



2019 Board of Trustees Candidates



Leila Wrathall - As a life-long UU I have been a member of several congregations around the country, and 1st Church off and on since the late 1980s. During my initial years at 1st Church, I helped start an LGBT group in the late 1980s. Currently I serve on the Board of Trustees, holding the position of Treasurer. In that role I also serve on the Board of the Foundation. Additionally, I am a member of the Alliance, the Immigrant Justice Action Group, and the Auction Committee. In Fall 2009 I retired from full-time work as the Human Resources Manager for the Multnomah County Library, although I continued to work part-time for other public sector employers for several years thereafter. Outside of church, I do some volunteer work with the ACLU of Oregon and have previously served on its board and executive committee.



Brad Taylor - Brad Taylor began attending First Church in 2006 when his then five year old son began asking tough and important questions about life and death. He almost immediately signed up to teach the Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives curriculums within the Religious Education Programs, which included traveling with several youth to Boston to learn more about our Unitarian history. Brad served as an advisor with the YRUU youth group for five years where he assisted with weekly classes, supporting the Youth Council, and preparing the annual Youth Service. He also served for three years on Reverend Bill Sinkford's Ministerial Relations Committee. Brad has lived in Portland since 1995 and has spent over 15 years working as a Homeless Outreach Worker and as a Mobile Crisis Response Worker for Multnomah County and he has served as the Mental Health Specialist for the City of Portland. He currently operates Brad Taylor Group (BTG), offering trainings, workshops, and consultation services aimed towards improving interactions with individuals who are in crisis, distress, and/or experiencing symptoms of a mental health issue. Brad attends the early service weekly and sits in the balcony with his fiancé Meg Dunning.



Andy Wilson - A member of First Church since 1993, he and his wife, Dr. Ronnie-Gail Emden, originally joined for the reason so many do, the YRUU program. Their children Tom and Amy went through the entire program (including appearing in the Christmas pageant as sheep and as angel, respectively) and are now fully-fledged adults fully capable of making their own moral and religious decisions, in large part due to YRUU. After children left the nest, Andrew and Ronnie stayed on with First Church because it had become their true spiritual home. Andrew is a retired software executive with Intel. Much of his professional life was spent fostering open source developer communities. Andrew is still involved with efforts to democratize technology via open source. Andrew has served on the church finance committee and the intern minister committee. His primary reason for serving on the board is to help, however possible, the goal of maintaining First Church as a vital institution of religious liberty that will be here for future generations of Portlanders.



Cindy Cumfer - I have been committed to social justice work since the late 1960s, when I became interested in Gay Liberation and the women's movement. In the late 1970s, I also began doing work around racism and white privilege. I became a lawyer in 1978 so that I could work on justice issues and support the nonprofit organizations who worked on these issues. As a lawyer, I worked extensively with the LGBTQ community in the latter 1970s until the 1999. I was especially pleased to be the attorney for the first same-gender-couple adoption in the United States in 1985. I retired as a lawyer in 2015, with a practice specialty in nonprofit organizations. I presented numerous workshops and wrote extensively on

nonprofit governance and other nonprofit issues for the Oregon State Bar and for the nonprofit community. I am the coauthor of *The Oregon Nonprofit Corporation Handbook*, now in its 5th edition. I got a PhD in History from UCLA in 2001 and, in addition to other historical publications, I am the author of our church history, *Toward the Beloved Community*, published for our 150th anniversary in 2015. Among other things, this book looks at how the culture of white supremacy and gender issues have played out in our church. Our book won the Best Congregational History Award, given by the UU Heritage and History Society. I've been a thrilled member of First Unitarian since 1993. I've worked with numerous committees over the years, including the Gay Action Caucus and the Sunday Forum committee in the 1990s, and Rev. Marilyn Sewell's Ministerial Relations Committee. I served on the Board of Trustees from 2004-2010, including two years as Moderator. I'm currently completing a two year term on the Board, where I filled in for a vacated seat. I am Chair of the Board's Governance Committee and also sit on the Board's Privilege Examination Team (looking at white supremacy culture). If I'm elected, I look forward to continuing this work on the Board. I'm married to Valerie Lyon, my partner since 1981, who is also a church member. I identify as nonbinary/agender and really appreciate the church's recent efforts to education ourselves, including me, on these issues. I love our church and would be extremely happy to continue my board service.



