

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominees to serve on the 2019 Church Council.

As required by the church bylaws, three church members, who broadly represent the congregation, make up the Nominating Committee: chair, elected annually at the Annual Meeting; one member appointed by Church Council; and a member appointed by the Nominating Committee chair. The committee's principal task is to identify and nominate individuals to fill open positions on Church Council. This year's Nominating Committee is Carol Pynchon (chair), Julie Van Duyne (Council appointee) and Sharon Tavernier (at-large appointee).

Our task this year was the easiest ever, which we hope is a testament to the success of our Council-building and succession-planning strategies! All currently sitting Council members whose terms are expiring, but who are eligible for another term, agreed to serve. We are truly fortunate to have such fine and dedicated leaders in our congregation!

As a reminder, the following are fulfilling terms on Church Council and will continue in 2019: Jenn Whittaker, Vice President; Jon Montan, Secretary; and Trustees John Danis, Anna Sorensen, and Bill Short.

To continue their work with those Council members, we are pleased to introduce the 2019 Church Council slate:

President (January 2019 – December 2020)

Todd Moe lives in Norwood. He and his husband, Paul Siskind, moved to the North Country from Minneapolis in the summer of 1998. Todd grew up in rural Minnesota in a Methodist household, went to a Lutheran college, but is most comfortable in the UU world. He joined the church in the fall of '98. He started singing in the choir within the first month of attending church, and has served on the Nominating Committee, RE Committee and teaches Spirit Play. Todd is the weekday morning host on North Country Public Radio and also enjoys cooking, gardening, and making paper. Paul teaches in the First Year Program at St. Lawrence University.

Treasurer (January 2019 – December 2020)

Gwen Cunningham is a relative newcomer to the North Country having arrived three and a half years ago after many years in New England. She spent 10 years working as a director for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank; prior to that, she was a professional stage manager at numerous theatres in Providence, New York City, and Boston. She is currently the Science Librarian at St. Lawrence University. She holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Rhode Island and a bachelor's degree from Mt. Holyoke College. In her free time, Gwen can be found rowing at Norwood Lake, hiking (or skiing) at Higley Flow, and tending her chickens and goats at home in Pierrepont with her husband and North Country native, Sean.

Trustee (January 2019 – December 2020)

Mary Michalek was drawn to Unitarian Universalism the autumn following her college commencement and was a member of the UU Society of Burlington for almost ten years. While there, she was active in the choir and served on the music committee, including a few years as co-chair. When her husband, Arthur, was hired at Clarkson University as a mechanical engineering professor, they and their young son, Walter, relocated to Potsdam. After a couple years during which naptime and work obligations prevented regular church attendance, Mary became a member in the fall of 2016. She has promptly immersed herself in the church by singing with the choir, helping out in RE, speaking from the pulpit, and providing additional music. When not at church, she spends her time parenting Wally, working for the Adult Literacy program at the Potsdam Library, and as a doula and childbirth educator.

Trustee (January 2019 – December 2020)

Julie Van Duyne grew up in Norwood and has attended this church since before she could speak in sentences. Her parents, Andrew Van Duyne and Eileen Wheeler, are transplants - Crane graduates who settled in the area and both taught music in the Norwood-Norfolk Central School district. Julie resides on a quaint country estate amid the rolling hills of Russell, spending her summer days harvesting rocks (and occasionally vegetables) from the great gravel fields of Sundance Knoll, and her winters battling the frozen, beastly winds that bring icy driveways and frigid, barefoot-biting morning floors. She lives there with her cat Euclid, his puppy companion Ada, their nanny Heidi (an elegantly mature border collie), and Heidi's family, Ken, Lexi, and Henry Hebb. Julie has been a teacher in the Coming of Age group and some day, if she's skillfully deft with time management, she hopes to join the choir.

Trustee (January 2019 – December 2020)

Kathy Wyckoff has been a member of the church since 1980, the year she and her husband Pete were married by Max Coots, and is nominated for a second term as Trustee. She was part of the Search Committee that brought Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock to Canton and most recently chaired the "Mission Commission," which helped draft the church's new mission statement. Over the years she has been involved in many committees and groups, including Staff Relations Committee, Social Events Committee, Coming of Age and Youth Group. For the last five years she's been the chair of the Memorial Committee. Her children Cassidy and Elizabeth grew up in this church and now live in Austin, Texas, and Madison, Wisconsin.

Nominating Committee Chair (January 2019 – December 2019)

Carol Pynchon has been a member of the church since shortly after she and her husband Tom moved to Canton. She has served on Church Council as secretary and president, on the Staff Relations and Communications committees, and as chair of the 2009-10 Search Committee. Carol taught in RE for longer than she can remember and she and Tom raised their three children – Drew, David, and Lindy – in the UU church and RE program. When she's not at church, Carol serves on the board of GardenShare and is a Trustee for the Village of Canton.