

Board of Trustees 2008 Nominee Bios

Shirlee Geiger

My partner and I had a commitment ceremony in the church in 1997. Afterwards, I occasionally attended church with her. Once Sarah had a bad cold and stayed home; I went to church without her; my cover was blown. When our nation was considering invading Iraq, I got involved in Peace Action. Political activism grounded in spiritual values— turns out I've longed for it since forever, and didn't even know it! For 26 years, I have taught philosophy in Portland. I raised a son here. I was a child, myself, in Portland. On Sundays, I stand next to my beloved Sarah and belt out "Spirit of Life," off-key, often with tears streaming down my face. Roots hold me close.

Helena Lee

Helena Lee joined First Church in 2000; she began attending after moving to Portland in 1997. She retired this year; in her professional life, she had been a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Mental Health. In the community and at church she has offered seminars on such topics as *Dealing with Difficult People*, *Ways of Working with Depression*, *Caregiving as Spiritual Practice*, and *Beyond Catholicism*. She served as a Lay Minister prior to joining the Board; she now chairs the Communications Committee. Helena lives with her life partner, Ann Zawaski, with their black lab Jake. She has two adult sons and two granddaughters. She is a student of various spiritual traditions, beginning with many years of Catholicism.

Randy Russell

I'm married to Julie McKim and am the father of two grown children, Anne (25) and Charlie (22). I worked in the corporate world for over 20 years, and am now an independent financial planner. I love the church, and love being involved with its current and future life. I've been a member of the church since the mid-80's. I've served the church in many capacities: as a board member, personnel committee member, RE teacher and member of the RE Committee; as chair of the Annual Fund Drive, a member of the Buchan Building Committee, and as a capital campaign advocate. I've been on the board three years, and am now seeking a second term. I've gotten a lot from my membership here and welcome the opportunity to further serve our congregation.

Camille Wright

I first came to First Church in fall of 2001 on the recommendation of a friend, after 30 years away from any kind of religious affiliation. At the first two services I attended, Rev. Sewell was in the pulpit, and I thought to myself, "How does this woman know me so well?" During the coffee hour following each of those services, I was approached by the friendliest people; people who were all too happy to show me around and talk about what was going on there. I was hooked! I became a member in January 2002 and joined a women's circle that same month. These choices turned out to be some of the best I have ever made, as First Church has become central to both my spiritual and social growth. In 2003, I became deeply engaged in the effort to establish a partner church relationship with the First Unitarian Church of Budapest, Hungary. I have since traveled there twice and hosted guests from that church in my home on two occasions. I feel incredibly blessed with the most amazing new friendships, both in Portland and in Hungary. I have also enjoyed working on the alternative gift market, two "Spring Fling" auctions, the capital campaign for the Buchan Building, and especially welcoming newcomers at

the newcomers table one Sunday each month. For the past two years, I have also had the privilege of serving on the Finance Committee, which has taught me a lot about how the church is managed and what its financial challenges are. I feel both humble and honored to be asked to stand for a position on the Board of Trustees, and welcome the opportunity to serve the church in further reaching for—and attaining—its vision and mission in this manner.

Running By Petition for Board of Trustees

Bill Michtom

I joined First Unitarian Church in 2003 because I was looking for a community committed to social justice. I am a single father who raised my son (now 30, with two sons of his own) myself; naturally, I volunteered to teach in the Religious Education program. Upon joining the Church, I got involved in our chapter of Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good, a multi-institutional alliance including religious, labor, and social service organizations. However, MACG no longer exists at the Church. I have been interested in church governance for the last three years, and feel that I can offer something worthwhile to the Board of Trustees.

Nominating Committee Nominee Bios

Michael Cunningham

I came to First Unitarian in 1992, primarily because the church was taking an active stand against anti-gay ballot measures. Since then, First Church has been my family's spiritual home. I have taught in the Religious Education program, served on and chaired the Adult Programs Committee, taught and stewarded classes, and was an advocate on the Buchan Building campaign. Susan and I have six children—and two spoiled grandchildren. I recently retired from appraising real estate. I enjoy volunteering for my neighborhood school and library, traveling, and discovering new things through classes and reading.

Kathryn Estey

Kathryn's main career was in the stock brokerage and investment banking industry in Chicago, where she was an associate director and branch administrator of a large office of a New York-based firm. She currently works part-time as an administrator for Eastrose Fellowship UU in Gresham. Kathryn, and her husband Tom Hendricks, joined First Unitarian Church in 1996. She taught in children's RE for 7 years, has facilitated adult education classes, and has served on a several committees. She was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2001, and served two full terms—including two years as church Moderator. She recently became a Lay Minister and currently serves on the PNWD's Healthy Congregations Team.

Hafidha Acuay Osuna

Hafidha has been a member of First Unitarian since 2002 and is a youth chaplain trainer through Chrysalis, a UUA program. She is also a trainer with Groundwork, a UU youth and young adult-led anti-racism and anti-oppression trainers' collective. She has been active as a leader in the Portland young adult community, attending district events and participating in young adult leadership at the continental level. Hafidha enjoys writing, walking, sunny days, waffle breakfasts, being with her family, Scrabble, and public speaking. She lives in Vancouver, Washington, with her ultra-supportive husband.