

# 2022 Candidates for Church Leadership

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## Board of Trustees

### President: David Schulze - 1 year term



David has attended First Unitarian 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 DUUC Talks in 2014 and has coordinated major church-wide events. In 2018 David was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees, chosen by the Board to serve as its Clerk in 2019 and 2020, then elected to serve as Vice President for 2021.

David retired from his role as Chief of Staff at Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) in May 2021. While in this role, he provided oversight for the Office of the President, led strategic and operational initiatives, oversaw external communications, and served as representative for and strategic advisor to the President and CEO.

During his 30-year career as a lawyer in public service, David participated in many landmark projects, including the reconstruction of Central Expressway, DART's Light Rail system, Dallas City Council's 2000 redistricting, and the Dallas ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He worked with governing boards on policy development, and served as senior advisor on ethics and conflict of interest issues. Most recently, he led strategic initiatives, oversaw executive communications, managed policy development, and provided analysis of critical issues for DART's executive team.

David holds a BBA from UT Austin, a law degree from Baylor, and a Certificate in Executive Development from SMU. He is a member of the Leadership Dallas Class of 2005, and has served on the Board of Directors of Big Thought and DIFFA Dallas, on the steering committee for the Emergency Artists Support League, and was recognized for raising funds for LifeWalk. In his free time, he enjoys making art and cooking.

David is committed to the people and mission of First Unitarian and has a passion for public service. Giving his time and skills in service of the congregation is an important way to reflect and return the love, nurture, and connection he has experienced, and as a way to advance compassion and justice in the world.

### Vice President: Angie Sifferman - 1 year term



Angie joined the church in 2003 when she and her husband Joe were expecting their first child, and over the years, this church has been a sustaining force in the life of their family. Angie has found that every time she has said “yes” to service through this church, she has deepened her connection to this long-standing institution and our congregation. Some highlights of her involvement include: serving on the Equality in Marriage committee, leading the Usher Team, serving on the Senior Minister Search Committee, teaching SumFun, serving on the last two Capital Campaigns, and serving as a long-time Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitator where she learns more from the youth than she could ever teach.

Professionally, Angie spends her days helping others navigate change as a Change Management Consultant. She specializes in building strategic relationships, fostering high-trust teams, and leading enterprise-level change leadership and communications programs across wide-ranging industries. Angie is deeply committed to serving the community she has called home for a lifetime and draws inspiration and energy from her experiences volunteering and leading across diverse nonprofit organizations, focusing especially on women's leadership, youth leadership and education, and community building.

Angie believes that now, as much as ever, our church is called to live our values and serve as a beacon in our community.

## Treasurer: Will Acomb - 1 year term



Will and his wife Kayla have been members of First Unitarian since 2012. He began serving as Treasurer in March 2020 and has worked to implement policies improving fiscal oversight and accountability, improved communication between the Church's finance team and the Board, and enhanced financial reporting and transparency. Will has previously served on the hospitality team as a Parlor Host for the Inquiries Series classes and as a greeter for several years.

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 aims to bring a special brand of enthusiasm 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 (7), Luella (4), and Zara (1) enjoy all things outdoors including hiking, camping, and bike riding. They currently live in Lake Highlands, Dallas.

## Tammy Hayward - Nominated to complete the last year of an unfulfilled term



I have been a Unitarian Universalist for the past fifteen years and joined First Unitarian Church of Dallas six years ago. I love middle schoolers and, in the past, have taught religious education here, both for middle schoolers and for younger children.

I am a pediatrician and am particularly passionate about adolescent care. I think our OWL program is revolutionary, and it is part of what initially connected me with a UU church.

I have two children in college, and my husband, Don, is also a member of the church. We have a small hoard of pets at home. In my free time, I enjoy fencing and cooking.

For the past year, I have served on the Board of First Unitarian Church, filling an unexpected vacancy by appointment. I have especially enjoyed learning more about the church's finances and working with the rest of the Board to review policies. I would love to continue to serve for another year.

## Steve Dennis - 3 year term



I began coming to First Unitarian way back in 2004, but did not become more engaged until about 10 years ago when I became a member and subsequently served on the Board and on various committees, including the Capital Campaign.

Professionally, I am a strategy and innovation consultant, keynote speaker and author, leveraging my earlier experience as an executive at two large retailers. I also am a long-term partner and former Board Chair at Social Venture Partners Dallas and serve as a mentor for the United Way's Social Innovation Accelerator. I have two adult daughters, one of whom is a proud graduate of OWL.

