

From The Nominating Committee

BELOW IS A TENTATIVE LIST OF CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE JUNE 13 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. THE LIST IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(vote for a maximum of five)

CEASE BLOCKER

Ginnie and I have been UU's for over 35 years (I met Ginnie through U.U. friends). Since the beginning, I have been deeply committed to the spiritual and organizational growth of our faith. At our past church in Cincinnati, I was their president, chair of several committees as well as a member of others. I was also responsible for the building of a new sanctuary wing (\$ 1.2 million) and served on their ministerial search committee.

We moved to Bethlehem in 1993 where I've also been deeply involved in our church, including Co-chair (with Ginnie) of the committee responsible for the move from Lechauwecki to Center St. I've also been your President, worked with Dave Small (V. Pres.) starting our Sunday morning Forum and been Chair of several committees. I'm currently on your Board of Trustees, liaison to the Personnel Committee, UUCLV's representative to the Board of U.U. House in Germantown, member of the Finance Committee and chair of the Heritage Society.

I believe I have the experience and desire to help lead us to a strong Life-Span R.E. program, a caring church that has a much greater community out-reach and a pro-active marketing effort to reach those "closet" U.U.s that can connect with our faith and strengthen our church.

HENRY DAVIS

I have been a UU for 32 years, first in Columbus Ohio, where I was involved in the first Ohio Meadville Summer Institute and presented the camp to other churches in the district during the following year. When we moved to New Jersey, we first found UU Church of Princeton and belonged to that church for several years until we discovered the UU church at Washington Crossing and became active members on that church. The year UUCWC sent 40 people to GA, we became GA junkies and have gone most years since (8 times).

We became familiar with Lehigh Valley through UUMAC. I served on the Board of UUMAC and was elected President.

At UUCLV I became Denominational Affairs Co-chair with my wife shortly after we joined. In this role, I have represented the church at GA and JPD district conferences. At GA, I attended UU University for two years. A couple of years ago, I joined the Stewardship Committee and have served the last couple of years. UUCLV has been central to my life. I believe it even helped to save me when I got the cancer diagnosis. Through the good thoughts sent by the congregation, I have conquered the cancer. I would like to repay the community by serving on the board.

PHIL DEPIETRO

After discovering and participating in the free-thinking of the UUCLV, I found other like-minded people who helped give me a greater strength of conviction. As a group, UU's seem to be among the fairest, most open-minded and ethical people I have had the pleasure of knowing. Being among people with these character attributes has given me a higher awareness of right and wrong, and a more defined path to follow.

I believe my labor background as president of the Lehigh Valley Teamsters for a Democratic Union (a labor reform group) for 15 years and full-time business representative of the Teamsters for three years as well as president and principal officer of Teamsters Local 773 can be helpful in negotiations, mediations and helping the congregation heal the rift that has recently developed. I currently serve on the Property Committee and am active in the Code Blue Homeless Shelter Program.

ERICA HOELSCHER

My history with UU-ism includes a brief period of attendance at the Third Unitarian Church of Chicago in the early 1990s. I have been attending the UUCLV since 2005 when my youngest son was diagnosed with pediatric cancer.

I became a member in 2007 after helping to organize the youth Christmas Pageant, and became a teacher in the RE program. I have volunteered food preparation for numerous events including new member dinners, the prism prom and for work parties. Most recently I served on the settled minister search committee that called the Reverend Donald Garrett.

Spiritual belief and practice has been at the center of my life since childhood. I was raised Roman Catholic by very devout, yet liberal parents. The UUCLV is my spiritual home. The principles of Unitarianism and Universalism have strengthened the foundation of my personal spiritual beliefs. The community of believers is a vital element of joy and compassion in my experience. I find great fulfillment and comfort in the celebration of services in our church. I am challenged by the responsibility of being Unitarian Universalist, and seek to define my religious being on a daily basis.

I am a single mother of two children, each with challenging medical conditions. I am engaged full-time in a demanding and satisfying career as a theatrical artist. I am very grateful to have the support of the UUCLV community.

