

ELECTION PROCESS
UUS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 22, 2022

- 1) The Congregational Meeting will begin for qualified voters at **11:15 on Sunday, May 22, 2022**, in the sanctuary **and** on Zoom following the Sunday service, which will be streamed on YouTube. Voting will take place **after** the meeting by an online ballot congregants will receive after the meeting. NOTE: The meeting will also be streamed on YouTube, but for viewing only—to participate in the meeting you must be a voting member and must switch from YouTube to Zoom at 11:15 (the Zoom link and passcode were included in the email sent to all voting members ahead of the meeting- Contact the office if you are unable to locate it.)
- 2) In addition to this cover sheet explanation of the process, the materials in this advance packet:
 - Congregational Meeting Agenda
 - Minutes of the May 19, 2021, Congregational Meeting
 - Bios of the three nominees for the Board of Trustees, one nominee for the Leadership - Development Committee, and one nominee for the Endowment Committee
 - Brief description of the proposed Eighth Principle and why it will be on the ballot that will be emailed after the meeting
 - Sample ballot** (the voting ballot will be emailed to voting members after the Congregational Meeting)
- 3) The ballot, including any new motions, amendments, or nominations approved at the Congregational Meeting will be sent via email after the May 22 meeting. We will use Election Buddy as we have the last several elections. **The difference is that voting will begin after the Congregational Meeting.** Voting will remain open for five days until 5:00, Friday, May 27, 2022 (however, per UUS bylaws, *absentee paper ballots* must be received prior to the start of the Congregational Meeting to be counted. The results of the election will be announced on Sunday, May 29, 2022, one week after the May 22, 2022, meeting.
- 4) Members who wish to make **new motions, amendments, or nominations** not on the agenda are encouraged to send them to alan-swanson@mchsi.com by noon, Saturday, May 21. New motions, amendments, and nominations also can be made during the Congressional Meeting and must be voted upon provided a quorum is present. If one of these actions is approved by a majority during the meeting it will be added to the ballot prior to emailing it after the meeting for the counted vote.
- 5) A few UUS members request paper **absentee ballots** each year, and these are USPS-mailed 14 days before the election to be received by absentee voters approximately 10 days before the election. Per UUS bylaws, to be counted, completed absentee ballots must be received prior to the start of the Congregational Meeting. For these absentee paper ballots: new motions, amendments, and nominations that arise during the meeting and are not on the original agenda will not be counted.
- 6) A **quorum** (20 percent of those qualified to vote,) will be determined by 1) the number of persons present evidenced by a sign-in/check-off sheet at UUS, 2) online Zoom participants, and 3) absentee ballots received prior to the Congregational Meeting.
- 7) A voted item must have a **majority to pass**--more than half of the votes cast by persons entitled to vote, excluding blanks and abstentions, except in special cases where UUS bylaws require a higher percentage (but this is not the case for this May 22, 2022, meeting).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA, MAY 22, 2022

OPENING

Call to Order Alan Swanson, President
Validation of a Quorum Joe Rasmussen, Parliamentarian
Chalice Lighting and Opening Words Rev. Diana Smith

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the December 19th, 2021, Meeting Minutes Alan Swanson, President
Motion and second, each by a member present, corrections/discussion
(vote online after meeting)

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members Alan Swanson, President

Board of Trustees

Past President Joe Rasmussen
Finance Trustee John Raley
Secretary Paula Miller

Leadership Development Committee

Marsha Cheyney

Endowment Committee

Gary Lawrenson

Presentation of Leadership Nominees

Sue Otto, Nominations Lead, LDC

Election of Officers

Board of Trustees (3)

Vice President: John Bowman
Sue Otto motion, second by _____. Nominations from floor? *(vote online after meeting)*
Secretary: Christine Etler
Sue Otto motion, second by _____. Nominations from floor? *(vote online after meeting)*
Finance Trustee: Jerry Wetlaufer
Sue Otto motion, second by _____. Nominations from floor? *(vote online after meeting)*

Leadership Development Committee (1)

Phil Beck
Sue Otto motion, second by _____. Nominations from floor? *(vote online after meeting)*

Endowment Committee (1)

Paul Pomrehn
Sue Otto motion, second by _____. Nominations from floor? *(vote online after meeting)*

Report from the President

Alan Swanson, President

Report from the Treasurer

Mike Pavelich, Treasurer

The Eighth Principle

Rev. Diana and others

Motion for UUS to endorse the Eighth Principle for adoption by the UUA

Motion and second, each by a member present, discussion *(vote online after meeting)*

