

Qualifications of Nominees

Trustees at Large (two-year term 2010-2012)

Christopher Buja (Unitarian Society, A UU Congregation (East Brunswick NJ))

Christopher began serving on the Metro NY District Board in June 2009, filling out the term of the Rev. Cheryl Walker. He has been an active UU for seven years and since August 2006 has served as Director of Lifespan Faith Development at the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills (Somerville/North Branch NJ). Chris also has experience as a youth advisor, congregational trustee, Liberal Religious Educators Association participant on cluster, chapter, and continental levels, member of District Youth Advisor Task Force, and Youth Program Coordinator at UU Mid-Atlantic Community – all of which enrich his service as a trustee on the District Board. He says: “Throughout them all, I strived to make real the shared mission, vision, values, and beliefs of Unitarian Universalism, and I look forward to continuing to do so on the District Board of Trustees.”

Rick Fierberg (Unitarian Church in Westport (CT))

Rick has been a member of the Westport congregation since 2001 and has served on the District Board since 2006, most recently as Secretary. In addition to full participation in the spiritual life of the community, his current congregational service includes the Audit Committee and primary age religious education. An attorney by training, Rick provides general counsel, collaborative negotiation, and holistic conflict resolution services.

Daniel Gregoire (Unitarian Church of All Souls (Manhattan))

Daniel is an MDiv Candidate currently studying full-time at Union Theological Seminary in the New York City. Daniel intends on becoming a UU Parish Minister upon graduation. For the past three years Daniel has been the Youth Advisor at the Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan). He is an active member of the Unitarian Church of All Souls where he is currently co-facilitating a bi-weekly prayer group called Sacred Paths. Additionally, Daniel has worked as a consultant helping both the All Souls Young Adult Group and the District Young Adult Steering Committee to develop covenant statements. He is also involved in the annual Sophia Fahs Religious Education Camp on Shelter Island where he is the Youth Coordinator. Daniel has been a UU for 10 years.

Mia Morse (Unitarian Church in Summit (NJ))

Mia is a member of the Unitarian Church in Summit. She says, “I believe I’ve been a UU all my life but joined our great denomination two years ago.” She is active in her congregation, involved in the Racial Justice Task Force, Social Action Committee, and Moving Towards Peace, and has been a religious education teacher for her daughter’s class. Mia has attended many District events and the 2009 International Convocation of UU Women, and proudly served as a delegate at her inaugural UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City. She also is an active participant on the Economic Justice Task Force of the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey, and on Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries. “It is my intention to serve our great District as a catalyst for change, nurturing camaraderie and exponential denominational involvement.”

(continued)

Nominating Committee (two-year term 2010-2012)

Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon (First UU Fellowship of Hunterdon County (Baptistown NJ))

Bob grew up in the Universalist Church of West Hartford (CT). He studied English literature and philosophy at Birmingham University in England, and then worked as an Administrative Assistant, marketing assistant, coffee shop barista, and newspaper reporter in various places. He studied for the ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago; was Intern Minister at the Unitarian Church of Summit (NJ); and now serves as parish minister of the First UU Fellowship of Hunterdon County. He is Treasurer of the UU Ministers Association District Chapter and is working on a book on what it means to live a UU life. He lives in Bethlehem PA, with his wife, Abbey; son, Abe; and cats, Sadie and Biscuit.

Patsy Kaplan (UU Congregation of Central Nassau (Garden City NY))

Patsy is a long-time UU, has served her congregation on its Board of Trustees, and is currently Vice President. She has been Chair of Denomination Affairs; served on House and Grounds and Ways and Means committees; participated in major congregational events (Harvest Fair, Victorian Tea, Garden Stage folk concerts, Service Auction). She has been coordinator of the Pumpkin Patch for five years and in 2008 received the first place award by Pumpkins USA. Patsy is also involved in the wider association, participating in District meetings; has been a congregational delegate to several UUA General Assemblies; has served on the Board of the Long Island Area Council, and is director of Sophia Fahs Religious Education Camp, with which she has been involved for 25 years.

Jerry Muntz (Church of the Larger Fellowship)

A UU since 1995, Jerry was President of the District from 2005-2009. In his final year as President, he was also President of the UUA's District Presidents Association. Jerry served for three years as President of the Unitarian Church in Summit, where he was also chair of the Social Action Committee and a member of the Finance Committee. Currently he serves on the board of trustees of the Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center. After practicing law in New York City for over 20 years, Jerry redirected his professional life to the not-for-profit world in 2002, initially working for the ACLU Foundation at its national office in New York City. Since 2005 he has been Associate Director of Planned Giving for Princeton University.