

April 2, 2022

Members of Our Beloved Community,

The Nominating Committee has concluded its process for 2022, and we are pleased to present the Slate of Nominees for the 2022-2023 church year! The Nominees and their Biographies are on the next page. The MDUUC By-Laws require that this information be provided to the congregation at least 30-days in advance of the annual meeting. The Annual Meeting is set for June 5th of this year, during which you will get to vote for this slate of nominees. These nominees have all agreed to serve in these volunteer positions if elected, so please thank them when you see them!

The Nominating Committee is a congregational committee as defined in our church by-laws that works directly for the membership. Our charge is to nominate candidates for openings on the Board of Trustees, the Legacy Committee, and the Nominating Committee, as well as the position of Treasurer. Each year, the Nominating Committee invites all members to identify and nominate qualified candidates who have been members for at least one year, for these vital volunteer positions. Requests for nominations are published in the weekly bulletin, the monthly Beacon newsletter, and are personally accepted by Nominating Committee members throughout fall and winter. Congregation members are invited to make recommendations and/or to self-nominate!

All of those who are nominated join a developmental list of about 150 individuals who have been nominated in the past three years. Individually and through discussion, we consider the knowledge, skills, ability, and best fit of each person on the developmental list, as well as the projected needs of the congregation. The selection process also includes rank-choice voting to narrow the pool of candidates for the projected openings. Additional rounds of hearty discussions and rankings are employed until the openings for the next church year are filled by qualified candidates who have agreed to serve. The committee employs a democratic process, working collaboratively to ensure the slate of nominees reflects the rich diversity of our beloved community. Any current member of the Nominating Committee would be happy to personally discuss and answer any questions you may have about our process.

For a more detailed description of the nominating process, visit the Nominating Committee webpage at <https://www.mduuc.org/who-we-are/nominating/>.

In Fellowship,

Kristen Taylor & Kate Newkirk, Nominating Committee Co-Chairs

Nominations for Board of Trustees (Two vacancies, 3-year terms)

Jana Contreras (She/her/hers)

Jana and her husband Juan have been members of MDUUC since 2015. They live in Walnut Creek (where Jana grew up) with their two children, Amalia and Xavier. With two school-age children, Jana has been most active with MDUUC's family and youth religious education (RE) programs. In addition to teaching various RE classes over the years, Jana has also served on the Children & Youth RE committee, most recently as Chair. Jana and Juan have also volunteered as ushers and Winter Nights. Jana is especially grateful to the MDUUC staff and community for the youth programming and the education her children have been able to experience, including Sunday RE, OWL, the Middle School Youth Group, and multiple summer camps. Jana currently works full-time as an attorney for PG&E. In addition to spending time with her family, Jana enjoys puzzles, paint-by-numbers, and long hikes in the open space. Although not a runner herself, she enjoys the many weekends spent watching her husband coach and children compete at cross-country and track and field meets. **(This will be her first term)**

Steve Dietsch (He/him/his)

Steve and his wife, Elizabeth, were introduced to MDUUC in 2008 through Elizabeth's parents, members Lou and Jeanne Gelwicks. After many years of attending services, they joined, too, in 2015. The support and guidance provided by members and ministers of MDUUC have been invaluable to their family. MDUUC is a valuable part of their life and community. Their two sons greatly benefitted from the OWL program. Their eldest son, Nigel, participated in the 2018-19 Coming of Age program. Steve has served as the chair of the Grounds Committee and member of the Place Council since 2019. Originally from Marion, Ohio, Steve has lived in the Bay Area for over 30 years. He majored in Management and Accounting in Purdue University and made a career in public accounting and finance. He recently retired after serving as the Chief Financial Officer of a national real estate investment firm, based in San Francisco, for almost twenty years. **(This will be his first term)**

Nomination for Treasurer (One vacancy, 1-year term)

Christopher Carter (He/him/his)

Chris and his husband, Peter, have been UUs since joining a Sacramento congregation in 1991, where Chris served as treasurer and chaired a ministerial search committee. After relocating to Walnut Creek in late 2014, they signed the MDUUC membership book in 2015. Prior to his being treasurer at MDUUC, he was a member of the Finance Committee for several years, coordinating the development of the church budget. Before the pandemic, both he and Peter greatly enjoyed serving as greeters. They look forward to when they can resume that role! Chris retired from the University of California, where was a campus budget director at UC Davis. More recently, Chris was director of the University's system-wide student financial aid program. Retirement has brought many opportunities, and, most notably, the chance to spend consistent time with their five-year-old grandson. **(This will be his fourth 1-year term)**

Nominations for Legacy Committee (Two vacancies, 3-year terms)

Bob Boster (He/him/his)

