

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WEST
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024 AT 11:45 A.M.**



April 18, 2024

Dear UUCW Members,

This year's Annual Meeting will convene in-person at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Voting Member registration for the meeting and distribution of ballots will begin shortly after the end of the 10:00 A.M. service. Only voting members are eligible to participate and vote. The meeting will be available for viewing on the church website through Local Live.

This mailing includes the agenda, minutes from the June 4, 2023 Annual Meeting, bios for nominees, and a brief overview of Article II. If you have questions, please contact the Board of Trustees via email at board@uucw.org.

Our Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee and Endowment Fund Committee. The UUCW bylaws provide for **Nomination by Petition** for positions on the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and Endowment Fund Committee as set forth in Bylaws Section X.B.1.b(ii) below:

Nomination by Petition

Persons who meet the qualifications for any office may be nominated by Petition as follows:

(ii) Following publication of the nominations by the Secretary, any Church Member may be nominated by petition to the Board containing not less than ten signatures of Church Members, providing such petitions are submitted not less than 25 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

Bylaws Section X.B.1.b(iv) further provides that "Only such persons who have been nominated by the Nominating Committee or by Petition may be placed on the ballot. Nominations from the floor are prohibited."

Nominations by Petition must be received by Rob Zimmerman, Secretary, by May 8, 2024.

Mail Ballots: Section VI.E of the UUCW Bylaws provides for voting by mail as follows:

Action by Written Ballot

With regard to any action that may be taken at an annual, regular or special meeting of the members (including the election of trustees but excluding any vote to call or dismiss a minister), a Voting Member may vote by mail on ballot forms provided by the Church. The Secretary or designees shall verify the membership status of each person attending a meeting of the Members or requesting an advance ballot and shall distribute only to those qualified to vote. The ballot form shall set forth each proposed action known in advance and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action. The ballot form may not be revoked.

Please contact Rob Zimmerman, at robz.sustainability@gmail.com, by May 19th if you wish to vote by mail. Absentee ballots must be received by the church office on or before May 31, 2024.

A copy of the budget for 2024-25 will be included in the Annual Report. Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the foyer of the church by May 23, 2024.

Childcare will be available by reservation. Please contact the church office by Monday, May 20 at uucw@uucw.org or (262) 782-3535.

We encourage all UUCW voting members to attend the Annual Meeting. A quorum of at least 10% of voting members is required to conduct business. It is also a good opportunity to see our democratic process in action.

Sincerely,

Rob Zimmerman – Secretary, Board of Trustees (Enclosures)

Unitarian Universalist Church West Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 11:30 A.M
Unitarian Universalist Church West Sanctuary
-or-
Zoom

1. Call to Order: Jeannie Baker, President
2. Ascertain 10% Quorum: Rob Zimmerman, Secretary
3. Chalice Lighting
4. Appoint Parliamentarian
5. Approve Agenda
6. Consent Item: Minutes of June 4, 2023 UUCW Annual Meeting
7. Open Member Input - *Members may speak on topics of their choosing. Each Member's speaking time is limited to three minutes.*
8. Minister's Message: Rev. Julie Stoneberg
9. Treasurer's Report: Leslie Peterson
10. Presentation of 2024-2025 Operating Budget (as approved by the Board of Trustees)
11. Endowment Committee Report
12. Nominating Committee Report and Elections
 - Board of Trustees Nominees: Three-year terms 2024-2027:
 - Nick Carter
 - Natalie Fleury
 - Mark Steinberg
 - Endowment Fund Committee Nominees: Three-year terms 2024-2027:
 - Bill Bowen
 - Eileen Collins
 - Nominating Committee Nominees: Two-year terms 2024-2026:
 - Deb Blackstone
 - Polly Ellingson
 - Steve Frey (1-year term)
 - Lee Huempfer
 - Beth Zaretzke (1-year term)
13. UUA General Assembly Article II Advisory Vote
14. President's Report: Jeannie Baker
15. UUCW Awards and Recognitions: Kathy White and Barb Holzhauer
16. Closing Words
17. Adjourn

Information on Article II

At this year's General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association, set for June 20-23, revisions to Article II of the UUA bylaws will be voted on. This is the culmination of a multi-year study and discernment process, and included spirited discussion and a first vote of approval at GA in 2023. Among other items, Article II currently includes the Seven Principles and Six Sources that have been a touchstone for UUs for decades. The revisions of Article II will reframe the Principles as six shared values (Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, Justice, and Interdependence) with "Love" at the center. Rev. Stoneberg delivered several sermons on this topic over the past year. She and Dave Cicero will be hosting another informational session on Saturday, May 11th. We encourage each of you to learn more about this important topic.

