



2023-2024 Officer Nominees

For the Board of Trustees (class of 2026)



Michele Ascione (she/her) has been a member of First U for just about 30 years and has been a Religious Education teacher and a member of the Religious Education Council – even serving as chair for some time - for almost all of those years. She may have even been YOUR RE teacher! She was one of the congregation’s first RE volunteers to get trained for the ground-breaking OWL curriculum for grades K-8. In addition, she has served short stints on the Nominating Committee and the Staff Interest Committee. Michele is proud to have marched and rallied with the congregation, participated in immigrant solidarity activities, coordinated activities at family retreats at Murray Grove, volunteered for UniFair, played parts in numerous Winter festivals (notably playing “The Grinch” two winters in a row), narrated a revised Purim Spiel, and performed two roles in the first congregational theater performances of *Mother Wove the Morning*. Originally joining in order to raise her children with an open-minded religious education, Michele has found a supportive community and an outlet for some of her talents that she has come to cherish.



Barbara Bornmann (she/her) is grateful to have found a spiritual home at the Unitarian Universalist church in 2021. As a relative newcomer, Barbara has been active in church life and serves on the Weaving Social Justice committee, as a Lay Pastoral Counselor for the Care Committee, and as a member of the choir enjoying great music and camaraderie of choir members. Driven by a spiritual commitment to healing through the arts, Barbara has worked for 30 years in Healthcare specializing in mental and behavioral health for persons with Developmental Disabilities,

and persons struggling with Serious Mental Illness. A former supervisor and director of therapeutic rehabilitation in hospital settings, Barbara continues to research and author articles on best practice in providing creative approaches to healing. Currently, Barbara works as a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist with Correctional Health Services serving persons with serious mental illness detained on Rikers Island.



Jake Powell (they/them) has been an active member of First Unitarian since 2018. At First U, Jake is a contributing member of the Immigrant Solidarity Committee as well as the Queer Caucus and Young Adult Ministry. Having grown up in a United Church of Christ congregation in their hometown of Casper, WY, joining First U felt just right.

In their work Jake focuses on hiring and HR for non-profits, currently working at Bloomberg Philanthropies after stints at The Trevor Project, the 92nd Street Y, and the Perelman Performing Arts Center. Over the years Jake has also spent time volunteering with ACT UP New York, the Ali Forney Center, and the Democratic Socialists of America. After 6 years in Cobble Hill, Jake recently moved to Flatbush with their partner. In their free time Jake enjoys reading, running, gluten-free baking, and trying to pick up Chinese.

For Clerk of the Society (one-year term)



Maggie Norris (she/her) has been a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Brooklyn since December 2021. Previously, she was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Jose, California for about 20 years. She has been an active member, with regular attendance at services and contributing to church community events, such as UniFair, Spring Auction, the Greeters group, the meditation group, and online discussion groups. She is planning to co-lead a further series of the UU History and Theology group later this year. She serves on the Board of the Women's Leadership Alliance as a member-at-large. She is looking forward to joining Board of Trustees meetings as Clerk of the Society starting May,

2023.

Maggie lives with her family in the Crown Heights neighborhood in Brooklyn. She has recently retired from a career as a scientific and technical writer in the regulated medical products industry.

For Moderator (second, one-year term)



Patrick Gunn (he/him) has been attending First U with his wife Laura and their three children since 2006. During his membership he has been an RE/OWL teacher, has participated in several special project teams, has served terms on the Committee on Ministry and the Leadership Development Committee, and is a former co-president of the Board of Trustees. Professionally, Patrick has spent over twenty-five years in various roles throughout the film and television business, as a producer, studio executive, and manager of content libraries.