He was raised in the East as a UU and has a deep appreciation for its history. He joined MDUUC, settling in Walnut Creek in 2010, after having lived in various places and exploring their UU churches. His academic training from UNC-Chapel Hill and Mills College, propelled him to his current position as President of Clear-Com, a semi-legendary name in the professional audio world. My wife, Kathy Vail, attended the UU in San Diego, not long before moving to join me and MDUUC. We have endeavored to find opportunities to be engaged and supportive of MDUUC, while navigating our hectic professional lives. We enthusiastically participate in various church fundraising events, especially those which incorporate the social weaving of our congregational fabric. **(This will be his second term)**

David Stanley (He/him/his)

David has been a resident of Walnut Creek and member of MDUUC since 1991. He previously served MDUUC as a member of the Board of Trustees and Treasurer among other assignments. For the last two years, he has served on the Legacy Committee, and as deputy treasurer. David is a retired CPA, who worked for the IRS for 35 years. While committed to honoring the wishes of donors and to encourage members to contribute to a legacy to benefit MDUUC, he favors revising MDUUC by-laws that govern the management of our endowment funds and the role of the Legacy committee. He believes that we should simplify the operation of the committee and reduce the restrictions placed on how endowment funds should be allocated and used. If elected, he will collaborate with the committee, the board, and the congregation to facilitate changes that accomplish these goals. **(This will be his second term)**

Nominations for Nominating Committee (Four vacancies, 2-year terms)

Rose Barreto (She/her/hers)

The first time Rose stepped onto the MDUUC campus was to bring her children to the Old Firehouse Preschool. Over the years, she read the various church flyers that she passed and thought, “Hmm. This looks different. Maybe I’ll try it some time.” In 2018, she attended services and brought her kids to RE activities. Three years later, on Valentine’s Day 2021, Rose became a member. Rose’s involvement began with taking the ‘Red Mug’ for newcomers at coffee hour and joining a Community Circle. Her participation increased when virtual gatherings made it easier to attend services and meetings. She volunteered as a driver and coordinated other drivers. Rose is active on the Racial Justice Team and enjoys helping with various one-time or short-term activities, such as Winter Nights. Her family includes her spouse Tim, their kids Calvin (13) and Elliott (9), and their four cats. They live in Walnut Creek. Rose’s background is in social welfare and research, and she is now beginning work as an English tutor. **(This will be her first term)**

Mark Chase (He/him/his)

After searching for a church that was active in the community and in social justice, Mark found that MDUUC met his hopes. Though raised Roman Catholic, he had not been practicing as such for the past two decades. Feeling very much at home with MDUUC, he joined the church in

November 2017. The following year, he embarked on a UUBorders trip to Tijuana, which ignited his passion for justice work. He then became a member of the UU Justice Ministry of California, Immigration Justice Action Team, and co-leads UUBorders trips. Previously, he served on the MDUUC Intern Committee and feels privileged to currently be a member of both the Committee on Ministry and the Nominating Committee. Mark works for a Bay Area city as a Business Analyst, procuring and maintaining technology for Public Safety. In addition, he serves as a part-time 911 dispatcher for several local cities. Mark lives in Oakland (*Shout out to 510 Nation!*) with his husband Paco. **(This will be his second term)**

Kate Lone Newkirk (She/her or they/them)

Kate escorted her toddler daughter to MDUUC in 2010 and joined in the fall. She has been active in social justice, the BIPOC group, religious education, and served on the Board of Trustees. Ten years earlier, she retired from the LAPD early after a disabling injury and continues to live with the challenge of chronic pain. Kate relocated to the Bay Area, married Gene, and earned a masters' degree in Organizational Development from USF. They adopted Kiona at birth and maintain a close relationship with her first family. An active volunteer, she served on the board and worked as business manager of Kiona's former school, in addition to homeschooling her for two years. With Kiona currently attending a small nonpublic high school, Kate is more available to give back to her community, including serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and as Co-Lead of the Nominating Committee. **(This will be their second term)**

Joe Schellenberg (He/him/his)

It has been 8 years since Joe and wife Mieke relocated from Memphis to Concord. Some of their children and grandchildren live in the area. MDUUC is their fourth UU congregation with precedents in Virginia, Florida and Tennessee. Though retired from a career in corporate finance, he has brought his experience and competence to serve as head of the congregational finance and endowment committees and helping run annual pledge drives. Inspired by MDUUC's social justice activism, Joe and Mieke have hosted two West African asylum seekers. They are long-time supporters of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity which is an immigrants' rights group based in Oakland. As a Red Cross volunteer, he weekly delivers blood to local hospitals. Joe is also an associate of the county's disaster action team that goes on site to qualify victims for Red Cross aid. Joe actively enjoys hiking, biking, traveling and wood working. **(This will be his first term)**

Respectfully submitted by the 2021-22 Nominating Committee Members: Leslie Baxter, Mark Chase, Patricia Craven, Peggy Kroll, Elsie Mills, Kate Newkirk, Mary Beth Spencer, Kristen Taylor, & Wayne Reznick