

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Renee Geraci

I came to the church after the passing of my husband of 33 years. First, I met Juli VanWoert and quickly became a member of a covenant group which I continue to be a member of and cherish my relationships made there. I also got involved working at the welcome table with a lovely women named Beryl Smith. She was one of the first to share coffee with me in the parish hall after service. As time went on, I made friends with a lot of others working on service projects together or enjoying soup together on Souper Sundays, just as a couple of examples. I spent time on the UUCB Women's Society board, helping to build community by contributing to the preparation of the monthly luncheons and by volunteering with the book sale. I have a lot of fun each year, hosting events and going to events supporting the Fun and Fellowship Auction. Recently, I had the opportunity to be a member of the 2024-2025 Ministerial Search Committee. I'm very proud to have worked with such a diverse group of talented people, and that we would say our mission was joyfully successful!

I also had the opportunity to complete Kate Bell-Schwede's term on the UUCB Board of Trustees after their passing in 2025. I'm grateful for the opportunity, which gave me the insight needed to agree to doing my own 3-year term on the board if the congregation will agree.

Lastly, I'm currently training to be a Co-Facilitator of a new covenant group and am looking very much forward to it!

Mary Coleman

I joined the church in 1984 with my husband and sons. In the years since I joined, I have been on what was the New Member and Friends Committee, the Personnel Committee, the Religious Education Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees. I also taught Religious Education for a year. My husband, Mario Nunez, and I contribute a Cuban dinner to the auction every year.

We have made lifelong friends with members of the Congregation, and at this point in our national life, our UU beliefs are helping me cope with what is going on in our society

Professionally, I worked as an Investigator for the New York State Department of Labor Division of Labor Standards for over 30 years. The Division of Labor Standards enforces overtime, wage payment, and child labor laws. I ended my career as the Supervising Investigator of the Buffalo and Rochester Offices.

Ted Lightfoot

Ted became a Unitarian Universalist in 1991 while living in New Jersey. After moving to WNY, he joined the closest UU church — the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst. He attended EAGLES, the Eastern Great Lakes (UU) Leadership School, served on the EAGLES committee, and was active in the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Schools Network (serving as convener for one year). He served several terms on the UU Church of Amherst board and was chair of the board three times. Ted also served on the St Lawrence District board and served as District President for three years —the most bittersweet of which was the year the district was split to allow Canadian Unitarians to separate from the UUA. Ted also served one year as President of the District President's association.

In 2009, Ted and his wife Sue (a founding member of the Elora Fergus Unitarian Universalist Church), had a child and he chose to spend his weekends as a father rather than gallivanting off to UUA functions. In the fall of 2023, it became clear that child (who identifies as non-binary and goes by their middle name of Éimhín -pronounced “Evan”) needed a UU Youth Group so we began attending the UUCB. UUCB also gives Ted and Sue an opportunity to have “our church” —not Ted’s church. Ted sings in the choir and joined the Social Justice Ministry. Outside of church, Ted spent 35 years with DuPont, is a founding director and current President of the International Society for Coating Science and Technology, and is a consultant in film processing (see tedlightfoot.com).

NOMINATING

Eve Holberg

Born and raised a Unitarian Universalist, Eve Holberg began attending church at UUCB in the early 1990s while attending graduate school at UB and signed the book shortly thereafter. Over the years, she served the church in many capacities. She was on the Long-Range Planning Committee, served as a founding member of the Governance Advisory Committee that wrote the first iteration of the policy book, and served on the Strategy Advisory Committee and Facilities Use Task Force. For a long time, Eve ran Share the Plate before it was folded into the Social Justice Ministry and managed the Welcome Table after our late dear Beryl Smith was no longer able to do so. Eve is an usher and has served as a worship associate since 2021, with a break of about a year and a half while she cared for her cherished late husband, Doug Sherman, a former president of our board who also served this beloved community in so many capacities. Eve served as the congregation’s moderator for a number of years and is a somewhat newly minted member of the Women’s Society.

Eve feels privileged to be able to give back to this institution that has meant so much to herself and Doug. Leadership development at UUCB was something Doug and Eve talked about a lot and it will be her honor to carry that legacy forward.