

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Nominees for Board of Trustees - Class of 2021



Sam McKelvie

Sam has been a member of First U for 5 years and has been active in Weaving the Fabric of Diversity, Small Group Ministry, Leadership Development Committee, Forward First, and Beloved Conversations (and jumps in wherever else she's needed). In her day jobs, Sam has had extensive experience organizing, fundraising, and building teams. Currently, she runs operations at a start-up. In her limited spare time, you can find her at racial justice events, volunteering as a crisis counselor, or hanging out with her dog/soulmate, Ted.



John Carroll

John has attended First Unitarian since 2015 with his husband, James. His involvement at First U includes two years of service on the Internship Committee, during which time he helped support and develop our Ministerial Intern, Kevin Jagoe. He works as a high school ESL teacher at a public school in Brooklyn. In his free time, John enjoys learning and speaking foreign languages (he is currently working on Arabic), playing the accordion, and spending quality time with his cat, Murray. John is thankful to have found a warm and caring spiritual community here at First U.



Vonda Brunsting

Vonda is the program manager for the Just Transition project at the Initiative for Responsible Investment at the Harvard Kennedy School. Before that she was the Director of the Capital Stewardship Program at SEIU. SEIU created the Capital Stewardship Program as a center of excellence for engaging the capital markets and financial institutions in innovative ways. Vonda came to SEIU through Local 615 in Boston, working on the Justice for Janitors Campaign after spending many years as a community organizer in Chicago, New York and Boston with the Industrial Areas Foundation. In addition, she founded the Trustee Leadership Forum for Retirement Security and serves on the Board of the Responsible Endowments Coalition. Vonda has been a member of First Unitarian since 2006. She can often be found in the kitchen making and serving soup as part of our Sunday Soup and Sandwich ministry.

Nominees for Leadership Development Committee Two-Year Term



Laura Manos-Hey

Laura began attending First U in 2015 after being a member of the Unitarian Church of All Souls since 2011, where she was previously the chair of the LGBT group and remains a member of the Young Adults Leadership Team. She also served as an All Souls delegate at the UUA General Assembly for the last 3 years. At First U she is a leader of the Queer Caucus, Young Adult Ministries, and serves on the Caring Ministry team. Outside of First U she does LGBT advocacy organizing with the UU United Nations Office and is a founding member of the board of directors for the Millennium High School Alumni Association, where she also co-leads the school's drama club. She's worked as a theater stage manager and technician for the last 8 years but is in the process of shifting to a career following her other passions of civil rights, social justice and public service, with the goal of beginning graduate studies within the next 2 years.



Sean Fischer

Sean has been a member of First Unitarian since 2007 and has been an active participant in many congregational activities and initiatives, most recently serving on the Board of Trustees and participating in the inaugural Beloved Conversations group. He previously served on the Forward First task force, Committee on Ministries, Ministerial Search Committee, Small Group Ministry working group, the former Nominating Committee, and as a youth advisor in the RE program. He is excited about working with other members of the LDC to build and support a robust system for congregational leadership development.



Vincenza (Enza) Itri

Enza has always been an activist and so when she was asked to take part in several Weaving the Fabric of Diversity social justice actions, she was hooked. The seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism reeled her in. Enza has been a part of First Unitarian for over seven years and a member for the last two. Last year, with the generous participation of many congregants, she successfully helped to launch and complete 'Phoenix Rising', a life skills empowerment and mentoring program for formerly homeless women. Phoenix Rising gave her the opportunity to work with, talk with, and make friends with some amazing folks. Enza hopes to continue to contribute to and be part of this community as we face the challenges of making our world a better world for all. She is extremely thankful for being invited to join the Leadership Development Team.

Nominee for Clerk of the Congregation One-Year Term



Bruce Wilde (second term)

Bruce is a lifelong UU and a member of First U since 1991. With wife Coco, he is the father of Vanessa, Vivian and Vera, all raised at First U. Bruce has long worked on financial stewardship, Unifair and the Auction. He was a member of the Music and Worship Committee and sings in the Choir. He helped Coco start the First Acoustics Concert Series in 2008; it is now an independent nonprofit organization. Bruce is also a Deacon and has agreed to be elected for a second year as Clerk.

Nominee for Moderator (new position) One-Year Term



Michael Alcott

Mike has been a member of First Unitarian Congregational Society for the past twenty years. He and his wife, Sara, have been active in the congregation throughout much of that period. Both of their children were raised in First U's religious education program. Mike has served as President of the Board of Trustees, on the Finance Committee, and on the Committee on Ministry. He is most proud of serving on two search committees that resulted in Ana Levy Lyons becoming our Senior Minister and Meaghan Henry becoming our Direction of Educational Ministries. Mike and Sara have lived in the Ditmas Park neighborhood of Brooklyn since 1999. He has worked for the NYC Department of Education for the past thirty years, including the past three as a high school Superintendent.