

Nominating Committee Report 2016 Church Council Slate

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominees to serve on the 2016 Church Council. As required by the church bylaws, three church members, who broadly represent the congregation, make up the Nominating Committee: chair, elected annually at the Annual Meeting; one member appointed by Church Council; and a member appointed by the Nominating Committee chair. The committee's principal task is to identify and nominate individuals to fill open positions on Church Council.

The 2015 Nominating Committee is Valerie Ingram (chair), Todd Moe (Council appointee) and Carol Pynchon (at-large appointee). We have worked hard to construct a slate of candidates who will complement the continuing Council members and who will provide strong, wise, compassionate, and thoughtful leadership as we continue the work of transition in 2016 and prepare to welcome a settled minister.

Before introducing the 2016 slate, we would like to recognize and thank several people. Jon Montan and Erika Barthelmeess served partial terms on the Nominating Committee before stepping down to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee; Jon was also a Church Council trustee before assuming his role on the Search Committee. We are thrilled that both of these capable people are part of the group doing the important work of searching for a new settled minister.

Pat Glover has served as treasurer for four years, doing yeoman's service to define and refine the role and responsibilities of treasurer and helping identify lay leadership tasks and duties that can be assumed by staff. Thanks, Pat, for your diligence, care, and commitment.

We are grateful that Ruth Baltus, David Nelson, and John Danis have agreed to stand for nomination for second terms as trustees on Church Council, and that Todd Moe has agreed to serve another term as vice president.

Finally, we are fortunate to have the continued leadership of Barbara Beekman as Council president, Kathryn Brown as secretary, and trustees Gary Hoose and Heather Rousell. Their terms expire at the end of 2016.

Now, we are pleased to introduce the following members of our church as candidates for the 2016 Church Council.

Vice President (January 2016 – December 2017)

Todd Moe and his husband, Paul Siskind, moved to the North Country from Minneapolis in the summer of 1998; they live in Norwood. Todd grew up in rural Minnesota in a Methodist household, went to a Lutheran college, but is most comfortable in the UU world. He joined the church in the fall of '98, and started singing in the choir within the first month of attending church. Todd serves on the Outreach and Nominating Committees, and is a teacher in the RE program. Todd and Paul share their home with two affable dogs, a gray tabby, and a small flock of hens. Todd is the weekday morning host on North Country Public Radio and also enjoys cooking, gardening, theater and dancing.

Todd is completing his first term as vice president and has agreed to stand for re-election to a second term. We are grateful to have the benefit of his experience and counsel for another two years.

Trustee (January 2016 – December 2017)

Ruth Baltus was raised Catholic in suburban Buffalo (Tonawanda) by a Catholic father and a mother who was raised Presbyterian. Ruth's UU seeds were probably sown by her mother, who attended weekly mass with the family but never converted to Catholicism because there were too many pieces that didn't feel right. Ruth and her husband, Kevin Ball, moved to Potsdam in 1983 when she joined the chemical engineering faculty at Clarkson. They joined the UU church in the early 1990s when their daughter Madelyn was born. Ruth feels very much at home in the UU church and is grateful for what the church community brings to her and her children's lives. She has served on the RE Committee and taught in the RE program, is a long-standing member of the Personnel (formerly Staff Relations) Committee, and helps in the UShare garden. Ruth and Kevin live in Potsdam and are the parents of two (almost) adult children, Madelyn and Delaney.

Ruth is just completing her first term as trustee and has agreed to stand for re-election for a second term.

Trustee (January 2016 – December 2017)

John Danis lives in Rensselaer Falls with his wife, Bonnie. Together, they raised four children, now "long out of the nest." John originally moved to the North Country in 1971 and completed undergraduate work at the Crane School of Music in 1975 and graduate work in 1980. Upon graduation in 1975, John began teaching music at the Hermon-DeKalb Central School and taught there until he retired in 2008. As an educator, John held elected offices in various musical organizations and was president of the Hermon-DeKalb Teachers Association for several terms. For many years, he has also maintained an active performing life as a musician.

