



2024 General Assembly

Delegate Nominees



Michael DeSantis (they/them) began attending services at First Unitarian in Fall 2021 and joined the congregation as a member in February 2022. First U is Michael's third UU spiritual home: they have also attended First Unitarian in Portland, Oregon, and All Souls in Washington, D.C.

Along the way, Michael discerned a call to UU ministry. They are currently working towards that goal as a Master of Divinity student at Union Theological Seminary. As of October, First U is officially serving as Michael's sponsoring congregation, a blessing for which Michael feels abundant

gratitude!

In addition to being a sponsored seminarian, Michael's First U involvements include serving on both the Lay Worship and Caring Ministry teams as well as chairing the Connections Committee and co-chairing the Young Adult Ministry (YAM). Last summer, they also served as one of First U's GA delegates and led a summer service.

Michael looks forward to potentially serving our congregation as a GA delegate once again and—no matter what—to enjoying many more joyful Sundays and heartfelt connections with this beloved spiritual community.



Ian Holmes (photo coming soon) – Ian is a Legal Assistant, and a consultant on bylaws for nonprofits and political organizations. He cofounded a national nonprofit, Doctors of Democracy (DODO), to provide academic expertise on democracy reforms in the United States. He wrote the bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for the 501(c)3 and is currently seeking grant funding for DODO this year.

Ian is currently working with Emily Hockaday on developing a

new Social Justice Committee at First U. He started to participate in services and programs, especially UniFair in August 2023 when he moved to Brooklyn.

He formerly served as a volunteer for the Social Justice Committee and the LGBTQ caucus at the UU Monmouth County Congregation in NJ where I was a member on and off for about two years. I formerly have experience caucusing as a county committee member for the New Jersey Democratic Party.

Note: Ian will sign the membership book on March 10th



Elena Karpoff (she/her) is a new member of First U Brooklyn and a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Originally from Syracuse NY, Elena was raised in Religious Education classes. As a youth, she attended COA and OWL, and later took on leadership roles in her youth group. Between 2018 and 2021, Elena served as the choir accompanist and the interim music director at the UU churches of Schenectady and Albany, respectively. If you ask her nicely, she might sing you the "Seven Principles (kid version) song" she learned in RE.



Mary Most is a 3rd generation UU. Her upbringing and continued involvement brings a perspective of weighing all sides of any issue, of being open to new ideas that may question the status quo or even her own beliefs. First U's commitment to social justice and equity makes her proud and pushes her to walk the talk.

Mary attended All Souls in Manhattan throughout her childhood, and Paramus NJ UU for LRY (Liberal Religious Youth), the national UU teen group. She continues to work with other congregations: for the past 13 years she coordinates the annual reunion for Homestead Camp, a UU youth camp (similar to Unirondack or Rowe) which many Metro UUs attended in the 60's and 70's. Mary has attended GA multiple times as a delegate and once as a participant. She especially loves the plenary sessions!

At First U, Mary served on the Board of Trustees twice; participated on the now-defunct Program Council; ran clean-up for UniFair for many years; started the weekly e-newsletter that Garnett stepped up into a paid position to handle; managed the website in its early days; served on Stewardship a couple of times; and chaired the Green

Sanctuary Team in 3 different iterations (Green Team, UUustainability, Green Sanctuary Team). Mary co-taught OWL for many years when her kids (Skylar, 30 and Melody, 28) Salerno) were small covering all of the age-groups.



Maggie Norris 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, the Service Auction, the Greeters group, the meditation group, and online discussion groups. She has served on the Board of the Women’s Leadership Alliance as a member-at-large since 2022. She was elected to the position of Clerk to the Society in June 2023 and is a candidate for that position again for the coming fiscal year. 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.



Judith Sedaitis, Like many, the shock of the 2016 Presidential elections made Judith’s need for a spiritual home a high priority. It took three years of thinking and reading and meditating before she could officially become a First U member and she so grateful she did. It has become a living fount of peace and understanding that she draws on daily. In the beginning, Judith worked on the membership committee, our Weaving SJ group and helped the Immigration Solidarity Committee with the process of becoming a Sanctuary space. Then COVID hit and she

joined our Board of Trustees. “It was a challenging experience to go online and deflated many religious congregations, but we lived through and came back ready to keep growing!” Judith likes to continue to be part of our growth and connection to each other, making First U a fuller, supportive, vibrant community.