

FUSF Search Committee Candidates

The FUSF Board of Trustees is proud to share with you the 12 chosen candidates for our ministerial search committee. These individuals were selected based on congregational nominations. The congregation will select the final team at a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 7th, after service. The nominees are:

- Rand Barthel
- Pam Bellino-Rivera
- Sue Bencuya
- Jean Burke
- Jeff Cerier
- Vicki Coates
- Mimi Feerick
- Jim Kennedy
- Donna Morin
- Elizabeth Randall
- Sue Sheridan
- Wayne Toye

On the following pages are personal letters from the nominees, sharing their background and desire to serve. We hope you will take time to review these letters and speak to these individuals after service. If you have any questions for the candidates, we encourage you to contact them personally via email or phone. Candidates' contact information is available in our FUSF e-list and directory.

The Board wishes to express its appreciation to all the nominees for their willingness to serve our community in this extremely important capacity.



Rand Barthel

The basics:

Born: Missouri, 1956

Now live in: Mendon MA

Education: Harvard, B.A. Physics, 1978

Profession: Software Engineer

FUSF Member Since: 2000 (I think)

UU Since: early childhood

Social justice focus: Climate justice

Interests: singing, astronomy, sailing, hiking, camping

FUSF service: choir, 10+ years; Stewardship committee, 2004-6; 5 years treasurer of LiveARTS

Theological perspective:

80% humanist, 20% mystic. I don't "hyphenate" my UUism with anything else. I revere the Source of All without personifying it, and believe it can be found wherever you choose to look.

What I could bring to the Ministerial Search Committee:

As a UU "lifer", I have a strong allegiance to both FUSF and to the Unitarian Universalist movement as a whole. I've been a member of several UU congregations (of which FUSF is by far the best) which I think provides useful perspective. I have a strong grasp of UU history and of the place of UUism in the history of religious ideas. I am by nature diplomatic and inclined to seek consensus. I strongly believe that we have "good news" that the world needs to hear.



Pamela Bellino-Rivera

Personal Life

I am happily married to my wife and soulmate, Madelyn Rivera-Bellino. We have been together for 28 years. We live in Medway MA with our dogs and cats. I am an avid gardener, cook and just picked up golfing again after many years.

Education and Training

I am a Veteran of the US Coast Guard. I have a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy and currently hold a leadership position at the Boston VA as the Director of Patient Safety.

My professional accomplishments include the development of a training program for Physician Medical Resident rotations in the field of Patient Safety. I am a Lean Healthcare Black belt. This requires time management, data analysis and presentation skills for project work and reporting to hospital executives. Recently, I was selected as a Gold Status Fellow in the VA Shark Tank Innovation and Diffusion Completion. The project provides first responders with nasal Narcan to reverse opioid (heroin) overdoses. The goal was to establish procedures for equipping VA Police with Narcan and placing Narcan kits in AED cabinets. The Narcan within AED cabinet innovation is considered the first of its kind and is spreading throughout the country.

Fun and Interesting Facts about Me

The Medway Dog Park was established as an Eagle Scout project by a 15 year old young man named Tim. I worked with Tim and his dad to transition the Medway Dog Park to be self-sustaining by filing for 501c3 status and serving as President for two years on that board.

A Home Depot news article called "Miss Fix It" featured me after debating with a Home Depot employee as to why I needed to be able to start my own power washer rather than asking my neighbor for help. I am also famous for my Eggplant Parmesan.

FUSF Overview

I have been an active member of FUSF for 10 years. I have served in multiple capacities, including the Board of Trustees, the FUSF Leap of Faith program with the Rockland Maine congregation, Ministerial Relations Committee, and Co-coordinator of the annual Ferry Beach Retreat. I've also supported FUSF by participating in hospitality, Bella Noche, LGBT Interweave and the service trip to New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.

The Search Committee

It would be my honor to be a member of the search committee to call a new minister. I would be able to offer a variety of perspectives as a member of the LGBT community, mentoring experiences in the Leap of Faith initiative and Ministerial Relations committee. As a hospital administrator, I participate in the interview process for selection of candidates for high level hospital administration quality and safety positions. If I am selected, I would work for our congregation to call a minister who reflects our values, goals and for our call to action in the wider community.



Sue Bencuya

I have been a member of FUSF since 1989. I am the sole proprietor of Alpha Mare Productions, an editorial services business. I'm married with two grown children.

