

Slate of Candidates for UUA Election

The Candidates are presented in order that they will appear of the ballot, determined by random drawing.

PRESIDENT

One position; four-year term

The Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman

First Unitarian Church, Dallas, Texas

I am proud to be a candidate for president of the UUA because I have enormous faith in Unitarian Universalism and its transformative future. My years of inter-faith and community organizing work have prepared me to lead us into an era of greater diversity and greater effectiveness. I know how to help people of differing backgrounds and histories find the common ground of our free faith, and I know how to effect lasting social change through the power of organized communities of faith. My years of experience at every level of congregational life — from church administrator to religious educator to congregational minister to community leader — have given me the deep knowledge of what our congregations need to grow and to flourish. I know how to empower people to use their gifts in the service of religious community, to work in solidarity with others for social justice, and to joyfully answer the call to professional religious life. My years as a primary fundraiser and steward have given me the opportunity to help others develop an attitude of abundance. I know how to encourage people and congregations to help us build a solid financial foundation for our progressive faith. I promise that I will always remember that we are first and foremost a religion, an association of congregations bound together by covenant. I promise that I will be faithful, not only to who we are today, but to who we must be tomorrow — a broad, inclusive religious faith that calls all of us to depth and meaning each day of our lives.

www.hallmanforuuapresident.com

The Rev. Peter Morales

Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, Colorado

Peter is senior minister at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colo. He is the UUA's former director of district services. Peter served on the UUA Board as the trustee from the Mountain Desert District. He also served on the UUMA Executive Committee as the first person to carry the new anti-racism, anti-oppression, multiculturalism portfolio. Before entering the ministry he owned and published community newspapers in Oregon. He was a Knight International Press Fellow in Peru and is a former Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies in Spain. Peter and Phyllis Windrem Morales have been married 41 years. He is a former newspaper editor and publisher. As a minister, he has stood at the steps of the Colorado Capitol with the governor and religious leaders speaking out on immigration policy. Peter is bilingual and bicultural. He has lived in Mexico, Peru, Spain, and Canada. He brings a deep understanding of and commitment to multiculturalism, anti-racism and anti-oppression. Peter has not only led one of our fastest growing congregations, he has been a national leader in growth efforts that are practical, effective, and congregationally based. He and members of his congregation produced the "Ideas for Growth" training DVD used all over the country. He proposed the conference of ministers of growing churches that led to the "Listening to Experience" DVD. He has led workshops all over the country. Peter believes that we must grow our faith. This is a moral imperative, the moral equivalent of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. Together we can grow our faith one relationship at a time, one Sunday at a time, in every single congregation.

www.moralesforuuapresident.org

MODERATOR

One position; four-year term

Gini Courter

*UU Congregation of Grand Traverse,
Traverse City, MI*

Church of the Larger Fellowship

Gini Courter has served our congregations as moderator since October 2003. She is seeking a second four-year term. The moderator is the chief governance officer of the Association. The moderator presides over the General Assembly, chairs the UUA Board of Trustees, and promotes the welfare of the Association. Gini is a member of two congregations: the UU Congregation of Grand Traverse in Traverse City, Mich., and the Church of the Larger Fellowship. You'll find Gini's blog at <http://just-gini.blogspot.com>.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

One position; four-year term

Daniel Brody

First Unitarian Society, Newton, MA

I am chief financial officer of a non-profit start-up, The Boston Museum. Holding this part-time job permits me to devote a considerable amount of time, including many weekday meetings, to my service as UUA financial advisor. I previously served as chief financial officer for the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and as deputy state budget director for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I have a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a master's degree in city planning from the University of California at Berkeley. I've been a member of the First Unitarian Society in Newton for 15 years, and have served on its Board of Investment and its planned giving committee. In the remaining years of my service, I will work with the new president and the Board of Trustees to address the following topics: mitigating the impact of the recession on UUA programs and services; endowment spending policy; options for funding the cost of future capital campaigns; continued improvements to UUA financial reporting; accounting for unrestricted gift and bequest income; the role of the Liberal Religious Charitable Society and other organizations that hold funds to benefit the UUA; conflict of interest and whistleblower policies; management of debt, cash, and short-term investments; facilities renewal policies.

Slate of Candidates for UUA Election

BOARD OF REVIEW

Two positions open; eight-year term

The Rev. W. Frederick Wooden

*Fountain Street Church (non-UUA),
Grand Rapids, MI*

Foremost, I wish to serve. This liberal religious body formed me, back to my great grandmother, and it has given me a place to live out my gifts as a clergy person. As a clergy person for almost 30 years I know we clergy are only human, but we are also truly accountable. Compassion and justice are both to be honored in the work of the Board of Review.

