2021 Candidates for Church Leadership

Board of Trustees

President: Dean Castelhano - 1 year term

I identify as a helper and servant of others. I love to participate in the present workings and future plans of our church. I have been deeply involved in the current capital campaign as well as board service for the last three years and two of them on the Executive Committee as Vice President. My wife Carol and I joined in 2016.

I have served as an usher and other project related activities of the church. I have always been deeply involved in all organizations from school days to my adult experience as a volunteer which has been highly centered on my church community.

My other board work includes a three year term at Al Anon Information Center. The last two years as officer. I also serve on a local business networking board and will start work on the Planned Parenthood of North Texas governing board in 2021.

I have been deeply affected by my time as First Unitarian Church. It has provided a path for my transformation into a fully committed participant in the causes and work of our liberal religious community.

I bring a long tenure of business experience to all board work having been involved in the commercial real estate finance field for 40 years. I am a small business owner and take pride in the corporate culture I have created that reflects values of livable wage, safe workplace, company paid health insurance and flexible work from home hours.

Vice President: David Schulze - 1 year term

David Schulze has been attending First Unitarian Church since 2012 and has been a member since 2016. Along with his husband Seldon Short, David served as Event Co-Chair for the Love First Capital Campaign and as a member of the Campaign Steering Committee. He was a speaker at the 2014 DUUC Talks and has coordinated several major church-wide events celebrating milestones in the life of the church.

David has spent his entire 30-year professional career as a lawyer in public service. His most recent position was as Chief of Staff at Dallas Area Rapid Transit. In this role, he provided oversight for the Office of the President/Executive Director, lead strategic, tactical and operational initiatives, oversaw communications, and acted as strategic advisor to the President/Executive Director of DART. The DART Historical Archive was created under David’s leadership in this role.

David previously worked on the reconstruction of Central Expressway, the construction of DART’s Light Rail system, served as lead counsel on Dallas City Council’s 2000 redistricting, and drafted the Dallas ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

David is a member of the Leadership Dallas Class of 2005, has served on the Board of Directors of Big Thought, on the Board of Directors of DIFFA Dallas, on the steering committee for the Emergency Artists Support League (a fund of the Communities Foundation), and was recognized for his efforts in raising funds for LifeWalk.

Since retiring from DART in November, David is taking a sabbatical to focus on making art, and exploring opportunities for his next leadership position.
Treasurer: Will Acomb - 1 year term

Will and his wife Kayla have been members of First UU Dallas since 2012. He began serving as Treasurer in March 2020 and has implemented policies improving fiscal oversight and accountability, improved communication between the Church’s accounting team and the Board and enhanced financial reporting and transparency. Will also serves as a Parlor Host for the Inquiries Series Classes and has previously served as a greeter.

Will is a senior audit manager with a public accounting firm based in Dallas. He has extensive experience in audits of both middle-market for-profit enterprises and nonprofit companies and organizations in a variety of industries. Will received his undergraduate degree from Baylor University in accounting with a concentration in accounting information systems and his master’s in accounting from the University of Tampa. Will brings a special brand of enthusiasm and excellence to his position as treasurer and his commitment to the congregation stretches far beyond just finances. He has a passion for technology and is a self-described geek. Will is also a certified public accountant (CPA).

Will, Kayla, and their three children Oliver (6), Luella (3), and Zara (8 months) enjoy all things outdoors including hiking, camping, and bike riding. They currently live in Lake Highlands, Dallas. Will also makes a mean Berry Bourbon Bramble.

Sarah Reidy - 3 year term

Sarah is a native Dallasite, having lived here much of her life. Growing up, her family attended Presbyterian and Methodist churches. She was very involved but always questioned if either of those faiths had the lock on the truth and wondered about her friends of other faiths. She struggled with believing what she was hearing and always felt like there was something else. After graduate school, she wondered more about different faiths and came to First Unitarian in 2005, finding a great friend group there and jumped in with both feet for a brief time before moving to Austin for 10 years. When Sarah and her family came back in the spring of 2016, she immediately came back, looking for diversity in her community and guidance during that difficult year. Again, she became active immediately and has substituted in several youth RE classes and is a regular usher. Sarah and her family were also delighted to play the part of the Holy Family last year in the Christmas pageant. Sarah and her husband, Tim, have been together since college at UT Austin and have two children, Annelise, age 7, and Bennett, age 1.

Sarah is a licensed clinical social worker, with specialties and expertise in trauma, addiction, ADHD, and parenting. She is a strong ally for the LBGT community and works to advocate for all marginalized communities. She has worked with the court system, in shelters, substance abuse treatment centers, hospitals, and clinics and currently has a private practice that keeps her busy. Sarah is known for her creative ideas and solutions to improve the places she has worked and volunteered at. Sarah has been on her Alumni Council at her and her daughter’s elementary school, The Lamplighter School, and also taken on several roles in the Lamplighter Parent Association. She served as Vice President of Programs for the North Dallas Early Childhood Parent Teacher Association and is a troop leader for her daughter’s Girl Scout troop. She is a connector and known among her friends as “the glue,” always working to help others maintain relationships and introducing people when they can help each other.
James Greene - 3 Year Term

James Greene has been a member of First Church since 2015. He has been a member of the nominating committee, the capital campaign steering committee, and the Friends for Good organizing committee.

