

Board

Angie Adams Sifferman (President)

Angie Adams Sifferman 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 the church and our congregation. Some highlights of her involvement include engaging in the Equality in Marriage committee, leading the Usher Team, serving on the Senior Minister Search Committee, teaching SumFun, serving on the last two Capital Campaign committees, and serving as a long-time Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitator where she learns more from the youth than she could ever teach. Angie has served on the Board of Trustees for four years, most recently serving as Clerk and Vice President for the past two years.

Professionally, Angie spends her days as a change management consultant helping her clients navigate change. She specializes in building strategic relationships, fostering high-trust teams, and leading organizational change management for enterprise-level transformation. Angie is deeply committed to serving the North Texas 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.



Ike Irozuru (Vice President)

Ike and his wife Jennifer have been attending First UU Dallas for over 10 years. The church has been a place where their values and their children have a home. And as they worked their way through the pandemic, they made this relationship with the church official in December 2020.

Over the years, Ike has found the church to be a place where the dignity of each person is affirmed. He has participated in the Racial Equity discussions as well as the Love Beyond Belief program. Most recently, Ike supported the WADE (Worth and Dignity Events) in the Water in April of 2022, incorporating food, live music, and meaningful small group conversations around the topic of race.

Professionally, Ike works at YPO, a global leadership community for chief executives around the world. He heads the membership department where he is responsible for finding and recruiting CEOs who want to grow and have a positive impact in their communities. Most of his career however is in the technology space, leading software development teams. He loves solving problems by connecting the dots between people, data, and technology.

The pandemic has reinforced the importance of living one's values. That is why Ike, Jennifer and their three kids, Aïcha, Aham, Arianna continue to call First UU home. He is committed to the work of the church in making this world a better place.



James Greene (Treasurer)

Hi! I'm James Greene. My family started attending First UU after our first child was born, and we joined as members in 2017. My past service to the church includes work with many different committees over the years, including the Steering Committee of Friends for Good, the Steering Committee for strategic implementation of the capital campaign, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Trustees. I've also been an RE teacher. Committee work is great! I love the chance to connect with other church members while also being of service to the church.

I am the COO of a Dallas-based family office. I manage a small staff and oversee a billion-dollar investment portfolio. I also advise several foundations on investments and legal compliance. I went to Stanford for my BA and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth for my MBA.

My wife is Jessie, and our three kids are Zoe (15), Quinn (12) and Hugo (5). I don't know for sure, but I'm guessing we are the #1 consumers of church donuts.



Guinn Powell (1 year term - filling vacancy)

At an early age I was baptized into the Baptist Church. My father was a Baptist minister, and our Sundays were spent in reverence to God to strengthen our faith and prepare us for our spiritual path to heaven, a concept froth with ritual, fear and consequences.

I recall my first visit to First Unitarian Church and Rev. Laurel Hallman was minister. I was seeking a fellowship of like-minded spirits where I could find a sense of "belonging." Prior to that visit, I drifted through several churches constantly shifting my focus while needing a spiritual center that I believed in and would work for me.

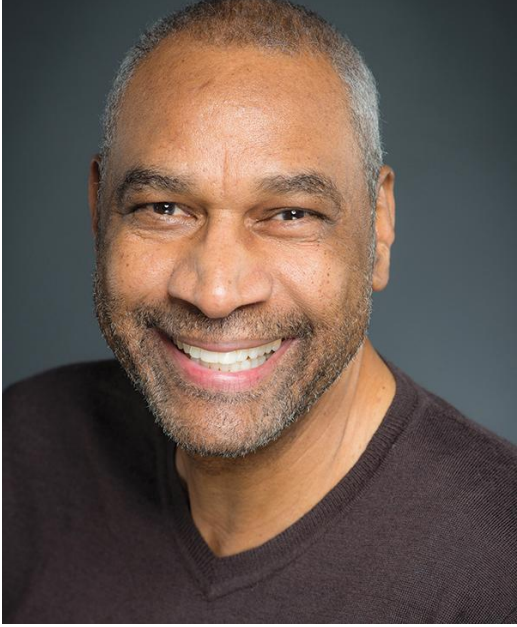
I returned to First Unitarian about 4 years ago and found a congregation of progressive and inviting people where I felt welcomed and free to be myself without any expectation, along with an overwhelming invitation to keep coming back. I began to share this experience with my husband, Todd and because we had begun co-parenting my niece's 13-year-old daughter, started attending as a family. We enrolled her in OWL to give her structure and the knowledge to make informed decisions as she developed and to help navigate her teenage years. I'm proud to say that she is on a path to attend college this fall.