Allison Claire

UU Community Church, Sacramento, CA

I grew up in New England and moved to California more than 25 years ago as a young political activist. Professionally, I am a public defender who represents death-row inmates in federal court. Religiously, I am a UU with Christian roots and Buddhist leanings who practices earth-based spirituality. Demographically, I am a middle-aged white lesbian. I live with my partner and our 11-year-old triplets in Sacramento, Calif. I bring to this position equally strong and passionately held commitments to (1) high standards for the performance and conduct of our clergy and credentialed religious educators, and (2) procedural fairness and respect for the inherent worth and dignity of individuals, including those accused of misconduct.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (YOUTH)

One position; two-year term

Nick Allen

Unity Church—Unitarian, St. Paul, MN

Prior to my year as youth observer to the Board of Trustees, I served on the UUA Youth Ministry Working Group, YRUU Steering Committee, and the Prairie Star Youth-Adult Committee. Outside of the Association, I have done advocacy work locally with several school districts for anti-racist school integration and nationally with the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network. I am passionate about UU anti-racism and anti-oppression work, multigenerational ministry, and interfaith partnerships. In the fall I will be a college freshman. We often talk of attracting new membership to our congregations, but what is often forgotten is that we practically hemorrhage our youth. More than 80 percent leave our congregations and do not return. We need to examine how to change this trend at a congregationally sustainable level. Outreach is vital to our denomination's future, but we must be equally willing to reach within and challenge our normal modes of ministry.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (AT LARGE)

Two positions open; four-year term

Charlie King

*First Unitarian Congregational Society,
Brooklyn, NY*

Since first experiencing the denomination-wide energy of our movement at 1957 AUA May Meetings, I have witnessed peaks and valleys of our faith in times of sorrow and gladness—elation surrounding the Black Affairs Council and sadness at its abandonment; joy in advancement of women's and GLBT rights; unending struggle against racism, classism, ableism, economic injustice and denial of human rights. I hope to devote my second term in doing all that I can to collaboratively achieve excellence in ministry, growth in congregations and membership, better governance and stewardship at all levels, more democratic and inclusive procedures, humility in relations with all faiths and spiritual inspiration to help us achieve the beloved community.

The Rev. Jeanne M. Pupke

First UU Church, Richmond, VA

Jeanne is the senior minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Richmond, Va. Jeanne is known for her emphasis on building up organizations. She leads a staff team that serves 550 members, 75 friends, and 155 children and youth. Jeanne is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and served as consulting minister to our church in Bend, Ore., and growth minister for the Pacific Northwest District. She comes to ministry after a career in business as a CEO in the automotive industry and a COO of a coffee company in Olympia, Wash.

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS

Two positions open; four-year term

David May

Emerson UU Church, Houston, TX

Current chair, Commission on Social Witness; researched and initially compiled *The Real Rules—Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections* for the UUA; past president of congregations in Texas and Colorado; past chair of outreach, public relations, and personnel committees; manager of UU public radio announcements in Houston; life-long UU. I strongly support the UUA Bylaw amendments of 2006, which now allow a Congregational Study/Action Issue to be considered for four years, instead of two. As the current chair of the Commission on Social Witness, my goal is to continue to make the social witness process more useful to congregations by assisting their members in practicing what they learn in that process with their families, churches, neighborhoods, and the world. We must change our own daily behavior first, before we can change the world.

The Rev. Heather Starr

UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend, OR

A lifelong Unitarian Universalist now in the Pacific Northwest and connected with congregations en route in Philadelphia; Duluth and Virginia, Minn.; Oakland, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; Twin Falls, Idaho; and the Church of the Larger and Younger Fellowships. Leadership positions include: Interfaith Network of Central Oregon (Program Committee co-chair), Women's Clergy Group of Central Oregon (coordinator), Pacific Northwest UUMA (secretary). Chaplained twice for UU Young Adult Conferences Opus/Concentric, has participated in six GAs. In addition to being a parish minister, worked for restaurants/coffee shops, Kelly Writers House (University of Pennsylvania), multiple hospitals (hospital chaplain), Basic Rights Oregon (GLBT equality). I am particularly interested in how to bring the collaborative, passionate, intergenerational work that is done at General Assembly out to our congregations.

Slate of Candidates for UUA Election

COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

Three positions open; six-year term

The Rev. Nana Kratochvil

*All Souls Community Church of
Western Michigan, Grand Rapids, MI*

In 1977 I discovered Unitarian Universalism in Jackson, Miss. During my 15 years of membership there I served in several leadership positions, including president of the Mid-South District. Called to ministry, I attended and graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School, then served Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Muskegon, Mich., for 13 years. I served both the Michigan District and its successor, Heartland, on committees and the board of trustees. I am now completing a term as president of Heartland. I look forward to continue serving this faith on the Commission on Appraisal.

