

Agenda – Congregational Meeting

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin

Sunday, May 19, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:30pm in the Sanctuary and on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/my/firstuuaustin>, Password is 512452

	Pp.	Min	Time
1. Welcome and Call to Order, Gretchen Riehl		10	1:00
a. Unison Reading of Covenant and Lighting of Chalice	2		
b. Adopt Consent Agenda			
• Rules of Procedure	3		
• Minutes of December 2023 congregational meeting	5		
c. Adopt Agenda			
2. Update: State of the Church, Rev. Chris Jimmerson and Rev. Michelle LaGrave		15	1:10
3. Congregational Vote on Board of Trustees Nominations, Nominating Committee	6	15	1:25
4. Congregational Vote on Nominating Committee Member Nominations, Nominating Committee	6	10	1:40
5. Congregational Vote on Ministerial Search Committee Membership	14	15	1:50
6. Joys/Concerns/Intentions		10	2:05
7. Closing Reading and Extinguish Chalice		5	2:15
8. Adjourn			2:20

A Covenant of Healthy Relations

As a religious community, we promise

To Welcome and Serve by:

- Being intentionally hospitable to all people of goodwill
- Celebrating all aspects of diversity
- Treating others as they wish to be treated
- Being present with one another through life's transitions
- Encouraging the spiritual growth of people of all ages

To Nurture and Protect by:

- Communicating with one another directly in a spirit of compassion and goodwill
- Ensuring those who wish to communicate are heard and understood
- Speaking when silence would inhibit progress
- Disagreeing from a place of curiosity and respect
- Interrupting hurtful interactions when we witness them
- Expressing our appreciation to each other

To Sustain and Build by:

- Affirming our gratitude with generous gifts of time, talent, and money for our beloved community
- Honoring our commitments to ourselves and one another for the sake of our own integrity and that of our congregation
- Forgiving ourselves and others when we fall short of expectations, showing good humor and the optimism required for moving forward

Thus, do we covenant with one another.

Approved at congregation meeting December, 17 2023

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin Congregational Meeting Rules of Procedure

1. Order of Business

The order of business will follow the meeting notice unless the order of business is changed by a majority vote.

2. Means of Voting

Unless specified otherwise in advance, members may attend meetings in person or remotely. As long as a quorum is present (ten percent of voting members of the congregation), voice votes, or a show of hands, including through digital means, will be used, unless the bylaws or presiding officer specify otherwise. Two or more people shall be designated as vote counters by the chair at the outset of the meeting in the event that a vote count is needed. All matters will be determined by the number of votes cast by members present and voting, as long as there is a quorum, unless the meeting notice allows absentee voting.

3. Presentation of Items

A Board Member or the appropriate Committee Chair will move the action items as distributed in the meeting notice.

4. Amendments

No one may offer an amendment until there has been at least ten minutes of debate on the main question as moved, unless no one else wants to speak to the main question or it is a clarifying amendment. Anyone making an amendment must submit it in writing before it is discussed. Assistance will be provided as needed.

5. Time limits

These time limits will apply to all the business of the meeting. If no one objects, the Chair may grant minor extensions. Time limits may be extended by a two-thirds vote.

a. No one may speak on any motion for more than two minutes or more than once as long as anyone else is waiting to speak, except that persons with special information may answer questions with the Chair's permission.

b. No item will be discussed in the meeting for more than 30 minutes. Discussion time will be divided equally by alternating between speakers at who identify as pro and con. Discussion may also include points of clarification or amendments.

c. No one may call the previous question if there are persons both pro and con waiting to speak and the time for discussion is not over. If the Chair sees no speakers for the con position, then the Chair may call for a vote.

d. All speakers who are in person must speak using a microphone.

6. Budget Motions

Anyone making a motion concerning the budget must submit it to the Chair in writing and must provide for reduction in specific categories equal to any increase in spending in the motion. A simple majority vote is required to adopt motions concerning the budget.

7. Items Not in the Meeting Notice

Items of a substantial nature which are not in the meeting notice shall not be considered. Committees with items of substantial importance must have the item prepared far enough in advance for inclusion in the meeting notice.

8. Amending the Rules of Procedure

These rules of procedure will be adopted by a majority vote and may be changed during the meeting by a simple majority.

9. Adjournment

The meeting will adjourn no later than two hours or at such time as a quorum is no longer present after the Chair has called the meeting to order. The meeting may be extended in 15-minute increments by a simple majority vote for as much as one additional hour.