Due to the significance of this potential revision, the Board of Trustees recommended we add an advisory vote to this year's Annual Meeting agenda (Item #13). UUCW will be represented by six at-large delegates who will have the chance to vote on this and any other business items at GA. UUCW delegates have always been free to vote their conscience in these matters, and that will be the case again this year. But the Board felt that understanding where UUCW members stand on this topic would be helpful to our delegates. The vote will be non-binding.

Unitarian Universalist Church West
Draft – Annual Meeting Minutes – Sunday, June 4, 2023 – 11:30 AM

- 1. Call to order** – Rob Zimmerman, President
- 2. Ascertain a 10% quorum** – Colleen Gresk, Secretary and Rob Zimmerman, President. Quorum (75 members in attendance).
- 3. Chalice lighting** – Rev. Jullan Stoneberg
- 4. Appoint Parliamentarian** – Rob Zimmerman appointed Lee Huempfer. Lee accepted.
- 5. Approve Agenda** – Bob Sewell – Motion to approve the agenda. Second – Caryl Sewell. No discussion. Approved by majority.
- 6. Consensus Item: Minutes – June 5, 2022 UUCW Annual Meeting** – Steven White – Motion to approve the Minutes. Second – Melissa Musante. No discussion. Approved by majority.
- 7. Open member input** – Question from Eddee Daniel.
- 8. Minister’s message** – Rev. Jullan Stoneberg
- 9. Treasurer’s Report** – Leslie Peterson
- 10. Presentation of 2023-2024 Operating Budget (as approved by the Board of Trustees)** – Leslie Peterson. Questions from Pat Rierson, Ann Heidkamp, and Almuth Soffee.
- 11. Endowment Committee Report** – Dave Herrewig, Chair of the Endowment Committee. Questions from Phil Kroner, Eddee Daniel, Pat Rierson, and Sue Schalig. Rev. Jullan Stoneberg, Rob Zimmerman, Leslie Peterson, Ann Heidkamp.
- 12. Nominating Committee Report and Elections** – Scott Shulick, Chair of the Nominating Committee
Scott Shulick – Motion to approve the entire slate of candidates. Second – Karen Zimmerman. Approved by majority.
- 13. Ministerial Search Team: Approval of slate** – Jeannie Baker. Jeannie Baker – Motion to approve the slate of team members. Second – Karen Zimmerman. No discussion. Approved by majority.
- 14. President’s Report** – Rob Zimmerman
- 15. UUCW Awards and Recognitions** – Pam Beattie
- 16. Closing Words** – Rev. Jullan Stoneberg
- 17. Adjourn** – Steven White – Motion to adjourn. Second – Deb Stevens. Approved by majority.

2024 UUCW Bio's for Candidates **Board of Trustees – 3-year terms 2024-2027**

Natalie Fleury

I have been a member of UUCW since 2008. Before joining UUCW, I attended holiday services at First Church with my (now ex) husband's mother and felt a connection with the UU church I had never experienced in the Lutheran Church of my youth. When I was going through my divorce, I ran into Reverend Suzelle on the playground (our children were in the same grade at the same school), and she encouraged me to try UUCW. It was exactly what my young children and I needed. I felt like I had been looking for the UUCW community and Unitarian Universalism my whole adult life. UUCW is my spiritual home; I was a participant in the first Wellspring group and found the experience to be transformative. I have been both a participant and a facilitator in Wellspring, have taught in RE, and am a founding member of Kaleidoscope, the UUCW Worship Band. I'm also a member of the Twisted Stitchers, a knitting, crocheting, needlepointing, (and any other crafts) group.