I work as a Senior Creative Designer for The Dallas Morning News (DMN), and have been at this post for approximately 18 years. When I am not working, I spend time creating visual art with an afro-centric focus. I've shown at local venues throughout the Dallas area with remarkable success. I, along with Todd, currently have an exhibit at the Oak Lawn Library through October 29th.

I have a BFA in Graphic Design from Southern Methodist University. My career started at UCLA as a dental illustrator, then an animator at Disney Studios (I still have my ID with Mickey Mouse on it) eventually embracing the print industry, leading to DMN. I'm also an actor represented by The Horne Agency with commercial and industrial credits and appearances on theatrical stages throughout the city.

I became a member of First Unitarian Church about a month ago and proudly share it with anyone wanting to get to know me. I look forward to Sunday service for a foundation to prepare me for the week ahead.

Thank you.



Emily Gould (3 year term)

Emily's career is centered around connecting people with the information and resources they need to thrive. Within our church, she's served in several volunteer roles: facilitating adult education, on a task force implementing Love Beyond Belief principles with Rev. Thandeka, and leading the Nominating Committee.

Emily oversees strategy as Director of Documentation at the industry-leading platform for software developers. Emily's focus is understanding what users need and creating outcomes that make them successful. As a leader of people, Emily's approach is to provide an empathetic environment where each person can flourish, balancing the structure and principles that ground a team with the space and flexibility that empower creativity.

Emily started her career by serving in AmeriCorps in Baltimore, helping schools and communities to connect and partner. She then facilitated programming and raised funds for a nonprofit library that provides wraparound services, like after-school programs, to the surrounding community. Emily transitioned into the tech industry as a writer and content strategist before moving into leadership.

Emily values service and social justice, and our faith of action is one of the things that drew Emily to Unitarian Universalism. She's been attending First Unitarian Church of Dallas since 2011 and believes in the power and opportunity of our congregation to make both individual, immediate, and systemic, long-term impact in the world. She's grateful to have the opportunity to support our congregation and its mission as a member of the Board of Trustees.



Chris Snell (3 year term)

Chris grew up in the children's RE program at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, starting when his family joined the church in 1999 until his final YRUU service trip in 2011. He considers his upbringing in this church foundational to his perspective and values as an adult. Upon returning to the church in 2017, he began teaching 4th and 5th grade RE and has continued teaching ever since. He views it as a great responsibility, but also a great joy, to carry the torch that lit the path for his own spiritual development, so that others may find the loving community that helped him find a life of meaning and purpose. In 2019-2020, he was humbled to sit on the Karen Lewis Retirement Committee and honor the RE director who made our church's RE program such a thriving and vital part of our organization.

In serving on the Board of Trustees, he aspires to represent the highest objectives of our faith to foster more harmonious relationships with one another and with the Divine. He also hopes to gain experience as a functional element of a larger decision-making body that unites different perspectives and backgrounds in a common covenant. His own experience is as a lifelong member of the church, but also that of a younger generation that is inheriting an imperfect world. Chris feels honored to be nominated to a position that will allow him to reciprocate the thoughtfulness and care the church has given him so freely.

Chris spent his early adulthood as a rock musician with a meandering professional path. Along the way, he worked alongside people of all backgrounds and life experiences across the socioeconomic spectrum. As a result, he developed a variety of skills and interests, as well as a radical adaptiveness and a deeper understanding of the human condition. In 2020, he enrolled at The University of Texas at Dallas School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, where he expects to graduate with a B.S. in Neuroscience in May 2023. He is currently a research intern at UT Southwestern Department of Physiology, where he studies the neural circuitry of sensory integration and response. His goal is to ultimately earn his PhD and continue to study the neural basis of attention and learning. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, rock music, and genre films.



Jean McAulay (3 year term)

Jean McAulay moved to Texas in 2014 along with her husband, Brian, and their two grown children, Ian (now 26) and Julie (now 22) and joined First Unitarian in 2016.

She has served as a member of the Pastoral Care Committee and LBB Steering Committee and as a Racial Equity Discussion Group facilitator and canvasser for the Capital Campaign. She has her own communications consulting and writing business and has worked for the past 20 years for various for-profit (The Coca-Cola Company, Southern Glazer's, Nothing Bundt Cakes) and non-profit organizations (Women's Foodservice Forum, Cornerstone Credit Union and Monica Motivates, LLC) where she focuses her energies today. She helps organizations tell their authentic stories to increase stakeholder engagement and build awareness around critical social issues including gender and racial equity in the workplace.