**Minutes of the meeting held
Sunday, December 17, 2023, 1:00 pm
In the Sanctuary at 4700 Grover Ave
With both in-person and virtual participation**

1. Gretchen Riehl, President of the Congregation, gave the welcome and called the meeting to order. No Parliamentarian was used, as the Church Bylaws do not require one. The Consent Agenda and Agenda were approved by acclamation.
2. Reverends Chris Jimmerson and Michelle La Grave presented the Update on the State of the Church. In summary, the Church has come out of a very challenging period, as the pandemic subsided. Membership and revenue are down substantially, but recovering.
3. Mary Overton called for the return of ballots for the 2024 Monthly Special Offerings.
4. Gretchen Riehl presented the Board-approved proposal to amend the Church Bylaws to allow for Co-Lead Ministry Teams. Robust discussion ensued with a few minor changes, after which the motion to vote was taken. The motion carried with a strong majority.
5. Shannon Posern, Executive Director, presented the proposed 2024 budget. After brief discussion, a voice vote was taken. Budget was approved.
6. The Church Healthy Relations team presented an update to the church covenant. After some discussion, a motion was made to approve the updated version as amended with a few changes (reflected on the church website). The motion carried.
7. No joys and concerns were raised.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

Board of Trustees Members and Nominees	Status	Term	Current Position
Gretchen Riehl	Returning	2023-2025	President
Karen Neeley	Nominee	2024-2026	President-elect
Evan Mahoney	Returning	2023-2026	Trustee
Charles Smith	Nominee	2024-2027	Trustee
Rob Rough	Nominee	2024-2027	Trustee
Margaret Borden	Nominee	2024-2027	Trustee
Pam Knight	Nominee	2024-2026	Trustee
Jim Houchins	Nominee	2024-2026	Trustee
Donna Carpenter	Returning	2022-2025	Trustee
Russell Holley-Hurt (appointed by board to fill the term of Mateo (Matthew) Kresha)	Returning	2022-2025	Trustee
Tomas Rodriguez (appointed by the Board to fill the term of Joseph Hunt)	Returning	2022-2025	Trustee

Nominating Committee	Status	Term
Art Carter	Returning	2023-2026
Nesan Lawrence	Nominee	2024-2027
Becca Brennan-Luna	Returning	2022-2025
Toni Wegner	Board appointed	2024-2025
Terry Lawson	Pending board vote	2024-2025



Karen Neeley. When I returned to Austin in 1988 for a new job, one of the first things that I did was join First UU Church of Austin. I knew that this would be the right community for me and would provide important spiritual support. But at the same time, I wanted to give back to FUUCA. So, I served for six years as co-chair of the Adult RE program, creating a variety of both Sunday programming and also special workshops. In addition, I served on the board, including as secretary for several years. Along with other dedicated members, I served on the personnel committee, membership committee, search

Director), and evaluation project. I chaired the stewardship committee in 2001 but have served on that committee both before and after for many years. Currently, I co-chair the Continuing Capital

Campaign with Mani Subramanian.

Like many UU's, my religious path began in childhood as a Baptist. But in 1976 I helped a group charter the UU Fellowship of Bell County. This is where I met Jack DeLoach. We married at the UU Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1979 when I was teaching law at the University of Arkansas. We were together until his death on May 23, 2023. Although he had dementia, Jack was able to attend services with me until his last illness, and he could still sing along!

I am a semi-retired attorney. During my career, I primarily helped community banks with their regulatory compliance and other matters. As general counsel for the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (the "good guys" of banking!), I represented the industry at the Texas legislature and before various regulatory bodies. In addition, I participated in a variety of Bar activities, including serving on the ABA Commission on IOLTA and the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation (both of which fund legal services).



CHARLES SMITH has been a member of First Unitarian Universalist Church since 2014. He is married to Angela who joined in 1992, and he has served on the Stewardship Council since he has been a member.

He is recently retired from a career of major gifts fundraising for a variety of causes ranging from higher education, a retirement and nursing home, a denominational foundation, and a California church with an international television ministry.

He has degrees in organ performance and was and still is honored to have performed the Durufle Requiem at First UU with a mass choir and orchestra under the direction of then music director Rene Galvan.