Professionally, James is COO for a family office in Dallas, where he oversees investments, foundations, and office operations. He is also an asset manager for Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina.

James and his wife, Jessie La Patra-Greene, started attending First Church in 2008. They have three children: Zoe (14), Quinn (10) and Hugo (3). They live in east Dallas. James and Jessie both went to Stanford for their BAs and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth for their MBAs. James had a kidney transplant in 2001.

Kendra Trainor - 3 year term

I have been a member of First UU since 2016. During that time, I co-directed the Christmas Pageant, taught Sunday School and assisted with the church’s summer camp. I am also a member of the Sanctuary Choir.

Outside of church, I am a Board Certified Music Therapist and special education teacher. I founded The Bridges Camp, a summer day camp that supports the social and academic needs of students with special needs. During the school year, I teach for Carrollton Farmers Branch ISD, where I work with students with emotional and behavioral disorders. I am passionate about building strong relationships and creating an inclusive environment where people of all abilities can thrive.

My family is so grateful to be part of such a welcoming and supportive congregation that challenges us to learn and grow in our faith and our contributions to the community. My husband, Jonathan Weber, has recently joined the church and my daughter, Campbell, loves helping me teach Sunday School, lighting the chalice and dancing in the aisles of the sanctuary during worship.

Nominating Committee

DiMitri Higginbotham - 2 year term

Kathleen Campbell - 1 year term

Kathleen Campbell has been an active member of 1st Unitarian Church for eleven years. She grew up in Dallas and returned here after retiring from a career as a college professor and theater artist. She now lives in Oak Cliff with her two rescue cats. Kathleen enjoys hiking and gardening, and, not surprisingly, spends a lot of time attending local theaters. She is a deputy voter registrar, working principally with March to the Polls to register high school students. She has served the church as a lay worship reader, facilitated the Inquirer’s class, and is a member of the Love Beyond Belief Steering Committee and the Board of the Women’s Day Alliance, of which she is currently president.
Brian McAulay - 1 year term

Brian McAulay has been attending First Church since his arrival in Dallas in 2013, and he and his wife Jean have been members since 2016. Brian’s career focus has been higher education, where he has served for the past twenty years in leadership positions for a number of universities around the country; he is currently the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs of South University, with campuses located from Virginia to Texas.

He has served on several non-profit boards, including the Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa) UU Church as well as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, the North Dallas Chamber, Life University (GA), and the Association of Chiropractic Colleges. He consults for non-profit agencies, focusing on board governance and strategic planning. He has a B.Com degree from the University of Toronto, a D.C. from the Pennsylvania College of Chiropractic, and has a Ph.D. from Temple University’s Fox School of Business (Philadelphia, PA).

He has served First Church as a member of the Business Officer Search Committee and the Capital Campaign Solicitation Team. He and Jean have two children, both raised in a UU environment at home and in UU churches in Iowa, South Carolina and Georgia as well as First Church here in Dallas.

Endowment and Memorial Gifts Fund

Richard Grayson- 3 year term

I reside in East Dallas with my spouse of 42 years, Diana Newton-Grayson, a veteran educator. I am Arkansas/Texas native, Methodist upbringing, lifelong Eagle Scout, graduated University of Arkansas. I first attended UU at the urging of my environmental heroes, Genie and Ned Fritz over 20 years ago. I eventually accepted the rose around 2008-2009.

I am very happy that Dr. Kanter invited me to join the 2019 UUPCC Northeast India Pilgrimage to help initiate our special new partnership with Annie Margaret Barr Children’s Village (AMBCV) in Meghalaya, India. It was a spiritually transformative experience I will always treasure. I have also enjoyed serving as Sunday Greeter. I am currently immersed in two weekly online book study groups at First Church: UU Learning Community and Seeking Wisdom.

Before a relatively early retirement, my 32-year professional career as Internal Revenue Agent / Computer Audit Specialist culminated as Program Manager. Much of that time was spent in the realms of large corporate taxpayer relations, extraction and analysis of financial accounting data for audits and internal software development amidst technology transitions from 1970’s to 2006.

Since retirement, I stay focused with volunteer and service work that allows me to be outdoors as well as adventure travel and river expeditions. Texas Master Naturalist and Texas Stream Team Instructor allow me to contribute to the data and better understand local water quality in our urban watersheds - springs, creeks and rivers. I also serve on the executive boards and webmaster of two other small, statewide river conservation non-profits: Texas Rivers Protection Association and Friends of the Brazos River.