Both my son and my daughter were active in RE and the YRUU high school group, and both were privileged to travel to Boston for a UU Heritage Trip. My son also did a service trip to the Lakota Indian Reservation; COVID put a stop to some of my daughter's opportunities, though she was a NAYC delegate and helped plan a number of CONS. My son Will and I traveled to Nicaragua in 2016 as part of the UUCW Bridges to Community group and helped build a house for Maria and her family. Owing to Julia's youth leadership, I was a chaperone for a number of YRUU CONS, another amazing and transformative experience.

Professionally I am a lawyer, mediator and ombuds. I currently work full-time as an Ombuds at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Until May 2022, I split my time between MCW and Marquette Law School, where I taught the small claims mediation clinic for 10 years and helped design and implement a foreclosure mediation program that was used statewide. Through my work at Marquette, I also traveled to Israel 4 times with law students as part of an International Conflict course studying the Israeli Palestinian conflict. I have extensive experience serving on volunteer Boards and committees; including the Wauwatosa East Town Neighborhood Association Board, the Friends of Hoyt Park Pool Board, and as past chair of the Wisconsin State Bar's Dispute Resolution Section and Section Leaders Council. I currently chair the American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section Ombuds Committee Legislation Action Task Force and serve on the Milwaukee Chorister's Endowment Committee.

I share a house in Wauwatosa with my 85-year-old mother Judi, who joined UUCW after she moved to Wauwatosa in 2017, a cat, Willow, and a dog, Jemma. My son Will is 25 and recently moved back to Wauwatosa after finishing college; my daughter Julia is 22 and a first semester senior at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan.

I was a member of the Interim Search Team, which was a challenging and fulfilling experience and paved the way for me to be a member of the Ministerial Search Committee. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our beloved UUCW community as it moves into the next exciting phase.

Nick Clark

Nick Clark is a new addition to the UUCW congregation. During his time, he has wanted to figure out where he fit in and how he could help. After talking with Rev. Julie he realized he wanted to read and work towards speaking in front of the congregation. He also joined the family choir with his two daughters for the Christmas service. He participated with the solstice singers to learn more about the winter solstice ritual but was unable to contribute during the ritual due to his daughter's surgery.

The UUCW congregation has opened their arms and honestly feels like home. After hearing that there was one more spot available, he knew that this was his chance to give back to UUCW. Nick believes that he can bring an open mind and respectful perspective to the board.

There is going to be a lot of new change coming to UUCW and Nick would like the opportunity to be a part of this change.

Lastly, Nick would like to thank you for the opportunity to be nominated for the board and looks forward to continuing his journey with UUCW.

Mark Steinberg

I originally came to Wisconsin in 1969 to attend UW-Madison, where I received a Master's Degree in Meteorology in 1971. My career consisted of 49 years in the environmental, health and safety (EHS) field working for Wisconsin Electric Power Company, SC Johnson & Son and several consulting firms. I have two sons from a marriage to my former wife, who passed away in 2018, and am married to Terese Dineen, who is also a UUCW member.

I have previously served on the Boards of the Elmbrook Little League and the Federation of Environmental Technologists, an organization for Wisconsin EHS professionals.

I have been a UUCW member for 12 years. I am currently serving on the search team for our next settled minister, our Finance and Earth Ministry Committees, the Membership Team, and also enjoy the fellowship of our Men's Breakfast Group and weekly meditation group. I have previously served on the Endowment Committee, the Committee on Ministry, the Lay Pastoral Care, CommUnity Connections and Usher Teams, and the Safety and Security Task Force.

I look forward to joining the Board of Trustees to continue serving this joyous, liberal spiritual community that embraces and cares for its members and promotes many causes aligned with our values for the greater good in our metropolitan area.

Endowment Committee – 3-year terms 2024-2027

Bill Bowen's Bio

I have made a very, very, small endowment to UUCW. This taught me many considerations in the Endowment process. It gives me a warm feeling to know that the day after I pass, UUCW will automatically receive the gift. My age is 77 and financial planning is a part of my life. Five years ago, I joined and soon became an Usher. This has been a rewarding way for me to participate and meet members. I am part of the new generation or "Retired." For 12 hours a week I am an instructor at Bryant & Stratton Career College where I have worked for 17 years. My work involves computer-based testing to determine what classes will be best for new students. Because my experience is based in Sociology, my concern is for an aging Church that formerly had two services on Sunday and now has one service and online participation. My desire is to contribute to its future.