He and Angela are regular attendees and appreciate the strong preaching and terrific music program as well as First UU's significant outreach to our community in Austin and beyond via Youtube,



Rob Rough loves to make things. By day, he makes the trains run on time as a project manager and on evenings and weekends you will find him in his art studio (robroughstudio.com) making paintings and planning his next home improvement project. He has been married to his husband, Solis, for 34 years who he adores along with their two rescue dogs. Solis and Rob have called Austin home for 17 years after moving here from California where they met in recovery..

In addition to being an active member of the Austin recovery community, Rob recently served a two-year term as the [Austin Galano Club](#) Board President where there are over 50 recovery meetings a week for over 1000 weekly visitors seeking a safe place to recover from addiction in an LGBTQIA+ safe and affirming environment. Over the years Rob's career has included community and public relations and program management for Fortune 500 companies, two museums and the University of Texas at Austin.

Rob was raised Catholic in the midwest with spiritual searches in his early twenties that had him identifying as a born again Christian and a Mormon. Following these experiences, he came out as gay at 23 and moved to California where he met Solis in San Jose. For years he found his spiritual needs met in recovery and his own personal studies. But, the need for a spiritual - but not dogmatic - community brought Rob to become a UU member late last summer where he stepped back into a church as a member after a 30+ year hiatus. First UU Austin has "relit Rob's spiritual pilot light" and now he's seeking to become a more integral part of the church. He is on the Gallery Committee and is in training to become a Pastoral Caregiver.



Margaret came to First UU in 1993 with her 2-year-old son James hoping to nourish her own spiritual needs and find support instilling in James the values she holds dear. Her church experience as a youth led her to seek that support within a church community. First UU did not disappoint. Both James and she made friends. And when she went through chemotherapy 5 years later, she discovered how closely her life had become intertwined with others.

Over the years, Margaret facilitated adult and children's religious education, an elementary OWL class and a chalice circle. She ran the bookstore and served on the nominating committee, the former committee on ministries and the healthy relations ministry. She served as a listening minister and a pastoral care associate for Rev. Meg. Her greatest privilege and most rewarding experience were as a board trustee through the terms of two interim ministers and Rev Meg's first year in Austin. During that time, she coordinated the Bridgebuilder Action Planning Team, whose work led to the first versions of our mission statement and ends, our healthy relations covenant, and our church's move to policy-based governance.

Margaret continues to serve with the change team, whose goal is to identify and mitigate ways in which white supremacy culture manifests in our predominately white congregation, and the healthy relations ministry, although the work of these two ministries has paused because of our separation from each other during the pandemic. She serves on the Transformation~Connection~Service ministry and participates in a chalice circle, allowing meaningful connections to continue during times limited to virtual meetings.



Nesan has been a Unitarian Universalist since 2013 when he started attending the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Born and raised in India as a Roman Catholic, Nesan found a new source of spiritual happiness at UU, and a faith that was more aligned to his spiritual and social values. Nesan and his wife, K.C., along with their two kids (Rohan, now aged 10, and Rekha, now aged 7) moved back to Austin in 2014. It did not take long for Nesan to find his spiritual home at the First UU of Austin. Largely a shadow in the hallways during the early years attending the church, Nesan got more engaged in church related activities when he got the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees in 2019. His involvement with the Board, especially during the pandemic and the interim period provided deep meaning to his daily life. He served as the President of the Board of Trustees in 2022-23. On Sundays, he can be seen attending Sunday Service, enjoying the music and the company of the UU community along with his kids both during and after the service.

Nesan works for Charles Schwab as the Director and team leader of the Technology Strategy team. Aside from spending time with his family as much as he can, Nesan enjoys watching soccer and supporting his favorite team - the Arsenal Football Club - in the English Premier League, playing the occasional round of golf, and practicing drums as an aspiring amateur.

Nesan is looking forward to being part of the Nominating Committee and continuing to serve the church.



Pam Knight got a BS degree in Florida and a MA in California where she lived by the beach and climbed mountains. In younger years, she hiked the Grand Canyon and the Rim in Big Bend, and travelled and photographed in 48 states with some photos going into museums. In Austin she worked at a database company, Texas Learning Technology Group (developing interactive science education for Texas Schools), Isis Interactive (leading in SXSW multimedia), and now at Plain View Press. Fond of all animals, Pam rescued cats for years and now lives with a cat named Toby. Pam has practiced Hatha Yoga for 50 years and meditation for 46 years. She found fellowship at Austin First UU in 2016, became a member in 2021, and is currently serving a 1 year term on the First UU board, filling a position that was vacated in 2023 when Vic Cornell moved to Boston. She has participated in Wellspring, Chalice Circles, grounds cleanup, silent auctions, and art exhibits, ushers on Sundays, and as a social introvert, she can be found in Howson Hall contemplating life and chatting up a storm.



