BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathy Burek was appointed to the UUA Board of Trustees in March 2017, and subsequently elected in June 2017. She currently serves as the Board’s Financial Secretary. Her prior service to Unitarian Universalism includes: member and chair of the Employee Benefits Trust Board (March 2007-June 2015), member of the MidAmerica Region Board, President of the Prairie Star District, President of the District Presidents’ Association, and the Board of the (U*U) International Women’s Convocation. In 2014, she received the UUA Presidents’ Award for Volunteer Service.

At her home congregation, Michael Servetus Unitarian Society of Fridley, MN, Kathy held many leadership roles, including Board President and Co-Chair of the Ministerial Search Committee.

Barbara de Leeuw

Barbara finds great joy in the collective work of good organizational governance. She’s been moderator, president, and vice president of two Rochester congregations (First Unitarian, First Universalist), and has experience in board structure, policies, best practices, evaluation, and bylaw revisions. Within congregations, she facilitates a POC Soul Matters and R3-Race, Racism and Relationships program, and served on membership, nominating, audit, and Race Advisory teams. Community Board leadership included: YWCA (local president, national nominating), Planned Parenthood WNY-treasurer, The Community Foundation, and Geva Theater Centre. She is thrilled by the deep denominational work, shift in direction, and UU’s positive response.

John Newhall

John Newhall is a seminarian and lifelong Unitarian Universalist. He is an avid comics fan and has spent the last two years researching and analyzing the intersections of religion and comics. John is also an aspiring Unitarian Universalist minister and theologian. As a filmmaker, he is especially interested in the ways in which film can contribute to the worship experience and ways in which religion and film intersect.

Rebecca Throop

Rebecca Throop (TROOP) is a youth from Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston, TX. She teaches a children’s religious education class at her church about spirituality and attends (and helps plan) every youth event she can. She is chaplain trained, attended the Ships Ahoy! leadership experience, and a spiritual direction conference. She wants to be a minister and spend her whole life in this faith. To remember which principle is which, she sings the principle song until she gets to the one she’s looking for. You can find her curled up with a book, a cup of tea or coffee, and her cat, Jet.
Bill Young (he/him/his) is a member of the UU Meeting of South Berkshire in Housatonic, MA. He has served in various congregation leadership roles as well as district leadership, most recently as president of the former Clara Barton District. Bill has been on the UUA Appointments Committee since 2017, part of the EqUUal Access leadership circle since 2012, and is on the UUA New England Region advisory council. He is currently chairperson of the board of directors of BikeWalkCT and vice chairperson/governance chairperson of the board of directors of InterCommunity Health Care, a nonprofit provider of mental health, addiction recovery, and primary medical care services. Bill is a Connecticut licensed professional counselor (LPC) and a national board-certified counselor.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Andrea Perry Lerner
Andrea Perry Lerner is a congregational consultant who has deep respect and affection for the UUA General Assembly. Over 26 years of GA attendance, she has been a delegate, vendor, program planner and presenter, and choir member. She retired in 2019 from the UUA after 16 years, including 9 as the District Executive for Metro New York. Before joining the UUA District/Regional Staff, she served 3 congregations as Director of Religious Education. She served on the Liberal Religious Educators Association Board, LREDA Professional Standards Task Force, and LREDA Integrity Team, which worked to dismantle institutional racism. Andrea is also well-known for her use of social media to relentlessly promote Unitarian Universalism.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ben Gabel
Ben Gabel currently serves as the Congregational Administrator for the Northwest UU Church in Southfield, MI. He has served at the UUA national level and in many UU organizations. He is a past Steering Committee member of DRUMM (2015-2019) and has served on the GA Program Development Group (2018). He has been a member of the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee since 2012 and will end his term at GA 2020. Ben currently serves on the UUMA Intern Committee (2019-2021). On October 2019, Ben became the Co-President of UU Society for Community Ministries.

Ben looks forward to bringing his breathe of UU experience to the UUA Nominating Committee!
Yadenee Hailu

Rev. Yadenee Hailu is a playful and fierce scout, Ethiopian-American, Black cis-woman. Her practice and ministries are focused in cultivating spiritual wellness and healing as a lifestyle. She currently lives in Tulsa, OK, USA, and ministers locally and digitally.

Carrie Stewart

Carrie brings nearly three decades of experience in equity, inclusion, and diversity through training, facilitation, coaching, dialogue convening and leadership development. Carrie is an advanced trained Mediator, and works in conflict transformation, and community and family engagement to find common ground. As an Intercultural Communication Consultant, she is a knowledge expert on navigating through cultures. A lifelong UU, Carrie has been a child, youth, member, and friend of 13 congregations in 6 districts. She served as a SWUUC and Southern Region Consultant specializing in anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism, conflict transformation, leadership, Compassionate Communication and Healthy Congregations. Additionally, she served on the UU Allies for Racial Equality Steering Committee, the SWUUC Board, and was a DBLE Staff member for several years. She currently serves on The Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee of the UUA, The Racial Equity Task Force, and the Adult Council of First Unitarian Church of Dallas. She holds a bachelor’s degree in American Studies from Smith College, and a master’s in Communication from Rutgers University. Carrie and her spouse, Fred Ditmars, raised two third generation UU college students in Colleyville, TX, where they enjoy movies, theater, music, travel, and their two dogs.