

## Nominees for the Board of Trustees



**Brian Junker:** Irma Tani and I have been members of First Unitarian for 15-16 years. Our older son Ben lives with us in Bloomfield/Friendship; our younger son Toby lives in Detroit where he is part of the sports analytics staff for the Detroit Lions football team. I am a professor of Statistics at Carnegie Mellon University. I've been active in the church as an amateur musician and member at various times of the folk orchestra, hymn band, family choir, and adult choir. I am a former member and chair of the Music

Committee, helped design the sanctuary sound system, volunteered and "liaisoned" for various church music series, and I currently direct the SongSpace concert series. In these roles I've worked with many lay leaders as well as program and operational staff in the church.

I'm an informal humanist but one who values the spiritual component of human experience. I also find our first principle, to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, even more compelling if we are all we have. Books in this sphere that I've found valuable include *Faith Without Certainty* (Paul Rasor), *The Stillborn God* (Mark Lilla), and *Zen Confidential* (Jack Haubner). I'm honored to be nominated for a position on the church board of trustees. I believe the board is not only here to provide leadership and problem-solving for the church as it currently is, but also to help lay the groundwork for the congregation that will be here 10 years from now, with many members and potential members who today are in their 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's.



**Kyle Gracie:** Kyle Gracey has served as a Trustee and the Treasurer since first being elected to both roles in 2020. During this time, they supported the church during a number of pivotal decisions, including the search for and installation of Rev. Kate, responding to the coronavirus pandemic, and the investment in a solar array. On the board, Kyle serves on VIM, the working group to grow and improve our membership, the Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and the Investment Committee. Prior to joining the board,

Kyle was a member of the Annual Budget Drive Committee since joining the church in 2015. They have also served as a Delegate for First Unitarian to General Assembly, before and during their board service. Outside of First Unitarian Church, Kyle works full-time on strategies to avoid global catastrophes and advance environmental justice, and serves on four other boards of directors.



**Jean Schmidt:** I joined First Unitarian Church with my husband Martin and two small children in 1990, when we moved to Pittsburgh from Santa Monica, CA. Our children both grew up in the church and were active in the Religious Education (RE) program. Now I am a grandmother of a 4-year-old and I recently retired from a teaching position in the Biology Department at the University of Pittsburgh. I have enjoyed participating in many facets of church life over the decades and the amazing friends I have found here. Most recently I have been teaching young ones in RE, co-leading the Racial Justice Task Force and serving on the Stewardship and VIM (Vision, Identity, Mission) Teams. I also helped plan the 2022 celebration honoring the installation of our new minister. I look forward to my first ever term on the Board of Trustees!

## Nominees for the Nominating Committee



**Karen Burns:** Karen has been a member of First UU since 2018 when she joined with her husband Tony. She has been/is active in First UU's activities and groups such as: the PIIN Core Team, the First UU Environmental Initiative, the UUCF group, the EECM team, the Share the Plate Committee, the Alternative Holiday Gift Fair, the Women's Alliance, and a very special Covenant Group. She has two children, Meghan and Eugene, daughter-in-law, Kirsten and a granddaughter, Cecelia. She works part-time for Harmony Family

Center as a Grantwriter. She enjoys reading, sewing and beading.



**Nancy Latimer:** Nancy has been a UU and a member at First Unitarian just since 2018. She has been active at church over that time including Khasi Hills, Membership Committee, the Auction Fundraising Committee, the Alternative Gift Market, Marketing and Communications committee, and the Choir. Nancy is currently employed at Collins Aerospace as a Quality and Process Engineer. She enjoys hiking, biking, and crocheting. She is a new grandmother in 2022 to two granddaughters, Simms and Cece. Life is good!



**Lee Carnes:** In July 2017, I joined the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. My lay leadership experience in the Unitarian Universalist faith includes serving on the Board of Trustees at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Pittsburgh (Board Member - January 2021; Vice- President of the Board - July 2021 to June 2022) and the Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina (President of Board of Trustees January 2017 - May 2017, Vice-President January

2016 – December 2017). In addition, I have worked as a librarian in law firms since 1986. My passions are continuing life's journey with Alice and philately with an emphasis on maritime.