

BOARD OF REVIEW

Charlie Ortman

After graduating from Meadville/Lombard Theological School, Charlie Ortman was ordained to the UU ministry in 1992. Since then, he has served congregations in Burlington, IA, Fitchburg, MA, and Montclair, NJ, where he had the great privilege of serving for 20 years and "retired" as Minister Emeritus in 2015. He now serves as Interim Minister at First Unitarian Church in Providence, RI. Along the way he has had opportunities to serve on UUA Task Force One on Clergy Sexual Abuse and Misconduct, the UUA Nominating Committee, the UUA Board of Trustees, the UUMA's CENTER Committee, and in various leadership positions in UUMA District Chapters.



Karen Hall



Soprano Karen Hall, www.KarenSHall.com, is active both as a performer and teacher. Dr. Hall received her Doctorate from Columbia University, Teachers College, and she is an Associate Professor of Music at Western Wyoming Community College. She continues working in the area of Vocology as a researcher, writer and editor. She has presented workshops and pedagogical presentations with NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing), The Voice Foundation, and CMS (College Music Society). A member of the Unitarian-Universalist church for over twenty years, she has served on the Leadership Development Committee, as a Board Member and received Russell Lockwood Leadership School certification in 2014.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathy Burek

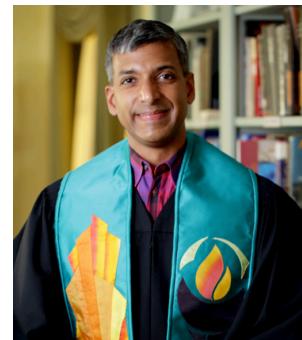


Kathy Burek has served the UUA as a member of the UUA Employee Benefits Trust Board from its inception in March 2007, until the summer of 2015, chairing the Board three times. She was Prairie Star District President and President of the District Presidents' Association. Kathy was on the Steering Committee that helped create the MidAmerica Region, and served on the Region's Board. She received the 2014 UUA Presidents' Award for Volunteer Service. Kathy was recently elected to the International Women's Convocation Board.

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

Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Manish serves as Senior Minister of The First Parish in Lincoln, MA, a dual UUA and UCC member congregation. He has served extensively in Unitarian Universalist leadership, including as President of DRUUMM (our UU people of color organization), Commissioner on the UUA Commission on Appraisal, co-authoring its report "Engaging Our Theological Diversity," Secretary of the Board of Star King School for the Ministry, and as an author and advocate of our 2007 GA resolution confronting gender identity-related discrimination. He is currently completing service as Chair of the UUA Election Campaign Practices Committee. Manish brings to the ministry his experience serving as a U.S. diplomat during the Clinton Administration.



Christina Rivera



Christina Rivera serves as Director of Administration and Finance at Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist in Charlottesville, VA. Prior to that, she served as Director of Religious Education at the UU Fellowship of Waynesboro. In 2014, she was elected to serve our wider UU community as a member of the UUA Board of Trustees. Most recently Chris joined the inaugural Advisory Board of the UU House of Studies at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Chris has the faith and support of her husband Chris and twin sons Andreas and Miguel who, along with her ancestors, form the support base for her calling to UU ministry.

Sarah Dan Jones

Sarah Dan, a native Southerner, is a UU music director of fifteen years, having served congregations in Georgia and New Hampshire. Continuing to serve the denomination in a variety of leadership roles, she's an active member of the UU Musician's Network, and served as both secretary and president of its board. She was a Northern New England District congregational consultant and musician for its annual meetings, musician of the week at Ferry Beach, and musician for the Mosaic Makers Conference.



A believer in the mystery, the power of the Holy, and the saving message of Unitarian Universalism, Sarah Dan's mission is to spread the good news of UUism through music. She does this by encouraging congregational singing, practicing shared ministry, and actively participating in the denomination.



COMMISSION ON APPRAISAL

Lucas Hergert

The Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert became the settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, CA in 2009. He grew up in a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Cincinnati, OH, and realized his call to the ministry in high school. Lucas graduated with an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Miami University, a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion. Lucas has served as the Vice President of Programming for the Pacific Central District UU Minister's Association, the Chair of the Growth Committee of the Pacific Central District, and the Chair of the Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Group. Outside of ministry his interests include yoga, Shakespeare plays, biking, process philosophy, fiction, interfaith work, and humor.



David Friedman



David is a retired optical software engineer who joined First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY in 1975. At church, he was Treasurer for fourteen years, and currently chairs the Investment Committee, serves on the board's Financial Advisory Committee, and is on the Interim Senior Minister's Transition Team.

David served the St. Lawrence District as a board member and its treasurer, and represented the District on the UUA board for eight years. His UUA portfolio included five years on the Finance and Audit Committees and two years on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

He has co-chaired the local Volunteer Committee at General Assembly and has been co-recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award (Buehrens).

