

## **Nominating Committee Report 2017 Church Council Slate**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominees to serve on the 2017 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 2016 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 begin the journey with our new settled minister, James Galasinski.

Before introducing the 2017 slate, we would like to recognize and thank several people. Gary Hoose has served for three consecutive terms as Trustee, the maximum allowed by our bylaws. Gary's listening skills and calm and measured perspective have been a great asset to Council, and he will be missed. We also benefited by having Heather Rousell on the board for the last two years and are grateful for her service.

Carol Gable has ably served as Acting Treasurer this year while we continued to refine and streamline this important position. We are grateful to her for taking this on and lending us her expertise and guidance as we worked through creating a reasonable job description for the next treasurer.

We are pleased and grateful that Julie Van Duyne, Trustee, Katherine Brown, Secretary, and Barbara Beekman, President, have agreed to stand for nomination for second terms.

Finally, we are fortunate to have the continued leadership of Todd Moe as Council Vice President, and Trustees Ruth Baltus, John Danis, and David Nelson, whose terms expire at the end of 2017.

Now, we are pleased to introduce the following members of our church as candidates for the 2017 Church Council.

### **President (January 2017 – December 2018)**

**Barbara Beekman** has been a member of the church for over 20 years, serving on the Religious Education Committee, the First-Year Committee, and the Personnel Committee (formerly Staff Relations); she recently joined the Memorial Committee. Barbara has lived in the North Country for over 25 years, having grown up in northwestern Connecticut and attended college in Vermont. Barbara was a member of the Canton Board of Education for 15 years, serving as president for seven years. She and her partner, Pete Beekman, have two grown children, Erica and Christian, and a rascally dog named Gordie.

*Barb is completing her first term as president this year and has agreed to stand for re-election to a second term. We are grateful to have the benefit of her experience and counsel as we transition out of transition!*

### **Treasurer (January 2017 – December 2017)**

**Gwen Cunningham** is a relative newcomer to the North Country having arrived three and a half years ago after many years in New England. She spent 10 years working as a director for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and prior to that, she was a professional stage manager at numerous theatres in Providence, New York City, and Boston. She is currently serving as the Interim Science Librarian at St. Lawrence University after two years as the Congregational Administrator at the church. She holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Rhode Island and a bachelor's degree from Mt. Holyoke College. In her free time, Gwen can be found rowing at Norwood Lake, hiking (or skiing) at Higley Flow, and tending her chickens and goats at home in Pierrepont with her husband and North Country native, Sean.

### **Secretary (January 2017 – December 2018)**

**Katherine Brown** says that, although she can't take credit for the decision, she first started coming to this church in 1968, when she was in kindergarten. She formed a deep connection to Unitarian Universalism and to the people of this congregation, becoming a member while in high school. For 20 years, she and her husband Bill lived in the Adirondacks, where she taught school, helped raise their two daughters, Ellie and Grace, and served on various school and community committees, including serving on the Church Council for the UCC Church in Keene Valley. In 2007, when the opportunity arose to teach in Colton and move back to Canton, the thought of coming home to this church thrilled her. She feels humbled to represent the congregation as part of Church Council. Katherine and Bill live just south of the village, where they enjoy exploring the woods and waters of the North Country and growing good food.

*After serving one year as Trustee, completing a vacated term, Katherine stepped into the role of Secretary in January 2015. We are grateful that she is standing for re-election for another two-year term.*

**Trustee (January 2017 – December 2018)**

**Jon Montan** originally hails from Upper Montclair, New Jersey, and attended St. Lawrence University during the Vietnam War period. At St. Lawrence he met his wife Kathy, and they were married in Gunnison Chapel the day after he graduated. After a teaching stint, graduate school at Utah State University, and searching for employment in a tight job market, he and Kathy settled in Pierrepont, New York, in 1977. Jon worked as a planner for over three decades at the St. Lawrence County Planning Office and retired from that position at the end of June 2012. Jon and Kathy joined the church somewhere around 1983. He has served on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and was chair of the Ministerial Search Committee; he currently serves on the Worship and Environmental Action Committees. Jon and Kathy have one son, Christopher, who currently resides at the Unitarian-Universalist Rowe Center in Rowe, Massachusetts.

*Jon served for one year on Church Council before stepping down to serve as chair of the Ministerial Search Committee. Having successfully completed that job, he is ready to re-join Church Council and has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term.*

**Trustee (January 2017 – December 2018)**

**Kathy Wyckoff** has been a member of the church since 1980, the year she and her husband Pete were married by Max Coats. She has served on Church Council in the past and was part of the Search Committee that brought Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock to Canton. Over the years she has been involved in many committees and groups, including Staff Relations Committee, Social Events Committee, Coming of Age and Youth Group. For the last five years she's been the chair of the Memorial Committee. Her children Cassidy and Elizabeth grew up in this church and now live in Austin, Texas, and Madison, Wisconsin. Kathy is looking forward to becoming a member of Church Council at this exciting time in our church's history.

**Trustee (January 2017 – December 2018)**

**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 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 cat Euclid, his puppy companion Ada, their nanny Heidi (an elegantly mature border collie), and Heidi's family, Ken, Lexi, and Henry Hebb. This is Julie's first year as a teacher with the Coming Of Age group and some day, if she's skillfully deft with time management, she'll get to join the choir.

*Julie served on Council during the past year, completing Jon Montan's term. She is now standing for re-election to a full two-year term.*

**Nominating Committee Chair (January 2017 – December 2017)**

*Carol Pynchon* has been a member of the church since shortly after she and her husband Tom moved to Canton. She has served on Church Council as secretary and president, and on the Staff Relations and Communications committees. Carol was the chair of the last search committee and filled Erika Barthelmess' term on the Nominating Committee when Erika took leave to serve on our latest search committee. Carol taught in the RE program for longer than she can remember and it is a source of great pride that all three of the Pynchon children – Drew, David, and Lindy – talked about the impact of being raised UU in their college applications. For that reason as much as any other, Carol feels a strong commitment to the work of our church and to this community. When she's not at church, Carol serves on the board of GardenShare and is a Trustee for the Village of Canton.