CLOSING

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice Rev. Diana Smith

Adjournment

Request for a motion or unanimous consent to adjourn Alan Swanson

Unitarian Universalist Society
Congregational Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2021
(Multiplatform meeting via Zoom and in-person)

President Alan Swanson called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. Rev. Diana Smith provided opening words as the chalice was lit. Amy Fretz reported a quorum was established with 46% of members having voted prior to the meeting. This method of establishing a quorum was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has prevented in-person voting during this meeting. Materials for this meeting were distributed to members by email or USPS two weeks prior. Voting took place using Election Buddy online and Absentee voting on paper. Voting remained open until 6 pm on 12/19/21.

Approval of the May 23, 2021 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Swanson asked for unanimous consent to accept the May 23, 2021, minutes as printed and distributed prior to the meeting with one correction to the Treasurer's Report section: the word "battle" will be struck and the correct word bank followed by a period ("bank.") will replace it. The motion was seconded by Jim Olson. Having heard no objections, and by review of the total votes cast the minutes were approved with 132 votes.

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Member

Swanson thanked outgoing Board member Carol Adamson who ably served as Secretary for 10 months from Sept 2020 through June 2021. Carol joined the UUS in 2012 and served with several groups, including Choir, Communications, Membership Associates, Hospitality, AV/Sound, the Ministerial Search Committee, and a Covenant Group.

Election of Officers

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Liz Swanson, to accept the nomination of Paula Miller to complete the term of Board of Trustees Secretary through June 2022 after Carol Adamson's departure. The motion passed with 141 votes.

Amendment to the Bylaws

Swanson advised that renaming UUS service groups as "teams" to distinguish them from "committees" requires an amendment to the UUS Bylaws (the change is listed in bold type):

Article V – QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINEES; PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS: B. Only a qualified voting member (who has been a member for at least one year and has served on at least one committee **or team**) may serve on the Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee, or the Endowment Committee. Any qualified voting member may run for any open position.

Joe Rasmussen made a motion, seconded by Sue Otto, to amend the bylaws. The motion passed with 139 votes.

Report from the President: Swanson reported on tasks completed over the past year. The two main areas of focus have been on maintaining COVID protocols while conducting online and multiplatform services and finding solutions to address ongoing chronic budget shortfalls. He studied the past nine years of UUS financial decisions which led to the systemic operating budget deficit and stressed that no particular decisions are to blame. A plan to erase the budget deficit in two years has been devised by

the Balance and Growth Initiative (BGI) task force with full cooperation from the Board of Trustees. This plan includes membership growth initiatives, cost-cutting efforts, and new income strategies with the assistance from the generosity of this congregation. Swanson recognized BGI group members and gave the floor to BGI chair and Vice-President Rochelle Honey-Arcement and Treasurer Mike Pavelich. Pavelich and Honey-Arcement elaborated on the 2-year BGI plan and presented 3 motions for consideration:

- 1. Approval of the expenditure from General Endowment *earnings* a maximum of \$45,000 beyond the annual spending allowance (ASA) for the 2022 UUS Operating Budget and a maximum of \$80,000 beyond ASA for the 2023 UUS Operating Budget (total maximum of \$125,000 for the two-year Balance and Growth Initiative Plan):** Motion to approve made by Pavelich, seconded by Amy Fretz. Adam Ingersoll submitted a comment through Zoom which supported the plan. The motion passed by 131 votes.
- 2. Approval of the 2022 UUS Budget of \$593,300:** Motion to approve made by Pavelich, seconded by Amy Fretz. The motion passed by 131 votes.
- 3. Approval of the Balance and Growth Initiative Two-Year UUS Budget Plan for 2022-2023:** Motion to approve made by Honey-Arcement, seconded by Diana Henry. The motion passed by 131 votes.

Announcements:

The next Congregational Meeting will take place in May 2022 (date TBD).

Adjournment

Reverend Diana Smith provided closing words from and the chalice was extinguished.

Liz Swanson asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sue Otto. Seeing/hearing no objections the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

-Submitted by Paula Miller, Secretary

From Your Leadership Development Committee

2022 Nominees for Elected Positions

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is pleased to present the following nominees for the open seats on the UUS Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee and Endowment Committee, with terms beginning on July 1st, 2022. The election will be held at the May 22nd Congregational Meeting. We are grateful for all the willingness of these UUS members to serve in leadership roles. LDC members: Susan Salterberg (Chair), Marsha Cheyney, Dave Gallher, Ron Pile, and Sue Otto.