Jim and his wife, Susan, joined First UU of Austin roughly in the mid 80s, shortly after their first child was born, with the intent to raise all of their children in the church - and they did, all three of them. As their children grew into adulthood, Jim's church attendance waned, but his interest and support did not. More recently, Jim's participation in the Monday Mindfulness Group, now for the last several years, has reengaged him in the church to a significant extent, and his support and attendance has improved! Jim is particularly drawn to the social justice work of the church and our commitment to inclusiveness.

Jim has been practicing law continuously in Austin since his admission to the State Bar of Texas in 1974.

Jim received a Plan II Honors B.A. Degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1971 and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1974. Jim received an LLM, cum laude, in International and Comparative Law, from the University of Brussels in 1977.

Jim is a former Senior Legal Examiner at the Railroad Commission of Texas and an assistant professor (teaching law) at Southwestern University and at Texas State University.

He is a former volunteer mediator and arbitrator with the Travis County Alternative Dispute Resolution Center and has extensive training and experience in mediation and arbitration.

Jim is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the American Bar Association, the Austin Bar Association and the International Law Society.

Ministerial Search Committee – 2024-25

Nominees

Nominees: John Archibald, Nancy Mohn Barnard, Leo Collas, Jim Houchins, Michael Kersey, Jenny Loehlin, Melanie Mahoney-Walters, Joe Milam-Kast, Jim Schmidt, Toni Wegner

Composition

The second Ministerial Search Committee will be composed of seven members from the ten shown on this ballot. Five of the members will be selected by the congregation and two will be selected by the board to ensure a balance of perspectives on the committee.

Election Date and Time

The Search Committee Election will take place by secret ballot at the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm.**

Eligibility to Vote

To vote in the election, an individual must be a member* of the church. **Members must be present at the Congregational Meeting, either in-person or virtually, to vote in this election.**

**Definition of a member – – The church by-laws state that “Individuals who have been members of the church for 30 days or more and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting, have the right to vote at all official church meetings.” To verify if you are on the membership rolls, please contact Shannon Posern, Executive Director at shannon.posern@austinuu.org.*

Search Process Schedule - Overview

The committee will begin its work in June. The elements of the search process are well-defined in guidance from the UUA. The process is lengthy and thorough and includes a period of discernment of the congregation’s needs, preparation of materials for potential candidates and review of potential candidates.

After the Search Committee has done its discernment and identified a ministerial candidate, the congregation will vote on that candidate in the spring of 2025. Our bylaws require that a candidate get an affirmative vote of 90 percent of the members. Additional information on the search process will be provided as the process unfolds.

For More Information

For additional information on the search process or election, please contact a member of the Board Transitions Committee – Donna Carpenter carpenterdonna@yahoo.com, Kelly Raley rkellyraley@gmail.com or Russell Holley-Hurt russell.holleyhurt@gmail.com.

**Special Announcement from the Board
Ballot for the Second Ministerial Committee
Updated 4/23/24**

The Board is pleased to announce the ballot for the second Ministerial Search Committee. Over 25 people were nominated by congregants and the board identified ten individuals for the ballot from among those with the most nominations.

The candidates are:

- John Archibald
- Nancy Mohn Barnard
- Leo Collas
- Michael Kersey
- Jim Houchins (subsequently withdrawn by the candidate)
- Jenny Loehlin
- Melanie Mahoney-Walters
- Joe Milam-Kast
- Jim Schmidt
- Toni Wegner

The second Ministerial Search Committee will be composed of seven members from those shown on this ballot. Five of the members will be selected by the congregation and two will be selected by the board. We believe this is a strong slate of candidates and that any of those selected will bring integrity and commitment to the process of selecting a ministerial candidate to present to the congregation. We thank the nominees for their willingness to serve.

The Search Committee Election will take place by secret ballot at the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm**. To vote in the election, an individual must have been a member* of the church. **Members must be present, either in-person or virtually, to vote in this election.** Additional information on the procedures for the vote will be disseminated prior to the Congregational Meeting. The results will be announced following the vote.