Eileen P. Collins, MBA

My history tells a tale of grit, determination, and service. As a high school dropout and teenage mother, it was my ignorance of financial knowledge and dependence upon social services that has been the driving force in my continual education and volunteerism. I earned a BS in Business Finance from UW-Parkside (2000), an MBA from Cardinal Stritch University (2019), and a life-coaching certification from the Institute of Professional Excellence in Coaching (2019).

I have volunteered as a Big Sister with the Big Sisters and Big Brothers of Metro Milwaukee, a reading tutor with the Racine Literacy County, a statistic and math tutor at UW-Parkside, and an accounting and algebra tutor at Laramie County Community College in Wyoming. Currently I serve as an HSED tutor for the Wisconsin Literacy Council in its partnership with WRTP/BIG STEP, a program that helps students earned their high school equivalency degree while training in the manufacturing and construction trades.

I chose to become a member of UUCW in 2023 after visiting a few times and experiencing an incredibly strong sense of welcome and belonging. I have since volunteered as an usher, a member of the Wednesday Book Club, a co-facilitator for a Soul Circle and a member of the Library Committee. The UUCW congregation has become like a family and a home for me.

Nominating Committee – 2-year terms 2024-2026

Lee Huempfer

Shortly after becoming a member of UUCW in 2005, I joined an usher team and have served in this capacity since. Over the years I have been a member of the Nominating Committee, Stewardship Committee, Board of Trustees (including a year as church president), Vision 2020 Committee, Endowment Fund Committee and Bylaws Review Committee too many times to count. For several years I enjoyed serving meals at Guest House.

I have lived in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Milwaukee since 1998. For 25 years I have practiced law with the Walworth County Corporation Counsel. In my spare time I am hoping to become a serious runner again.

Steve Frey (1-year term 2024-2025)

Steve and his wife, Sarah, have been members at UUCW since 2007. He enjoyed the feeling of community, but more importantly following their children Harry and Gillian to the front row every Sunday.

The continuous message of "Get Involved" resonated with Steve. He was gently cornered by Karen Engelking and Almuth Soffee to talk about the Worship Ministry Team. He joined the team and has been recruiting guests in the pulpit and a worship leader for more than 10 years.

Steve is retired from the Financial Industry and now works side by side with his wife in an online used book business. He loves travel, hiking, walking the dog, guitar, music, and cooking. Recently Steve and Sarah became empty nesters and are curiously optimistic about their children's future endeavors.

Polly Ellingson

My name is Polly Ellingson, and I joined UUCW in 2005. I have served on the Board of Trustees and most recently as a member of a committee to revise UUCW's bylaws, and I also sing in the choir. I retired from the practice of law last year, having practiced business immigration law for the last 20 years.

Beth Zaretske (1-year term 2024-2025)

My name is Beth Zaretske. This will be my second time serving on the nominating committee. I joined UUCW in 2009. I have 3 daughters, Zoe (21) and Eva & Stella (18) and our poodle-shiatzu fur baby, Luna (9). When we first joined the church, I taught religious education for about 5 years. We loved to participate in social and environmental justice protests and efforts. As the girls got older I expanded my volunteerism to include greeting as well as serving coffee (and a couple times ushering- I'll try to work on that!). I have been a part of Wellspring groups, once as a participant and then continuing as a facilitator since 2016. Wellspring has nurtured my spiritual growth and deepened my faith. I am currently a member of the ARTT (Anti Racial Transformation Team). I love UUCW and am committed to being of service however and whenever I am able.

Deb Blackstone

Hi, I'm Deb Blackstone. I lived most of my adult life in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. I worked in a Family Resource Center providing parenting support to young families. My partner and I raised three children. Retirement brought the move to Waukesha to near my family. I came to UUCW in 2019 looking for a sacred place to bring my gratitude and to find a community of inclusive thinkers. I found those things at UUCW and joined in December 2022. I meditate weekly with our meditation group; I am a member of the Lay Pastoral Team and I enjoy the knowledge and conversation at the Twisted Stitches meetings. I look forward to the new adventure of being a member of the Nominating Committee.