

## **Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominees to serve on the 2018 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), Todd Moe (Council appointee) and Sharon Tavernier (at-large appointee). We have worked hard to present a slate of candidates who will complement the continuing Council members and who will bring their own wisdom, energy, and dedication to Council. We are truly fortunate to have such fine leaders in our congregation!

There has been some juggling this year! We particularly appreciate Todd Moe's willingness to step up to complete Barbara Beekman's unexpired term; Todd has served previously as trustee and vice president. We also appreciate Jon Montan moving to secretary to fill Katherine Brown's incomplete term. Bill Short and Mary Michalek were appointed trustees in October – Bill filling David Nelson's unexpired term and Mary stepping in for Jon. We are delighted that John Danis agreed to stand for a third term as trustee, and we are fortunate to have the continued leadership of Gwen Cunningham as treasurer and Julie Van Duyne and Kathy Wyckoff as trustees.

With all of that, we are pleased to introduce the 2018 Church Council slate.

## 2018 CHURCH COUNCIL SLATE

### **President (January 2018 – December 2018)**

**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.

*Todd is filling Barbara Beekman's unexpired term.*

### **Vice President (January 2018- December 2019)**

**Jenn Whittaker** lives in Canton with her husband, Erik Whittaker, and their two children, Arianna and Braden. She has a masters of Library and Information Science from Syracuse, but has spent the last few years homeschooling her children. Now that they are back in school full time, she works as the Canton Farmers Market Manager and volunteers at GardenShare, Church and Community, and Grasse River Heritage. Jenn and her family joined the UU Church of Canton in 2012. She serves on the Religious Education, Canvass, and the Social Action committees. She is also the cataloger for the church's online library catalog and a teacher in the RE program. Jenn enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, and spending time with friends and family.

### **Secretary (January 2018 – December 2019)**

**Jon Montan** grew up in Upper Montclair, NJ, and attended St. Lawrence University during the Vietnam War period. At St. Lawrence he met Kathy and they were married in Gunnison Chapel the day after Jon graduated in 1971. After a teaching stint, graduate school at Utah State University, and searching for employment in a tight job market, the Montans settled in Pierrepont in 1977. Jon worked as a planner for over three decades at the SLC Planning Office, retiring from that position at the end of June 2012. Kathy and Jon joined the church in 1983. Jon currently serves as Secretary of Church Council. During 2016-2017, he served as Chairman of the Ministerial Search Committee; he has also served on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and currently serves on both the Worship and Environmental Action committees. Kathy and Jon have one son, Christopher, who resides in Massachusetts. Jon's interests are wide-ranging but often gravitate toward scientific topics. It is fun to learn something new each day. "Let's have coffee (or some other beverage) and talk."

*Jon is completing Katherine Brown's unexpired term; he was appointed and has been serving as secretary since August.*

### **Trustee (January 2018 – December 2019)**

**John Danis** lives in Rensselaer Falls with his wife, Bonnie. Together, they raised four children, now “long out of the nest.” John moved to the North Country in 1971 and completed undergraduate work at the Crane School of Music in 1975 and graduate work in 1980. Upon graduation in 1975, John began teaching music at the Hermon-DeKalb Central School and taught there until he retired in 2008. As an educator, John held elected offices in various musical organizations and was president of the Hermon-DeKalb Teachers Association for several terms. For many years, he has also maintained an active performing life as a musician. John’s connection to the UU Church in Canton began in the late 1970s and has ebbed and flowed throughout the intervening years. For a number of years, the Danis family was affiliated with the Rensselaer Falls United Methodist Church, now closed. During those years, John currently serves on the Music Committee, is a member of the choir, and has performed in various ways in support of our worship services.

### **Trustee (January 2018 – December 2018)**

**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.

*Mary was appointed in October to fill Jon Montan’s unexpired trustee term and is nominated to complete the remaining year of his term.*

### **Trustee (January 2018 – December 2019)**

**Bill Short** was born in Rochester, NY, and moved to Potsdam when he was in the first grade. He was raised in a Catholic household with a mother who would have loved to be a priest, and it occurred to Bill that he couldn’t be part of a community that doesn’t allow full participation to more than half its membership. Bill joined the UU Church of Canton with his late wife Pam in the early ’90s, which was the first time he felt at home in a religious setting. Bill lives outside of Madrid on the Grasse River with his dog, PJ. He is also the director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program at SLU.

*Bill was appointed in October to fill David Nelson’s unexpired trustee term and is nominated to a full two-year.*

### **Trustee (January 2018 – December 2019)**

**Anna Sorensen** arrived in the North Country in 2013 with her wife Desiree and family. Anna quickly learned that a person can acclimate to extreme weather changes as she moved here from Santa Barbara, CA, where she was completing her graduate work. Anna is happy to have found a wonderful job teaching sociology at SUNY Potsdam. She also was delighted to find this Unitarian Universalist congregation and community. Anna has been a UU since 2007, when she found a welcoming congregation in Chico, CA. In particular, she appreciates the UU emphasis on social justice work as a spiritual practice because social and political activism and service are key components of her life. Anna serves on the RE Committee and appreciates the opportunity to serve the congregation and community as a member of Church Council.

### **Nominating Committee Chair (January 2018 – December 2018)**

**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, and on the Staff Relations and Communications committees. Carol was the chair of the last search committee and filled Erika Barthelmess' term on the Nominating Committee when Erika took leave to serve on our latest search committee. Carol taught in the RE program for longer than she can remember and it is a point of great pride that all three of the Pynchon children – Drew, David, and Lindy – talked about the impact of being raised UU in their college applications. For that reason as much as any other, Carol feels a strong commitment to the work of our church and to this community. When she's not at church, Carol serves on the board of GardenShare and is a Trustee for the Village of Canton.