## Alan Wright - 3 Year Term



Alan Wright and his wife, Jenny Weil, are members of First Unitarian Church and have attended the church with their son, Ethan, since 2002. Alan grew up in Fort Worth and is a graduate of the University of Texas. He is a commercial litigation attorney at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton. Alan maintains an active pro bono practice that includes death penalty and asylum representation. He is a pro bono attorney volunteer at Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, a Dallas-based nonprofit agency and First Sunday Collection recipient that provides free legal and social services to immigrant survivors of human rights abuses. Alan has been on HRI's board of directors since 2016, and currently serves as board chair.

Jenny and Alan are grateful for the church's Religious Education programs and teachers, who created a welcoming environment for Ethan, gave him a positive and inclusive religious education, and provided him with the knowledge and values to resist the influence of those who deem racism and misogyny cardinal virtues. Our family is also thankful for our friends at the church who supported us during challenging times.

Alan served on the church's Endowment and Memorial Gift Fund Committee from 2014 through 2016, chairing the committee in 2016. He has gotten to know many board members over the years, and has been impressed by their dedication and energy. He hopes to continue in that tradition and do what he can to assure that the church continues to be a valuable resource for its congregants and the larger community.

## Fouad Jaber - 3 year term



Fouad joined the church with his wife and daughters in 2014. His daughters have attended classes since Pre-K. Fouad has taught RE Classes to the 4th–7th grades and volunteered for SumFun. He has been involved in the Love Beyond Belief Eco-Justice & Eco-Civilization group and participated in Friends for Good.

A native of Lebanon, Fouad moved to the US to pursue a PhD in 1996. In 2001, he received his PhD in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Purdue University with an emphasis in Natural and Environmental Resources Engineering. In 2007, Fouad joined Texas A&M as a professor and Extension Water Management specialist. He has published many refereed journal articles and conference proceedings papers in addition to extension publications and governmental reports.

He has been conducting research and extension programs related to green stormwater infrastructure, nature-based systems, stream restoration, and climate change resiliency studies since 2002.

Fouad has held leadership positions in large professional organizations, has extensive international expertise, has worked as an FAO consultant and led workshops in Qatar, Algeria, South Korea, Iraq, India and Lebanon. As a world citizen he has advocated for environmental, labor and human rights concerns. Fouad's experiences as an immigrant, scientist, and activist will allow him to better serve the congregation on the Board.



# Endowment and Memorial Gifts Fund

## Josh Howe - 3 year term



When my spouse Caitlin and I moved from Boston to Dallas in 2014, we felt very fortunate to have found the community at First Unitarian. Dallas started to really feel like home when we became members of the church in 2018.

Now with a toddler at home, the importance of our spiritual community has taken on another level of importance; one of fostering a supportive and loving place for my son to grow up. I am honored to serve on the Endowment and Memorial Gift Fund Committee, where I can use my background in business and investing to make the church stronger and more resilient.

## Nominating Committee

### Jordan Michel - 2 year term



Jordan Michel and his wife, Donnice, came to First Unitarian in 2007 seeking a choir. They found a choir, and eventually a church home, joining the church in 2009. Jordan and Donnice have three children ages 11, 7, and 3.

Jordan works in the electric utility industry and has spent the last three years in his company's Center for Excellence and Innovation, supporting enterprise-wide continuous improvement efforts. Prior to his current role, Jordan worked for eight years in energy efficiency and three years in market research.

Jordan's past service to the church includes participation in the Sanctuary Choir, teaching children's RE, Circles facilitation, and participation in the Social Action Council. Despite being an engaged member of the church for 15 years, Jordan has never known much about how the church's board is selected. In addition to helping select the church's future leaders, Jordan looks forward to applying his professional experience in process improvement to continue the work of helping congregants feel more engaged in the nominating process.

### Linda Donnelly - 1 year term



Hi! I'm Linda Donnelly, and I've been attending First Unitarian since 1998. I retired in 2014 from Allstate Insurance, where I worked in Finance (budgeting) for 30 years. Post-retirement, I have served in various leadership roles with North Texas Master Naturalists, Twelve Hills Nature Center, and PFLAG Dallas. I am also one of the co-founding leaders of Cub Scout Pack 1899, the first fully inclusive BSA Cub Scout pack in North Texas, here at First Unitarian.

I've taught some of our youngest congregants, been a Sumfun counselor, and chaperoned the Heifer Ranch youth trip. I've been inspired by the amazing education and support my children got at First Church, from the nursery to Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age.

A gift to myself in retirement has been participating in Kindred Voices choir. Three years ago, I was lucky to be able to join the adult Boston trip with Beth and Aaron, a moving and transformative experience which firmed up my connection to our faith.

For fun I also enjoy pickleball, hiking, native plant gardening, and visiting my kids in Seattle and St. Louis. I'm so grateful to First Unitarian for the lessons from the pulpit, the fellowship in the pews, the social justice presence in our wider community. I would like to serve the church on the Nominating Committee as a way to give back. Thank you.