First
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2019 Board of Trustees Nominees

Leila Wrathall

"I look forward to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees, as I have greatly enjoyed my time so far as Treasurer."



Brad Taylor

"I have over 15 years working as a Homeless Outreach Worker and as a Mobile Crisis Response Worker."

Andy Wilson

"My primary reason for serving on the board is to help, however possible, the goal of maintaining First Church as a vital institution of religious liberty that will be here for future generations of Portlanders."



Cindy Cumfer

"I love our church and would be extremely happy to continue my board service."



2019 Nominating Committee Candidates



Laura Jones - I joined the church in 2003 and have attended regularly since then. Attending services and events at church as well as participating in my beloved book group and socializing with UUsers outside of church enriches my life immensely. My volunteer activities have ranged from regularly making soup for the Monday night family dinners, ushering, leading the bakesale fundraiser for the choir's 2015 Ireland tour, participating in the Peace Action Soul Box Project committee, and most recently, my husband, David Livermore, and I served as the co-chairs of the 2019 fund drive. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting congregants that I had never met during our fund drive, as well as learning about the funding needs of our vibrant church. In addition to my work as an environmental consultant, I spend time biking to and from work each day, gardening, walking, reading, making cards out of recycled items, and sending lots of snail mail to family and friends. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the First Unitarian nominating committee and get to know more of you and to meet other leaders in our congregation.



Betsy Riddell - I came to First Unitarian Church in 1997 because I needed a church and I had read an Oregonian article about our minister, Marilyn Sewell. The article said that she did yoga and pictured her lying flat on her back with her arms over head. I said to myself, that's the church for me. When I retired 3 years later, I decided I wanted to teach in the RE Program. So on my birthday (I later learned it was Marilyn's birthday as well), I joined the church and taught Senior Preschool. (I had never taught a day in my life.) I taught for several years working my way through Kindergarten and First/Second even working for a short time as RE Assistant to Lynne Bacon. I served on the RE Committee and eventually joined the Adult Programs Committee where I have served for several years including as the Chairperson and updater of AP website calendar. In there somewhere I gave tours of the church, was one of the founders of the Freedom for Choice Action Network Social Justice Committee (now defunct), ushered for a short time and volunteered in the church office. I served as co-president of The Alliance a few years ago. Now I ask for your vote to continue to serve on the Nominating Committee. Thank you.



Joyce Gotsch - Having been a UU since the late 70's in Illinois and New York, Joyce immediately joined First Church upon moving to Portland in 2010 as part of her six-year grand plan to "retire" on the west coast close to her favorite Portland cousin and Californian step-son. She has ushered and been a member of the Good Times Committee, Chalice Choir, Friends of the Labyrinth, and the former Adult Programs Committee. Joyce particularly appreciates Unitarian Universalism for the opportunity it gives one to travel a spiritual journey--in her case, from 'Army Protestant' and Presbyterianism to a deep appreciation for Buddhism and primal religions. Our simple but profound principles allow her to connect to nature, to the goodness in all people, to an awareness of the social issues of our world while appreciating our place in the universe. Joyce's careers toggled between librarianship and interior design...a logical combination for creating order and beauty! Joyce describes herself as a visual, musical, and kinesthetically-wired person and as such has found an appreciation of rituals, of physically 'acting out' one's intentions, confirmations, and celebrations. So, she loves applying Feng Shui principles to her interior and landscape design practices, singing, dancing, practicing yoga and meditation, walking the labyrinth, and..... day-dreaming!



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2019 Nominating Committee Nominees



Laura Jones

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve and get to know more of you and to meet other leaders in our congregation."

Betsy Riddell

"I came looking for a church in 1997, and after 20 years of involvement and active participation, I now ask for your vote to serve the nominating committee."



Joyce Gotsch

"Our simple but profound principles allow her to connect to nature, to the goodness in all people, to an awareness of the social issues of our world while appreciating our place in the universe."