The committee will begin its work in June. After the Search Committee has done its discernment and identified a ministerial candidate, the congregation will vote on that candidate in the spring of 2025. Our bylaws require that a candidate get an affirmative vote of 90 percent of the members. Additional information on the search process will be provided as the process unfolds.

For additional information on the search process or election, please contact a member of the Board Transitions Committee – Donna Carpenter carpenterdonna@yahoo.com, Kelly Raley rkellyraley@gmail.com or Russell Holley-Hurt russell.holleyhurt@gmail.com.

*Definition of a member – Individuals who have been members of the church for 30 days or more and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting, have the right to vote at all official church meetings. To verify if you are on the membership rolls, please contact Shannon Posern, Executive Director at shannon.posern@austinuu.org.

Candidates for the Second Ministerial Search Committee



John Archibald (he/him) grew up in New England serving many a detention while attending Catholic elementary and high school. As a teen he was a staunch atheist who thought he knew it all but times have changed. Since before he was born his late father had a sign company, A&S Signs, and John spent much of his formative years at "the shop" where he developed his handyman skills.

He has always had a passion for film and stories especially those taking place a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Over a decade ago he moved to Austin, TX from Bridgeport, CT via a 3 month detour through South America. Upon arriving in Austin and searching for "something" he googled churches, found First UU Austin and was struck by the knowledge and charisma of Rev. Meg and the welcoming warmth of the congregation.

He has worked in hospitality for years with a passion for "taking care of the guest" which translated well in helping to organize and execute the Opening Night Galas for First UU's Paradox Players Theater Group. Paradox is where he initiated many lasting friendships with church members.

The church that is First UU Austin is more than just an award winning theatre company or dedicated caring ministers or a rockin' children's choir. FUUCA is a whole that's so much more than the sum of its parts. It is a caring community made up of ministers, staff, the board, committees and a loving legion of individuals all doing their part to take care of one another and create something meaningful that is both ephemeral and lasting. John Archibald is extremely proud and very lucky to be a tiny part of that legion.



Nancy Mohn Barnard (she/her) has a passion for storytelling, literature, event planning and worship. After receiving an MA in Literature, Barnard taught college English, founded a community theater, where she wrote and produced plays, and coordinated conferences and trainings in the public sector. After unexpectedly losing her mother, Barnard found herself called to work with the dying. She spent the next few years working as the Concert Manager for Swan Songs, a local non-profit that provides musical last wishes for the terminally ill. In 2021, Barnard decided to attend seminary, in order to become a chaplain. She will graduate from seminary in May 2024, and will begin a chaplaincy residency at Seton Ascension in September. Barnard is a candidate for ordination with the UUA.



Leo Collas (he/him/his) became a member of First UU in 2003. He has worked as a financial advisor, corporate controller, and as a systems security analyst. Leo serves on the TXUUJM Advisory Council, has served on the boards of several Austin non-profits, and co-moderates the monthly LGBTQ & Allies Community Heart Circle here at First UU. Leo was raised in his family's restaurant business in Colorado, and later grew up in Honolulu. He moved to Austin in 1993.



Michael Kersey (he/him). I'm honored to be nominated for the search committee for a new co-lead minister. My wife, Karen Cleary, and I started attending services here in 1992. It's been our spiritual home ever since. We were married here and raised our child with the help and support of this community. Together, through the years, Karen and I have been active in various ministries and programs of the church including social action, the young adult group, the families with small children group, religious education, OWL, chalice circles, friendship, fellowship, and more.

As an individual, my participation with First UU has included leading Hands on Housing crews, serving on the Bridge Builder Team that helped develop and implement the recommendations stemming from the church's engagement with a church consultant, the Rev. Peter Steinke; serving on the Transitions Team for an interim minister, the Rev. Janet Newman, that worked with the congregation to draft the first version of our church's covenant of healthy relations. I co-led, along with Sharon Moore, the Settled Ministerial Search Committee that presented the Rev. Meg Barnhouse to the congregation as a candidate to be our Senior Minister. Following that I served on the church's Board of Trustees as both a board member and president in the initial years following the church's adoption of policy-based governance. After which, I served on and led the nominating committee. In addition, I've completed three years of the Wellspring small group curriculum exploring UU theology, sources, and inspiration. And I'm a graduate of the UUA Southern District weeklong lay-leader development program, the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience. In 2011, I started and currently continue to facilitate the Monday Mindfulness Meditation Group. As time and the weather allows, Karen and I enjoy cultivating our garden at the Sunshine Community Garden.