John Bowman, Board Vice President

John has been a member of UUS since 2018, serving on the Hospitality Team, the Racial Justice Team, and the seven-member Search Committee seeking a new settled minister for UUS. Also, He is a Worship Associate and co-leader of the Worship Associate Team. He is co-facilitator for the Kindred Spirits Covenant Group. At his previous UU church in Auburn, California, John was a trustee on the Board, was on the Search Committee for a new interim minister, and on several other committees, mostly focusing on anti-racism, immigration, and Indigenous Peoples issues. His wife, Valerie, and he have attended UU General Assemblies in Portland, Oregon, where they were delegates, and in Kansas City, Missouri.

John was a career journalist, working as a reporter, editor, and publisher on daily newspapers in Indiana, Illinois, and California. His BA degree in Journalism is from Eastern Illinois University,

and he has an MA in Culture and Spirituality from the Sophia Center at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. He has edited several books and continues to do writing and editing on occasion as a freelancer. He is a published poet.

Val and John live at Prairie Hill Cohousing in Iowa City, where they are active in several circles and committees. John grew up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and lived in California for 30 years before moving back to the Midwest. He and Val have eight children between them, 19 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. He enjoys reading, writing, walking, travel and watching sports, especially University of Iowa women's and men's basketball teams.

John is eager to serve on the Board of UUS, where he hopes to contribute in any way he can to ensure the continued financial solvency of the Society. Also, as a Board member, he intends to support the congregation's many efforts, particularly in the areas of anti-racism and LGBTQ issues, and in planning how to return to a full, in-person sanctuary at Sunday services, post-pandemic.



Christine Etler, Board Secretary

Christine Etler originally joined UUS in 2003. She was and has been an active member between 2003 to 2008 and from 2018 to present. She was born in Boston to a Catholic family and has previously lived in Montreal, Quebec and western Massachusetts before moving to Iowa City in 2002. Christine has a doctorate in Audiology and has worked both as a clinical Audiologist and as a research specialist. She currently works in the University of Iowa Department of Otolaryngology as a researcher working with cochlear implant users.

Christine first attended occasional UU services in Cambridge and Amherst Massachusetts in the 80s and 90s. When she and

her husband Dave moved to Iowa City in 2002, with no family or friend connections in the area, she expected to find a welcoming community at UUSIC. And she did. She joined within a year, participated in the choir, and occasionally volunteered with the hospitality team. Following the birth of their two children (Aizay and Coraline), Christine stepped away from the UUS for several years. Since 2018, Christine has volunteered in the AV team and has been a member of the choir.

Christine has volunteered with the Rape Victim Advocacy Program and with the Free Medical Clinic. For 9 years, she served on the board of directors of the parent run after school program at Hoover Elementary School (Hoover On-Campus Care). She served in the positions of member-at-large, secretary, vice-chair, and chair.



Jerry Wetlaufer, Board Finance Trustee

A UUS member since 2010, Jerry was honored to serve with other members of the most recent Ministerial Search Committee. He's been involved with a Covenant Group, Adult Religious Education, Social Justice and Anti-Racism work, the Secular Humanists and the Freethinker Friendly Initiative, and Iowa City's Winding Path Buddhist Sangha.

Professor Emeritus at the UI College of Law, Jerry spent the bulk of his 30-year career studying negotiations and the possibilities

of understanding and engaging across strong differences. Before coming to Iowa City to teach, he attended Yale Law School and spent 12 years practicing law in Washington, D.C.

He raised a family in Iowa City and, having lost his wife (Huston Diehl) to cancer in 2010, he is now married to fellow-UU Margaret Kinsman. He is strongly committed to spiritual growth, the continuing search for meaning, the wide range of our differing beliefs, and our shared commitment to social justice. He is an avid reader, especially on matters of faith, history, social justice and positive psychology."

(Nominee bios continue on next page)



**Paul Pomrehn,
Endowment Committee**

Paul has been a member of UUSIC since 1981. He has been an active volunteer most of that time including work on Building and Grounds, Worship Associates with Rev. Nancy Haley and as an OWL instructor. He had an active role in the committees

that identified the need for new facilities and led the committee that searched for land for our new building. He co-led the Ministerial Fellowship team for Rev. Lois Cole. He has been elected to three separate 3-year terms on the Board of Trustees, the last of which ended in June '21. He served one 3-year term on the Leadership Development Committee. He currently serves as a member of the Pastoral Care Team.