DEB HUNTER

Gene and I have been members of the church for about 7 years now and our sons Dan and Eric have been through the teen RE program. Dan was a youth teacher after that for a few years and served briefly on the board as well. Our family has come to see the church as a place where reliably open minds and generous spirits can be found. Over the years I have volunteered for some more minor roles for the church proper but I have been very active with the many social opportunities that the church community offers. We always participate in the Service Auction as both a seller and buyer of multiple events.

Most recently I was nominated and voted on to the Search Committee for the new settled minister. This was initially a 1-year commitment but, as you know, turned into a 2 year commitment. Despite a full-time job and my activities in politics, I was able to serve reliably and ably fulfilling the role of secretary for the committee and equal partner. Through the Search process, I have learned about the struggles and strengths of our congregation more intimately. I see a community in need of finding a solid core belief in itself and what its mission is in our greater Lehigh Valley community.

I believe I could work with other board members and our new minister to help us find our way with integrity and always with an eye towards what is best for our church community as a whole.

IRA LERNER

About 18 years ago I became a UU as a response to religious prayer in our daughter's third grade class in a Florida public school. As my wife and I came from different religious backgrounds, we saw in Unitarian Universalism an acceptance of our historical beliefs which helped us expand our personal spiritual journeys. I was, and still am, deeply involved in our denomination and continue to work for Unitarian Universalism to grow and thrive. As a member of this congregation for about five years, I spent time on the finance committee, participated as a facilitator in Coming of Age, and as a trainer in the **Healthy Congregations** workshop. Outside our congregation I am currently a member of the Joseph Priestley District's growth committee (we awards chalice lighter grants) and the Board of the Murray Grove Association, a New Jersey retreat center where John Murray, an early preacher of Universalism landed in America. In 2008 and 2009 I was assistant director and director of UUMAC (Unitarian Universalist Mid Atlantic Community), a weeklong, multigenerational summer institute convened on the campus of DeSales University. In previous congregations (in San Antonio, Texas and Orlando, Florida), I held positions of building and grounds co chair, Sunday School teacher, pre K Our Whole Lives teacher and a three year term of president elect, president and past president. I attend the UU General Assembly and JPD and Metro New York district meetings on a regular basis.

LARRY MARTIN

I first started attending UU services while a student in college. I was impressed with the acceptance of diversity and the absence of "thought police." It was not until 2000 that I officially joined the the Plainfield, NJ Society of Unitarians. A year later when Robin and I set up housekeeping in Allentown we joined the UUCLV.

I am still hopeful that our Church can be a safety zone where diversity and tolerance are welcomed and practiced: a Church that facilitates acceptance of differing faiths and traditions. I am willing to serve on the BOT to insure that all Congregants are represented; and the welfare of the whole Church is considered at every turn the future may bring.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to serve the Congregation.

PETE PELLIGRINO

I joined the UUCLV in 2002 as a result of volunteering for HAVEN, the church's outreach group to gay and lesbian teens. As I worked at HAVEN, I became increasingly interested in joining the church. I have never belonged to a church; my parents were not religious, and I grew up with a lot of concerns, to put it mildly, about organized religion with its built-in bigotry toward gays.

I found that the UUCLV is a liberal church in a conservative area and I support that. The UUCLV is welcoming to gays and lesbians, which most other churches are not. To join the UUCLV I did not have to buy into the kind of superstition and myth that comprise many other religions. But mostly I joined the UUCLV to connect with a community of sympathetic people that share my humanist values. It has worked out well, and I treasure my membership in the UUCLV, and my relationship to HAVEN as co-chair with Ilse Zinnes.

I feel the church needs a steady hand to guide it through these difficult and lean times, and that's why I'm running for the board.

Committee chairs

Adult RE	Pending .
Property	Phil DePietro, Chris Culton
Church Family	Sue Phillips and Janet Warren
Communications	Jane Benning
Denominational Affairs	Henry and Chris Davis
Finance	Sue Weber (until a replacement can be found)
Membership	Ilse Zinnes
Music	Christine Smith
Nominating	Frank Claps
At large member of Nominating	Jean Davis
Social Action	Pending
Stewardship	Ann Stuart Thacker and Christine Davis
Worship	Maggie Spilner and Joanna Herren
Youth RE	