Academically, I have an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Tulsa and a graduate degree in organizational leadership and ethics from St. Edward's University. Professionally, I am a Vendor Manager in the Shared Technology Services program at the Texas Department of Information Resources.



Jennifer (Jenny) Loehlin (she/her) began attending First UU with her mother in the 1970s and participated in LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) in high school. After several years as a Presbyterian, she joined the church in the early 1990s. She was a member of Voyagers (the Very Old Young Adult Group), taught in the children's RE program, served as co-chair of the Fellowship Committee, and served on the Nominating Committee. Currently she is in her second year of Wellspring and is active in the Monday night meditation group, Earthkeepers, and Grief Support Circle. She is a retired web application developer and enjoys gardening.



Hello, 1st UU friends and family! My name is **Melanie Walter-Mahoney** (she/her). I have been attending 1st UU Austin since 1979. I met my husband here, both of us teaching in RE in the 80's, and we married in the very new sanctuary at the time. I have raised four daughters at 1st UU.

I am a happily retired Social Worker, having worked for a number of non-profits (Austin Families, Communities in Schools, Austin Child Guidance, and Child, Inc.) over the years, as well as brief stints with the State and County. I love music, reading, and being outdoors, especially walking in Nature, and get joy from delivering Meals on Wheels.

You may have seen me staffing the Bookstore in the Alternate Space Gallery currently and over the past years; it has been a wonderful way to meet and talk with folks. I am also teaching in the Children's Religious Education Department again and am on the Care Team, both of which nourish my soul.

I have been involved with the Austin Sanctuary Network since Alirio Gamez took sanctuary in our church back before the remodelling and the pandemic, am active with Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministries (TXUUJM), and am on the Board of Trustees at UBarU (no Google, I do not mean Subaru!) Camp and Retreat Center near Kerrville in the beautiful Texas Hill Country.

I am honored to have been nominated for this very important job and will do my very best if elected.



Greetings and salutations!

My name is **Joe Milam-Kast** (aka “Zoeydad” – capital Z, one word 😊; he/him). I would be honored to continue serving this congregation by assisting in this new ministerial search process.

I have had the privilege of serving this community in a variety of ways since joining in 2016, including Religious Education (RE) – both youth and adult, Spring into Action, the Fellowship committee (and many a holiday party!), FReD dinners, ushering, the Children’s Choir, Connections Fair, Paradox Players, and Camp UU. My daughter Zoey is growing up here at First UU and represents her generation in our community by helping with RE, ushering, chalice lighting and in the kitchen on occasion.

I believe that all our voices need to be heard and considered for choosing our new Co-Lead minister. I advocated for this in the previous search and will continue to do so in this one. Individual voices contributing to consensus and decision play a key part in ensuring the best and brightest future for this church and our beloved community!

Thank you for your consideration and go in peace.



I am **Jim Schmidt** (he/him). Born in 1943, I grew up in Boerne, Texas, came to Austin in 1961 for college, married in 1965, served in the Peace Corps, became a registered nurse, retired 1999, and am now doing crafts & part-time work at Pioneer Farms. I first came to 1st UU of Austin in 1964 with my wife. I have been active member since 2017 after my wife died. My interests here are Austin Sanctuary Network, U Bar U, Men's Breakfast Group, Earthkeepers and Welcome Committee. If I am elected, I will do my best to represent the whole church. I want to help select the most appropriate person for the position of 1st UU's co-minister.



Toni Wegner (she/her) – I joined First UU after moving to Austin in 2016 from Winchester, MA (Boston suburb), where I discovered Unitarian Universalism in 2001. First UU was an easy transition and felt like the right fit from the start. I have participated in a variety of activities here including chalice circles, memorial service receptions, stewardship, Wellspring, Lee Legault's ministerial internship committee, adult OWL, and senior outreach ministry. I served as president of the board of trustees in 2021-22 and am currently co-chair of First UU Cares. I am deeply committed to our mission and value the people and community at First UU.

I currently work at UT Austin (my alma mater) in continuing and professional education but I am retiring THIS SUMMER! I am a volunteer with Hospice Austin, love to travel, and have been a passionate racquetball player for over 40 years. I have two adult daughters and a delightful granddaughter. I served on a ministerial search committee for my previous congregation, which was a great experience resulting in a successful search. I would consider it an honor and a privilege to be part of the team that helps First UU complete its ministerial team.