She previously served as the director of marketing and public relations for several universities and hospitals in the Philadelphia area. She holds an MBA with an emphasis in marketing and an undergraduate degree in journalism and is currently pursuing an MFA in creative writing.

She enjoys providing foster care for dogs and cats from Dallas Animal Services and Operation Kindness, and previously served on the board of an animal rescue group in Atlanta. She is currently president of the Lower Greenville Neighborhood Association, a Dallas community of 2,700 homes and a thriving business district. Much of her volunteer efforts today are invested in sustaining the Multicultural Women's Book Group of Dallas that she co-founded in 2016. The group strives to connect and create deeper understanding among diverse women in Dallas.

Jean is consistently impressed by the bravery of First Church leaders and members to live their values out loud and is anxious to give back to a place that makes such a critical contribution to the region and has made her transition to Texas far easier than anticipated.



EMGF

John O'Connor (3 year term)

John and his wife Jenny started coming to First UU Dallas in 2014 and officially joined the Church shortly after. They feel incredibly fortunate that they and their three children (Anna (11), Oliver (8) and Lucy (5)) are part of a wonderfully compassionate, progressive and thoughtful church community. They are grateful to all of those that make First UU's spiritual and educational programs so special.

John grew up in California and moved to Dallas in 2004 to attend SMU Dedman School of Law. After spending more than a decade in private practice, John currently serves as the General Counsel of a publicly traded company in Dallas, where he is responsible for managing the legal operations, compliance, and risk assessment functions for the company. Throughout his career, John has been an active participant in providing pro bono legal services and has previously been named the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program as well as receiving the Frank Scurlock Award from the State Bar of Texas for his work in providing legal services to underserved communities.

John is incredibly excited for the opportunity to give back to the Church in this role and do his part to help the Church continue in its mission to the congregation and community.



Nominating Committee

Pamela E. Ice (2-year term)

Pamela Ice began attending First Unitarian Church of Dallas in January 1988 on Martin Luther King Sunday; she joined the church that same year on Mothers' Day. Her many roles in the church over the years include usher; co-founder of Kaleidoscope, an early and short-lived racial equity effort; sermon audio tape and CD assistant; Sunday school teacher; Book Nook volunteer worker; Journey toward Wholeness participant; Board of Trustees member; and certified Love Beyond Belief facilitator. Pamela has been chairperson of the church's Racial Equity Task Force since 2018.

Pamela retired from North Lake College in 2016 after 31 years in the Dallas Community College District (now Dallas College) first as the director of marketing (public information) at Brookhaven College (1985-1994), then as professor of English, American Literature, and Cultural Studies (1994-2016). She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Fisk University in Nashville, TN and her Master of Arts in the Humanities at the University of Texas, Arlington. She is vice-president of the DFW Fisk Club and an occasional blogger (speakingfreely.blog), freelance writer, and KERA Radio commentator.

Pamela believes in First Unitarian Church's people and its values as expressed in its Affirmation and Ends. She looks forward to serving the church in whatever ways she can for as long as she is able.



Clayton Smith (1 year term)

Clayton has attended First Unitarian for more than 20 years and been an active member for over 10 years. His parents, VeRee and Samuel Smith, were longtime members.

The Circles program at First Unitarian was responsible for Clayton's deepening commitment to our church and community. Clayton served as a Circles facilitator and on the Circles Steering Committee. Clayton currently serves on the Tech Care Team. Clayton and his wife, Suzanne Harrison, are active members of the Pastoral Care team and have gained many friendships as a result of this caring community.

Professionally, Clayton works as a consultant for Fidelity Investments after over 31 years of service with Fidelity working in communication and training roles.

Clayton and Suzanne enjoy travel, the arts and attending as many music concerts as possible. They take great joy in caring for their grandchildren, Ollie and Sam, on a weekly basis.



Katie Schijffelen (1 year term)

Katie currently serves as the Chief Development Officer at The Family Place, Texas's largest agency serving survivors of domestic violence. In her role she is responsible for a \$5M revenue budget and oversees the agency's fundraising and donor stewardship strategy. Prior to joining The Family Place, Katie held leadership roles at the American Heart Association, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Zoo and the March of Dimes. During her 18 year career she has raised over \$40M in support of local and national nonprofits.

Katie has been attending First Church since Christmas 2016. She and her husband participated in Inquirers before becoming members in November 2017. Since then Katie has been an active member of the church participating in Kindred Voice and Friends For Good. She has also volunteered regularly in various capacities and currently serves as an Inquirers facilitator and member of the coffee team.

Katie is excited to give back to the members of First Church who have poured into her, while learning more about how the church operates to ensure the continued growth in the community.