John's connection to the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Canton began in the late 1970s and has ebbed and flowed throughout the intervening years. For a number of years, the Danis family was affiliated with the Rensselaer Falls United Methodist Church, now closed. During those years, John served on their Church Council and was Council president for two terms. John currently serves on the Music Committee, is a member of the choir, and has performed in various ways in support of our worship services.

John is completing his first term as Trustee and has agreed to stand for re-election to a second term.

Trustee (January 2016 – December 2017)

David Nelson joined the church in 1984. He has served as an assistant in the Religious Education program, on the Investment and Ad Hoc Safety committees, and is currently a member of the Budget and Finance, Library, and Personnel Committees.

After graduating from Columbia Law School, David worked as a lawyer in Washington, DC, for two years, attending All Souls Unitarian from time to time. He then moved back to his hometown of Gouverneur where he practiced law for 21 years. In 1983 he was elected St. Lawrence County Family Court Judge. He retired from that position in 2001, but continued to do part-time judicial work. David has served on the Board of Directors of St. Lawrence NYSARC since 2004. His son Gregory lives in Connecticut (with three grandchildren) and his daughter Karen in Arizona (with one grandson). He is an avid reader of mysteries and histories, music lover, golfer, piano player (beginner!), and Red Sox fan.

David is completing his first term as trustee and has agreed to stand for re-election to a second term.

Trustee (January 2016 – December 2017)

Julie Van Duyne grew up in Norwood and has attended this church since before she could speak in sentences. Her parents, Andrew Van Duyne and Eileen Wheeler, are transplants - Crane graduates who settled in the area and both taught music in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School district.

Julie left home in 2000 to seek adventure and higher learning at the State University of New York at New Paltz, where she encountered many strange and peculiar new cultures and people. After a decade of studying these fascinating groups, she was armed with a baccalaureate degree of liberal arts, declaring her sufficiently proficient in the respected fields of sociological research and music history with a concentration in classical piano. With this and several years of training in the exquisite art of professional culinary

preparation and presentation, Julie returned to the Great Northern Country that was her birthplace.

She now resides on a quaint country estate amid the rolling hills of Russell, spending her summer days harvesting rocks (and occasionally vegetables) from the great gravel fields of Sundance Knoll, and her winters battling the frozen, beastly winds that bring icy driveways and frigid, barefoot-biting morning floors. She lives there with her dog Rasputin, his girlfriend Heidi (an elegantly mature border collie), and Heidi's family, Ken, Lexi, and Henry Hebb. Oh, and there's a cat. But as you know, they have their own way and never really claim to live anywhere or belong to anyone in particular.

On most days, you will see Julie managing The Blackbird Café, where every once in a while when she's been extra good they let her cook a soup or two. This is Julie's second year as an advisor with this congregation's Youth Group and some day, if she's skillfully deft with time management, she'll get to join the choir.

Julie will be serving for one year, completing the term of Jon Montan, who stepped down to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee.

Nominating Committee Chair (January 2016 – December 2017)

Valerie Ingram doesn't actually remember how long she has been associated with this church, but it's going on 30 years, at least. During that time she has held many roles including Church Council secretary and vice president, Ministerial Search Committee member, Youth Group advisor, CoA mentor, OWL facilitator, Canvass chair, and Worship Committee chair. She has two sons who grew up in the UU Church of Canton and are now admirable adults whom she likes very much. She has enjoyed serving on the Nominating Committee because fostering broad-based leadership is important for our church community and because it is a great way to meet and have meaningful conversations with many new and long-time members of the congregation.

2016 will be Valerie's fourth year on the Nominating Committee. In her first year, she was member at large; in 2014 and 2015, she served as Committee chair.

Treasurer

You will note that there is no nominee for treasurer. The Nominating Committee is still interviewing candidates to fill this position, and Church Council is simultaneously reviewing the job description. There may be a short-term appointment and special election for treasurer at some future date. Stay tuned.