

2021 Nominating Committee Report

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. This year's Nominating Committee is Eden Terrell (chair), Julie Van Duyne (Council appointee) and Carol Pynchon (at-large appointee).

First, we acknowledge the outstanding leadership and dedication of outgoing Council members: Gwen Cunningham, who has served as Treasurer for two terms; Trustee Bill Short, who has filled one full term AND stepped up to finish Mary Michalek's unexpired term when she moved to the Secretary position last year; Trustee Julie Van Duyne, finishing her second term; and Trustee Kathy Wyckoff, also finishing her second term.

President Jenn Whittaker is completing Todd Moe's unexpired term in 2020 and is nominated to a full two-year term as President beginning in 2021. Filling the Treasurer's position is Stefan Grimberg, who served one year as a Trustee in 2020, leaving an unexpired term. Filling four Trustee seats: Cara Coffin, filling Stefan's unexpired term; and Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel, Wil Rivers, and Ron Tavernier, filling three two-year Trustee vacancies.

Vice President Jon Montan, Secretary Mary Michalek and Trustees Ashley Clover and Jim Williams are fulfilling terms on the Church Council and will continue in 2021.

The Nominating Committee chair, Eden Terrell, is completing her first one-year term and is nominated for a second term in 2021.

Eden Terrell, Chair

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL SLATE

President (January 2021 – December 2022)

Jenn Whittaker lives in Canton with her husband Erik and their two children Arianna and Braden. She is the Instruction and Outreach Librarian at SUNY Canton. Jenn and her family joined the UU Church of Canton in 2012. She has served on the Religious Education and the Social Action committees and is currently active on the Canvass Committee. She enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, and spending time with friends and family.

Treasurer (January 2021 – December 2022)

Stefan Grimberg's family has been attending the UU church since their arrival to the North Country in 1996. For the first several years as a new faculty member at Clarkson Stefan used Sunday mornings to catch up on unfinished work, which led his wife Jan to suggest that he take the blue newcomer cup during social hour whenever he attended Sunday service. Since then Stefan has served on the Investment Committee and for the past 20 years on Building and Grounds. Stefan values most the personal connections and the community the church has enabled his family to form, which allowed them to raise three boys and call the North Country home.

Trustee (January 2021 – December 2021)

Cara Coffin's family began attending the UU church in 2012 and Cara has enjoyed volunteering in the Nursery, teaching in the Spirit Play classroom, helping with the Caring Circle, and volunteering as a member of the Religious Education Committee, which she currently serves as chair. Professionally, she has been an elementary teacher in Massena and Canton School Districts for the last 15 years. She first came to Canton in 1999 as a student at St. Lawrence University where she majored in Environmental Studies. After working in Environmental Education around the country for a few years, Cara returned to the North Country (and Steve) in 2005, received her masters in teaching from SUNY Potsdam, and she and Steve first put down roots on a small hobby farm in Lisbon, NY before moving to Canton a few years ago. They have three children who enjoy our church community.

Trustee (January 2021 – December 2022)

Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel has been attending the UU Church of Canton for about eighteen years and joined as a member in 2010. She has served on the Worship and Religious Education Committees, including as Religious Education Committee chair for five years, and was the Assistant Director of Religious Education 2004-2008. One of Sarah's greatest joys has been teaching in our RE program, most recently in Spirit Play. Sarah currently works as School Program Coordinator at the St. Lawrence Health Initiative and serves on the GardenShare Board of Directors. She and her partner Ryan live in the town of Canton and have two children, 21 year old Emma and 17 year old Caleb.

Trustee (January 2021 – December 2022)

Wil Rivers grew up in Indiana and went to school in Iowa and Tennessee where he studied biology, geology, and ecology. Wil and his wife, Rebecca, attended the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, TN, were married by their minister, and joined our church as soon as they arrived in Canton in 1999 to work at St. Lawrence University. Both Wil and Rebecca were involved in religious education for several years while their children, Sarah and Aryn, were in the RE program. Wil has served as the chair of the Religious Education Committee for the past

several years and also served on the last DRE search committee and Assistant DRE search committee. Wil has taught in the Spirit Play classroom in RE and also served as a canvasser. Wil currently teaches in the Science Department at SUNY Canton and enjoys reading, gardening, woodworking, and spending time with his family, 3 cats, 1 dog, and 15 chickens.

Trustee (January 2021 – December 2022)

Ron Tavernier, born and raised in Malone, NY, attended Paul Smiths College, where he met his wife, Sharon. They moved to Fairbanks, Alaska to continue their education, where Ron received bachelor's degrees in Wildlife Biology and Journalism and ultimately received a doctorate in Neuroscience. After the birth of their two children, Elyse (now 16) and Isaac (14), they moved closer to home and in 2007, Ron accepted a job at SUNY Canton and has been teaching there ever since.

Raised Roman Catholic (Ron) and Jewish (Sharon), they "religion shopped" with their core values in mind, looking for a place that felt like home. They found the UU Church in Canton eight or nine years ago and in that time, Ron has served on the Welcoming Committee and Religious Education Committee while teaching in both Spirit Play and Maker Space. They live on Buck Street in Canton, the area they affectionately call the "UU Slums" due to all the neighbors who are also members of the church.

Nominating Committee Chair (January 2020– December 2020)

Eden Terrell moved to Canton in January 2017 with her husband Kurt and two children Crosby and Harper after a four-year stint in Lake Placid. She works from home as a distance learning school registrar, a position she brought with her to the North Country from Brattleboro, Vermont. Eden has served on the Religious Education team for three years, serves as Co-chair of the Caring Circle, and misses ringing with the handbell choir terribly.