Paul completed undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Iowa. He met his wife, Deb Schoelerman in 1971 and they were married in 1972. After a training year in Phoenix and two years on the Navajo

reservation in Crownpoint, New Mexico, they returned to Iowa City with daughters Andrea and Teresa. Paul completed a research fellowship in cardiovascular disease epidemiology and joined the faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health (now the College of Public Health) in 1980. Son, Greg, was born in 1981. Paul served 20 years on the faculty achieving the rank of professor with tenure in the College of Public Health before resigning his position to train in Psychiatry at Stanford University from 2001-2005. He returned to Iowa City to work as a staff psychiatrist at the Community Mental Health Center for Mideastern Iowa. He retired from this position after 8+ years of service due to illness. Paul was able to return to clinical work part time as a psychiatry faculty member at UIHC before retiring in March 2020 to work on his golf game and catch up on some reading.

Paul is looking forward to joining Gary Lawrenson, Bruce Alexander, Liz Swanson and Carmen Griggs on the Endowment Committee.



**Phil Beck,
Leadership Development Committee**

Philip Beck was born in Chicago on March 13, 1954, and grew up mostly in the suburb of Skokie. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Missouri in Columbia for two years before transferring to the

University of Iowa. There he obtained a B.A. and M.A. in English and an M.A. in Film and Broadcasting. After a brief stint teaching at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, Phil returned to Iowa City and worked at the UI Law Library for 34 years, first as a Library Assistant II and later as a Library Assistant III. He retired in October 2021.

Phil has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society since the summer of 2008. At the 10 S. Gilbert St. location, he volunteered occasionally for the Buildings and Grounds Committee and ran the sound booth for Sunday services, leaving that position when the Society moved to Coralville in 2017. Soon after becoming a member of the congregation, he joined a covenant group and has co-facilitated his group since 2009. He also headed the Communications Committee from 2014 to 2016. That committee oversaw the redesign of the UUS website and wrote UUS's Communications Policy. From 2013 to 2019, Phil acted as coordinator of UUS's volunteer group for Iowa City's annual citywide rummage sale, "Rummage in the Ramp." This event was suspended in 2020 because of COVID, but when it starts up again, he hopes to resume his role as UUS coordinator.

THE EIGHTH PRINCIPLE

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

As a timely part of moving our mission and vision ahead, a positive and consequential motion will be on the May 22 Congregational Meeting election ballot: **for UUS to endorse the Eighth Principle for adoption by the UUA.** If the motion passes, the UUS will be among more than 160 UUS congregations who have already voted Yes for the Eighth Principle, and there will be many more to come. In Iowa the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Cedar Rapids, Davenport, and Ames have formally declared their support, and the Des Moines congregation will vote soon.

The example our congregation and others will set is meant to 1) help encourage the UUA to adopt the Eighth Principle or its essence during the Article II reexamination of our national bylaws that occurs every 15 years, and 2) for us at UUS to activate the intent of this motion here and now: to begin discussions, radical welcoming, and other actions to improve our open acceptance and support of the oppressed as a congregation and as individuals—inside our programs, and outside in the community and beyond.

The current wording of the Eighth Principle is not ours to wordsmith, although changes may be made by UUA during its review. The UUS Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed the Eighth Principle on February 16, 2022.

Our voting example will join the many other UUS congregations who wish to take action to expand traditional efforts led by racial and social justice teams such as ours, moving ahead with them even more overtly to build a culture of inclusion.

For more information, see www/8thprincipleuou.org

UUS May 22nd, 2022 Election Ballot

Do you approve the December 19th, 2021, Meeting Minutes?

Yes No Abstain

Write-in Option

Do you approve the nomination of John Bowman to the UUS Board of Directors for a 3-year term? 1st year as Vice President, 2nd year as President and 3rd year as Past President

Yes No Abstain

Write-in Option

Do you approve the nomination of Christine Etler to the UUS Board for a 3-year term as Secretary?

Yes No Abstain

Write-in Option

Do you approve the nomination of Jerry Wetlaufer to the UUS Board of Directors for a 3-year term as Finance Trustee?

Yes No Abstain

Write-in Option

Do you approve the nomination of Paul Pomrehn to the Endowment Committee for a 5-year term?

Yes No Abstain

Write-in Option

Do you approve the motion for UUS to endorse the Eighth Principle for adoption by the UUA?

Yes No Abstain

(K7NO ONLY)
(SAMPLE ONLY)