Holley Ulbrich



Holley Hewitt Ulbrich lives in Clemson, SC and has been a Unitarian Universalist for 26 years. She has a Ph.D. in economics and a Master of Theological Studies degree and is a retired economics professor and adjunct professor of Policy Studies at Clemson University, where she has taught graduate courses in Ethics and Public Policy and Political Economy and Public Policy for the last 15 years. She is the author of 16 books, including a history of the fellowship movement published by Skinner House, and served on the UU Fund for a Just Society panel for six years. She has been active in leadership in her congregation and frequently leads worship in several lay-led area congregations. She also serves as co-president of her local League of Women Voters and is a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina.



COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS

Meredith Garmon



Meredith Garmon is a born and raised Unitarian Universalist. He holds an MA in communication studies, an MA in philosophy, and a PhD in government: political theory, and was formerly an assistant professor of philosophy at HBCU, Fisk University. Meredith has been a minister in fellowship since 2004, and has served our congregations in El Paso, TX, Midland, TX, and Gainesville, FL. Since 2013, he has been senior minister at Community UU Congregation at White Plains, NY.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Oshara Meesha

Oshara Meesha is member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka. She and her daughter Ashanti joined the fellowship in 2007 and since then, she has been involved in different areas of her fellowship. She is currently the layout/design editor for the church newsletter and a member of the Program Committee. She has helped on various committees such as Program, Music, Pastoral Care, Social Justice, and Community Outreach. Serving in this capacity will give her the opportunity to broaden her horizons in the UUA. She is proud to be part of Black Lives of UU (BLUU).



Tuli Patel



Tuli Patel currently serves as Executive Director at The Unitarian Church in Summit, NJ in a shared Leadership Team Model of Governance with two called ministers, the Reverends Emilie Boggis and Robin Tanner. She was previously Director of RE at Summit and continues to be a member of LREDA. Tuli was introduced to UUism when she came to the United States for graduate studies in 1988, and has attended congregations in Belmont, MA, Oak Park, IL, Los Angeles, CA, and Kirkwood, MO. Tuli was appointed to the GAPC by the Board of Trustees in 2015, and believes her time so far has prepared her well for the coming elected term. She enjoys strategic thinking and working within tight budgets.

Chelsea Surfus

Chelsea is a lifelong UU who has made it her life's mission to love the hell out of the world. She was raised at First UU Ann Arbor before finding her way to Texas. She is currently heavily involved in the Southern Region's Heart of Texas cluster youth programs. She and her husband are welcoming their second son in February. Looking to the future, she plans to change the world one teenager at a time by bringing youth and adults together to build bridges and bonds that last for lifetimes.



Debra Gray Boyd



Debra Gray Boyd is all-in and seeking her final elected term on the Planning Committee to institutionalize many of the positive changes that the Committee has made over the last four years. Since joining First UU Columbus with her husband and their daughter in 2003, she has served as Congregational Treasurer, Board Member, Steward, Family Camping organizer, and general instigator of good governance and healthy congregational life. In addition, she has served as a District Board Member and Vice President where she was part of the original four District Board meeting which explored the benefits of working together for the betterment of Unitarian Universalism. Nationally, she has served as a Compensation Consultant, a two-year board appointed term to the General Assembly Planning Committee, and is completing a four-year elected term this year. She was part of the team that created Justice GA in Phoenix and has been a constant advocate for the Planning Committee working with

the Board and Administration to plan farther ahead to create and take advantage of themes and opportunities that both take more time to plan, but also have the potential for larger change opportunities for Unitarian Universalism and our world.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Michael Walker



Rev. Michael Walker was first introduced to Unitarian Universalism in 1995 and was ordained in 2010 after graduating from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. He has served in the ministries of UU congregations in California, Washington, and Pennsylvania, and on staff of the First UU Society of San Francisco (where he was ordained) and the UU Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Massachusetts. He has also served in volunteer capacities in various LGBTQ+ and Pagan/earth-centered spirituality organizations, including on the national Board of Trustees of the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for 2007-2013. He is pleased and honored to be of service to the UUA now.

Joanne Giannino

Rev. Joanne Giannino currently serves the UU Church of Urbana Champaign in Illinois as interim minister. She has also served congregations in Massachusetts and Arizona. She has contributed to our denomination in a variety of capacities including as a member of the Nominating Committee for the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association; and, as a member and chairperson of the Nominating Committee of the UUA's Ballou Channing District. Giannino graduated with honors from Andover Newton Theological School. Previously she served as expressive arts therapist at a community mental health center, as adjunct faculty at Lesley College Graduate School, and as managing editor for a chain of weekly newspapers.



Jessica Falconer



Jessica Falconer is a clinical social worker at Searsport District Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. She lives in Belfast, ME with her very patient husband, two energetic kids, and one neurotic but lovable dog. Jessica has been an active Unitarian Universalist since 2012, and has been the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast's YRUU advisor since 2013. She enjoys serving as an RE guide, hiking, quilting, and swimming.