Megan Dowdell

First Parish Church in Beverly, MA

Megan is proud to have served a two-year appointment on the Commission on Appraisal. She is equally thrilled to be nominated to continue to serve UU congregations in this capacity for the next six years. Her previous UUA volunteer leadership includes co-convening the UUA Consultation on Youth Ministry and serving as youth Trustee-at-Large on the UUA Board. Megan currently lives in Oakland, Calif., and studies Ethics and Social Theory at the Graduate Theological Union. Megan strongly encourages her fellow elected UUA leaders to infuse antiracism and anti-oppression in their group process, include youth and young adult UUs at every stage of their work, and make UUA volunteer leadership more economically accessible for all.

Erica Baron

*UU Church of Rutland, VT
UU Fellowship of Bennington, VT*

I began my journey as a UU in the First UU Society of Burlington, Vt., at age 1. I've been active in large, small, and mid-size UU congregations and experienced Unitarianism in Ireland for a year. I have a master of divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School, and I currently serve as the minister of the UU congregations of Rutland and Bennington, Vt. I have been involved in leadership in various congregations, been active in various ways in districts in which I've lived and worked, and I have taught Leadership School. I bring an ability to think analytically and theologically and to connect this work with the everyday lived experience of faith.

Nominating Committee

One position open; four-year term

The Rev. James Hobart

First Unitarian Church, Chicago, IL

Nominating Committee

Three positions open; six-year term

Leon Spencer

UU Fellowship, Statesboro, GA

Dr. Leon Spencer is an active UU layman and a professor of counseling at Georgia Southern University. He was honored at the 2007 GA with the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, the denomination's highest honor, recognizing his volunteer work, which has spanned four decades. From organizing UU expatriates living in Europe in the 1970s, to creating and coordinating anti-racism and anti-oppression workshops for UU congregations in the 1980s, to providing leadership at congregational, district, and denominational levels in the 1990s and 2000s, he has lived the ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

The Rev. Darrick Jackson

UU Church, Meriden, CT

The Rev. Darrick Jackson is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meriden, Conn. He was previously a member of both Arlington Street Church in Boston the Church of the Younger Fellowship. Darrick has been very involved on a local, district and continental level, particularly with youth and young adult communities. He looks forward to building on the connections that he has made over the years, and forging new ones, to help develop the leadership base of our denomination.

Aymie Manning

First UU Church, New Orleans, LA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Four positions open; four-year term

Barton Frost

Church of the Younger Fellowship

I am a 22-year-old recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts. I am a lifelong UU and a current member of the Church of the Younger Fellowship. I was active in Young Religious UUs as a youth chaplain and chaplain trainer and also a member of the General Assembly Youth Caucus staff for five years. I think it is important for our faith to be expressed through large, multigenerational, business-oriented events such as GA. We, as a spiritual community, have an obligation to help our member churches' representatives attend and then share the wealth of information and experiences they've had, therefore I believe we should examine the way we hold GA to see if there are ways to reduce the cost and still provide the programming that makes it great.

The Rev. Walter F. Wieder

UU Church, Surprise, AZ

I have been an active UU parish minister for more than 35 years. I currently serve the Unitarian Universalist Church in Surprise, Ariz. I am active with the Pacific Southwest District and the UUMA. I also host a weekend radio show in Phoenix on KNUV-AM. I bring a pastoral presence to the committee meetings and a pastoral sensibility to the discussion and planning of the programming the GAPC provides. My primary responsibilities are working with Worship & Celebration, liaison to the Service of the Living Tradition, and staffing the chaplain's program at GA. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to work with the people who make up your GA Planning Committee.

Lynda Bluestein

Unitarian Church, Westport, CT

I am an active member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship and The Unitarian Church in Westport, Conn., and have served the Metro New York District as a board member and president. My career has spanned management, marketing and fundraising, which has been a good background for my work with the GAPC. Currently, I'm chair of the Worship & Celebration Task Group, liaison to Music and chair of Communications. The GAPC requires a lot of its members, but it also gives back a lot. Planning GA is a chance to create a welcoming gathering where magic moments can transpire. I love it!

Barbara Atlas

UU Church, Long Beach, Calif.

Currently an active member and leader of my congregation. Served the district in many capacities prior to our change in governance. Work experience includes importing, buying, sales, management and bookkeeping. Love to read, travel, avid local college sports fan. As a planning committee member, I convene the Communications/Programs Task Group and chair the Program Group. I also work with Scholarships, Sponsored Programs, Program Monitoring, Ushers, Children's Programs and the reference manuals. I love this work and appreciate the opportunity to continue with the Planning Committee as we strive to make GA the best possible experience for every participant.