

## Melissa Rowland – nominee for Board President

I have been a member of St. John's for more than 20 years. I came to St. John's when I moved back to Ohio from California when my son Trae was just a few months old. May 29 is his 21st birthday.

In the past at St. John's, I have:

- Worked in RE as a teacher assistant and as a teacher.
- Participated in chalice groups.
- Volunteered for IHN.
- Served on the Safe Congregation committee.
- Been active on the worship team, and have often been a worship associate.
- Given several Sunday morning sermons.
- Shared my art with the church community.

I served on the board just before the pandemic as member at large and program director. Last year I stepped up to serve as the replacement vice president, and then transitioned into serving as the acting president. I just completed the UUA Institute Extended Leadership Experience 200 class.

I'm looking forward to completing the next two years as president and immediate past president.

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## Joetta Prost – nominee for Board Vice President

I have been a UU for about 40 years, with active involvement in congregations in Wichita, Toledo and Atlanta. In 2013-2014, I served as President of the UU Congregation of Atlanta, a UU congregation with approximately 700 members. After retiring from a career as a psychologist, my wife, Kathy Shell, and I moved to NKY in 2015 and joined St. John's in 2016.

My leadership roles at St. John's have included:

- Co-chair of the Continue The Legacy capital campaign
- Member of the Master Planning Team
- Co-facilitator of UU Council of Greater Cincinnati's anti-racism program, 2021 – 2023
- Coordination of the annual pledge drive for the past 6 years
- Wider UU World (denominational affairs) Team Lead for 5 years
- Member of the Outreach Committee and the Connections Team
- Tech volunteer since 2020

My broader UU involvement includes

- Serving as a psychologist on the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee, which credentials ministerial candidates

- Facilitating Board retreats for Atlanta area congregations
- Attending UUA General Assembly since 2011.

I am looking forward to helping lead St. John's during this time of transition and opportunity for growth.

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### Lyn O'Brien – nominee for Board Director of Finance

I grew up Catholic but started to stray by the age of 12. Inclusion and freedom of thought appealed to me early, so as soon as I could, I parted from a traditional path. When my children were old enough to ask questions, we ended up at the Unitarian Fellowship in Yellow Springs, where I served as Religious Education Leader.

After moving to Cincinnati, I looked for a UU church that met my need for being part of a social justice community, and joined St. John's 7 years ago. As a member, I have:

- Served on the Connection Committee, providing ice-breaker games at new member potlucks and event decorations.
- Served as the Leader of the Spirit Team, and will remain as a writer when the team is full.
- Helped run audio for services.

At the age of 16, I chose my life's purpose, which has matured and flowered but never essentially altered, to use whatever talents I possess to enrich, acknowledge, and spotlight the best of the human spirit whenever and wherever I can.

I was a professional Career Advancement Specialist in a company that I designed and built, from which I retired at 72, during my daughter's illness and death. Before that I was a medical recruiter, both for large corporations and independently. As a volunteer, I led seminars for Landmark Education, was a community leader for drug use education, and was a leader in a 12-step program for school age children affected by parents or siblings' substance abuse.

I am married, a mother of four, grandmother of 14 (they keep getting married) and great-grandmother of three, all of whom live from 60 to 2000 miles from here, leaving me time to serve St. John's.

It would be my honor to serve on the Board of St. John's, especially through this difficult time.

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### Ann Schuur – nominee for Board Director of Programs

I'm a retired social worker and live in Finneytown with my husband, Rich Overturf, and my dog, Toby. I'm a long-time member of St John's and have worn many hats over the years. My current formal roles at St. John's are:

- Serving as Member-at-Large on the Board
- Serving as a member of the Caring Team

I have also participated in Building the World We Dream About and Working Toward Interpersonal Harmony.

I am volunteering to switch my role on the Board to Programs for the next two years, to continue the good work of current Program Director Debbie Combs. Ensuring that we have effective, engaged and satisfied teams is important work, and I will be happy to endeavor towards this goal.

I am humbled by the challenge of dismantling white supremacy culture, but I pledge to be open to change and to keep showing up to do the work as best I can.

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### Monica Pellman – nominee for Board Secretary for a 1-year term

I have been a member of St. John's since 2001. In my time at St. John 's I have:

- Served as Board Secretary
- Served on the Nominating Committee (now called Leadership Committee)
- Served on the Leadership Development Committee
- Served on the Religious Education Committee
- Served as an usher for our Zoom services

I am committed to becoming a better anti-racist human, to helping all people thrive, and helping our community continue to look to the future with optimism and hope, something that I think UU's are particularly good at!

Sharing my time, talent and resources with our spiritual community has become more important to me as the years have passed.

I am looking forward to serving as Board Secretary, a way that I can stay involved and take a turn at sharing in the leadership of our community.

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### Susan Small – nominee for Board Member At Large

I have been a member of St. John's for 30 years now, which doesn't seem possible. Along the way, I have participated formally in various ways:

- Joined the choir in 1993
- Served on the Nominating Committee (now called Leadership Committee)
- Served on the Committee for Congregational Concerns
- Was a member of the most recent Ministerial Search Committee
- Served on the Committee on Ministry

Informally, I have attended many of the fun (and food centered!) social events at the church like the soup and bread lunches and the church auctions, and have participated in a number of chalice groups.

I am looking forward to becoming one of your representatives on the Board.

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### David Strecker – nominee for Leadership Committee Member

I am by training a cultural anthropologist. I write research papers on the beliefs and customs of different cultures. I am 74 years old and retired with no family in Cincinnati, so I have a fair amount of free time.

I joined St. John's in 2021. I was attracted to Unitarian Universalism by the church's progressive and inclusive principles, expressed both in word and in action. Being part of St. John's has incalculably enriched my life and I want to serve in any way that I can.

I am asking to serve as a Member of the Leadership Committee so that I can give back something to this community that has so enriched my life.