffee Hour host, user, Worship Associate and as a member of the Morter Lecture Committee. Additionally, he has engaged in various campaigns with Common Ground beginning

with the Sherman Park foreclosure campaign (2010) and continuing through today with active involvement in the Race & Policing, Education and GOTV campaigns. He also serves on the Political Action Executive Committee for the NAACP-Milwaukee Branch, as a member of the African American Employee Resource Group – Northwestern Mutual, and as an Election Official for the Milwaukee Elections Commission. In his professional life, George works in the wealth management industry as a Sr. Registered Representative for Northwestern Mutual. He is single and fortunate to enjoy his two goddaughters, Cassie and Charlotte, and the love and support of a big family and many friends.



Tony Panciera

Tony Panciera joined First Church shortly after moving to Milwaukee with his wife, Amanda, in 2014. He has served on, and led, the Pledge Committee and Stewardship Council and enjoys making an annual donation of homemade lasagna for Feast for

Funds. He is the Project Director for the Greater Milwaukee Committee's MKE United, an initiative focused on equitable community investment, and has served on the Artists Working in Education (AWE) Board of Directors for the past five years. An AmeriCorps alum, he served as a Marquette Trinity Fellow while earning his MBA from 2016-2018. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, gardening, running, and video games, often enjoying these pastimes with his daughter Zoe (2).



Patricia Geenen

Patricia and her husband Paul joined First Church in the fall of 2016, continuing a faith journey focused on social justice. After raising their four children in both the Roman Catholic and

ELCA Lutheran traditions, they ended a period of being “unchurched” by finding a home here. Jumping right in to volunteer as facilitators for the Inquirers Series provided a further tutorial on Unitarian Universalist principles and practices. Pat also soon became active with the Immigration Issues Group, helping to coordinate a congregational discernment process to join the New Sanctuary Movement in Milwaukee and, in 2018, taking on co-leadership of the Immigration Action Team and a role on the Social Justice Council. Before the pandemic, Pat enjoyed applying her experience as a grandmother of eight to the role of RE assistant in the nursery and pre-school classroom. Pat retired from her position as professor of Professional Communication and Technology at Alverno College in 2013.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee



Kristine Hansen

Since joining First Church in 2008, Kristine has been active in a variety of roles, from teaching K-4th grade to chairing the Pulpit Guest Committee. One of her greatest honors was serving on the search

committee that brought the Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson into our congregation as the Minister of Religious Education in 2019. Professionally, Kristine is a contributing writer to Milwaukee Magazine as well as national publications and websites--a role she has held full-time since 2005--about lifestyle topics, which requires her to network heavily and build up rapport with sources, in addition to juggling many projects and meeting deadlines. Other volunteer roles include chairing an annual conference in 2021 for the American Society of Journalists & Authors, an organization of about 1,000 professional journalists and authors, and serving on its board.



Jessie Moffat (1 year term)

Jessie Moffat discovered First Church because of its Poetry Service, and joined in 2009. She is grateful for the friends she's made here and the many people she's had the opportunity to

collaborate with on various committees. Teaching Children's Religious Education has been a fun way to learn more about our liberal faith. She also served on the CRE Committee and enjoys being a YRUU Youth Group Advisor. Jessie proudly attended Midwest Leadership School in 2014 and returned the following year as staff for Youth Leadership School. She has co-facilitated several leadership and community-building workshops for First Church members. And, she even got to be on the Senior Minister Search Committee for Rev. Jennifer. Prior non-profit experience includes arts advocacy and work with local professional theatres, AAUW-Milwaukee, Zeidler Center, Creative Mornings, and Jane's Walk MKE. By joining the Nominating Committee, she hopes to encourage more lay leadership to say "Yes, and..."



Susie Seidelman

Susie and her wife, Laura Maker, have been members of First Church since 2016 and have been delighted to introduce their children, Asa (3) and Forrest (2), to this incredible

community. Shortly after joining, Susie co-founded UUUFDA with friend Yalanda Ludtke, and through that group began a new program to introduce friends and family to First Church to help grow and diversify membership. Susie currently serves as a Worship Associate. In her professional life, she runs a communications firm for nonprofit and foundation clients. Whenever possible, she wants to be outside with her family and friends, ideally by some water and trees.