

UUSO NOMINEES FOR ELECTED POSITIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ben Friedell (3-year term)

I am a third generation UU who has been a member of UUSO for 35 years, including three tours on the Board. I was on the most recent Ministerial Search Committee and have served as Stewardship Chair. Disappointed that I cannot be on stage during the pandemic restrictions, I am forced to continue my day job as a family physician in Oneonta. I live on the outskirts of Oneonta with my wife Diana, a former UUSO DRE, and our two geriatric cats.

Cathi Wiltsey (3-year term)

I have been attending services at UUSO since we moved to the area during the summer of 2012, and became a member about a year or so later. I like to be involved and during my time at UUSO I have worn a couple of different hats. I have been a worship associate, as well as the coordinator; I teach RE and am currently on the RE committee; I have been an usher; I am part of the coffee hour group; I volunteer at Cookies and Crafts and currently serve on that committee. I have been a part of a UU congregation for the last 20 years of my life, having found my way to the UU Fellowship at Stonybrook after much spiritual exploration.

Alex Schultz (3-year term)

I came to the UUSO in 2013 and we became members that year. My husband, Kevin Schultz, and I had been looking for a spiritual home for awhile, especially now that we were parents (Gracie, now 13 and Anna, now 11). Kevin came from a Catholic background and I came from a Jewish one (we had a priest and a rabbi at our wedding in 2000, which Kevin always says sounds like the start of a good joke!) We are academics and moved to Oneonta when Kevin became a Physics Professor at Hartwick College, and I started to teach history there. We weren't sure what was the right place for us--until we met our dear friend Amy

Forster-Rothbart. She knew we were seeking a place with progressive values that would allow us to nurture our children's spirituality, encourage them to care about social justice and the environment, and forge bonds in the community. Over time, the church, many of its members, and Reverend Craig became family to us. Our families attended services when they visited: we both have given sermons, and religious education has provided a warm environment for our growing girls. I know the church stands at a transitional period now with the departure of Reverend Craig and the unique challenges of Covid-19, and I feel a great sense of responsibility to pitch in and try my best to help encourage an environment that will grow stronger--and kinder—in the days to come. I hope to do that through service to the Board.

Donna Behrendt (1-year term)

I have been a UU since 1961 in churches in Wisconsin, Colorado and Arizona, then became a member of UUSO when I moved here in 2005. At various times in these last 15 years I have served on the Board of Directors, been a member of our annual fund drive, participated on the Social Action Committee and am currently on the Endowment Committee. I've lead a couple of discussion groups in recent years, lead one of the small group ministries and help out with Saturday's Bread whenever I can. Community involvement has always been important to me and I represent our society on the Caring Connections Board at Catholic Charities. While I appreciate that we all have different points of view I will be encouraging harmony, cooperation and love if I am elected to the Board of this wonderful congregation.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Zanna McKay (3-year term)

I have been attending UUSO since my arrival here in August of 2003. I raised my daughter with the support of this congregation and have since been involved in a number of ways over the years; a long time member of the Mali group, an RE instructor, the Esthetics Board, the Black Lives Matter group, small group discussions and assisting with the book and plant sale, to name a few. I am proud

of our commitment to social justice and our efforts at the transparent resolution of issues. As a college professor who teaches about issues of modern life like racism, sexism and ableism, I have worked to develop ways of moving groups of people, and the individuals who make up those groups, to deep communication and the transformation that comes from that. I would be honored to assist this congregation as we move forward by being a part of the Committee on Ministry.

MODERATOR

Karl Seeley (1-year term)

I joined the UUSO in 2009 and have since served on Endowment, Finance, Sabbatical, and Stewardship committees. Kate and I moved to Oneonta in 2002 for me to take a job teaching economics at Hartwick. UUSO has been an important part of our family's life here, including RE for our now-teenage sons. I have learned a lot in my first one-year term as moderator and would be honored to be chosen to continue in that role as we navigate toward a new ministry.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Margaret Davis (3-year term)

I joined UUSO in 1981 and played a leadership role in church finances (Treasurer and Finance Chair) for twenty nine years. I have taught in RE program and served on the Board of Trustees.

I am completing one term as Chair of the Endowment Committee. We look forward to a planned giving campaign for the newly established Legacy Fund.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Margaret Davis (3-year term)

The Nominating Committee plays a crucial role in the identification of future leaders for the Society. I would be honored to contribute to that effort.

