

Dear friends:

For the upcoming 2014-15 meetings of the Western and Eastern Regional Sub-Committees on Candidacy, I am asking the UUA board to re-indemnify 17 members, and appoint one 1 new lay person for the Western RSCC. I have passed these names by Wayne Arnason, MFC chair.

**I am expecting that there will be two additional requests for indemnification forthcoming at the June 2014 meeting of the UUA Board.**

Two people termed off the RSCC's this year, Leslie Trew of the Western RSCC and Allyn Clarke of the Eastern RSCC. Rev. Ken Collier and Charla Weiss of the Western RSCC and Amassa Fauntleroy and Rev. Alice Syltie of the Eastern RSCC chose to resign their terms early.

The following people are willing/eligible to serve an additional two year term:

Eastern RSCC:

1. Rev. Claire Feingold-Thoryn (co-chair)
2. John Simmonds (co-chair)
3. Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti
4. Rev. Tim Temerson
5. (Rev. Wayne Walder)
6. Rev. Megan Foley
7. Kathy Bowman
8. Linnea Huston
9. (Elyse Resnick)
10. (Connie Moore)

Western RSCC:

1. Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer (co-chair)
2. Rev. Forrest Gilmore (co-chair)
3. Rev. Judy Welles
4. Rev. John Morehouse
5. (minister slot- TBD)
6. Helen Leddy
7. Sharon Blevins
8. Noel Bain
9. (Roger Rochester- being recommended)
10. (lay spot – TBD)

Taking into consideration the gifts and identities that are currently represented by members of the Western and Eastern RSCC, with attention to gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnic/racial identity, experiences in ministry and references,

I am proposing that Rev. Wayne Walder, Connie Moore and Elyse Resnick, who have already been indemnified by the UUA Board be appointed to the Eastern RSCC.

I also propose that Roger Rochester, Canadian Lay person be newly appointed to the Western RSCC.

Roger Rochester wrote in his application: I became a UU in 1976, in Fayetteville Arkansas. I had just been elected to the board of that congregation when I was promoted in 1981 and we moved. There was no UU congregation near our new home in Texas, so we became members of the CLF and occasionally attended services in Dallas or Fort Worth. In 1985 I was transferred to Salem Oregon, and my family joined the congregation there. In our second year in Salem I was asked to fill out the remainder of the term of a board member who had moved away. I remained on the board for the next 8 years, two as president. After that I chaired the Worship Team for five years. In 2001 I was asked to take another term as president and did that. I am the only person to serve on both the Search Committee that brought us our new minister and the Building Committee which planned and managed the construction of a new facility.

From 1993 to 1999 I served on the Leadership School Committee of the Pacific Northwest District. Most of that time, I was the treasurer – maintaining the books, contracting for facilities and supplies, and paying professional staff. In 2000-2001 I worked on the committee that planned and prepared for the 2001 PNWD Annual Meeting in Eugene OR.

In 2002, my wife served an internship at West Shore church in Cleveland while completing her studies at Meadville Lombard and meeting with the MFC. From 2003 to 2005 she was an interim minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Chicago. I did not participate significantly in those congregations, other than singing in the choirs and attending social events and some social justice activities. In 2005 my wife was hired to serve as associate minister for the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater Florida. I sang in the choir, volunteered in the office and worked in the church nursery. I served on the Tampa Bay Regional Marketing team, and on the West Central Cluster of the Florida District. In 2008 - 2009 I was the chair of the Cluster.

My wife was called by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg in 2009 and has been the minister here since August of that year. I sing in the choir and volunteer in the office sometimes. I chair the Denominational Affairs committee.

I have attended 13 General Assemblies, 16 District and CUC meetings, and about a dozen cluster or regional gatherings. I have accompanied my spouse to Center Institute for the last two gatherings. I am a member of Unitarian Universalist Minister's Partners, which meets at Ministry Days prior to GA and keeps up an online communication.

I am currently on the board of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

My career involved interviewing people, so I have good skills in oral communication. I have published poems, magazine articles, and a story."

His references noted:

Maureen Killoran: "What I can say is that I have absolutely no reservations or concerns about his serving on the Western RSCC. I have known Roger for nearly 30 years, from when he was the president of the first congregation I served (Salem, Oregon). At that time I knew him to be a highly intelligent, caring and committed lay leader, with a deep understanding of the role of the congregation. In subsequent years, as his wife, Millie, moved into ministry, Roger has consistently given of his talent as a volunteer leader. He understands the challenges and requirements ministry both from the perspective of a lay leader and as a clergy spouse. My husband, Peter Hyatt, speaks highly of Roger's wisdom and breadth of perspective in his working with UUMPS. It is a blessing that Roger wishes to serve in this capacity - I hope you will select him for the Western RSCC.

Stefan Jonasson: "I can tell you right now that my bottom line would be that Roger would make a wonderful addition to the Western Regional Sub-Committee on Candidacy. He's knowledgeable and wise, emotionally mature, intuitive and insightful, sensitive to cultural differences, an experienced minister's spouse (something that counts for more than we sometimes realize), supportive to others while at the same time able to be the bearer of hard news, a thoroughly dedicated UU lay leader with broad experience, and he's a real workhorse. Other than that, I have a very high opinion of him!"

Abhi Jamananchi: “He’s awesome! I’ve known him for at least ten years. He’s a staunch UU who loves and understands our faith. He brings a rare and valuable perspective as the spouse of a minister and is very good with boundaries. He is a deep listener who is well attuned to the cross-national concerns of citizens of Canada and the United States. “

I welcome any comments or questions about this recommendation!

Sincerely,

Dave Pettee