My background at FUSF includes:

- FUSF clerk from 1989 to 1990.
- FUSF president from 2012 to 2014.
- Served on our ministerial intern committee (we used to have ministerial interns!) for four years, working with Bill Robinson and Joanne Giannino, who went on to become UU ministers.
- Taught RE for several years.
- Traveled to New Orleans in 2009 with FUSF and spent a week there working on houses and living with other UUs.
- Served on the stewardship committee for the past three years.
- Attended General Assembly in 2015, in Providence.
- Currently serving as senior youth advisor.
- Coordinate the plate giveaway for the past three years and am the liaison with the Franklin Food Pantry.
- Served on the music committee and now serve as one of our two music coordinators.
- Sung with the choir since 1989. Was (mercifully briefly!) choir director back when we had, like, seven people in the choir.
- Ran the Chestnut Street Revue several times.
- Was put in charge of FUSF's annual "music service" in 1999. Toward that goal, I held an open house and invited any musicians who were interested. That turned into a Tuesday night phenomenon and eventually morphed into the Critical Mass band, which still exists (and is now running the annual music service).
- Was part of the "piano committee" that raised money for, shopped, and purchased our beautiful Schimmel grand piano after we moved to Chestnut St. Served on that committee until it turned into LiveARTS. Served on the LiveARTS board for several years and still run LiveARTS lobby sales.



Jean Burke

My husband, Joe, who is recently retired from his career as a marketing executive for various technology companies, and I will celebrate 36 years of marriage in July. We live in Norfolk with Cosmos, the elder Great Dane and Wesley, the Shorkie.

I have a B.A. in Music Performance from Arcadia University. In 2005, I completed the M.B.A. program in Global Management at The University of Phoenix Greater Boston Campus. In 2007, I completed the Certificate program in Theological Studies with an emphasis in Theology and The Arts at the Andover Newton Theological School.

By profession, I'm a financial manager, trustee and investment advisor for the CHB Association and have served in this capacity for nearly three decades.

I've had years of experience performing with the EKK (Eine Kleine Consort) quartet, taking their *Recorder Goes To School* program to elementary schools around New England to present to young and enthusiastic music students. Other areas of joyful activity and involvement include membership at Foxboro's Invensys YMCA and participation in The Norfolk Quill Writers Workshops, publishing in TNQ's Literary Journal for the past seven years. In 2016, I was asked to co-lead The Norfolk Quill.

I have been a member of FUSF for about 30 years. I maintained my FUSF membership during family job assignments to Munich, Germany and Greensboro, North Carolina. I have served as Franklin Interfaith Council Member, FUSF Board Member, Treasurer, Assistant to the Treasurer, LiveARTs Treasurer, and as a member of FUSF's Finance, R.E., Stewardship and Music Committees. I was a leading participant in the Capital Campaign to build the sanctuary, FUSF's "Miracle Sunday" to build the R.E. wing and got the ball rolling on our Planned Giving initiative.

My experience with FUSF includes lay-led summer services, teaching in the RE program, performing in FUSF's Special Music Segments, singing with the Universal Singers, writing with the poetry group, participating in the annual FUSF Community Art exhibits and running a film discussion group. Over the years, I've taken several Adult R.E. courses and my children went through RE and OWL programs.



Mimi Feerick

I have been a member of FUSF for the past 12 years. My husband Dan and I came to FUSF looking for an alternative to the traditional Catholic church we both were raised in. FUSF has provided a nurturing, inspiring, and spiritual home for myself, my husband and two sons, Kyle and McCabe.

I have dedicated the past 28 years of my professional life to the field of special education: I served the first 20 years as a special education teacher and the past 8 years as a special education administrator. In my role as an administrator, I have had personal responsibility for hiring upwards of 100 special educators, and served on many search and interview committees tasked with choosing senior leaders and administrators. Through this process, I commit to finding the most skilled and experienced teacher or administrator, while recognizing that it is equally important to evaluate how each candidate's personality and style would contribute to the culture of the community.

Likewise, I understand the importance of representing the FUSF community and the opportunity in the best possible light. Ideally, all candidates should leave the interview thinking "This would be a great place for me."

If I had the privilege to serve on the interview search committee for our new minister, I would do so with a commitment to a fair and objective process; one that values the ideas and opinions of all committee members while staying focused on the broader needs and values of the entire FUSF community rather than the narrower agendas of any individuals. I believe that the best team decisions are made in an atmosphere of cooperation, respect, and honesty, and I bring this commitment and spirit of camaraderie to every task.



Jeff Cerier

I have been a member of FUSF since 1988. I have been on the Board for eight years, including serving as President for two years, and have been involved in searching for land, the capital campaign prior to building the meetinghouse, stewardship, social action, teaching in RE, participating in lay-led worship services, ministerial relations...and lots of other things I don't remember right now. I care deeply about this community and its current and future vitality.

In my professional life, I run Sage Product Development, a company that does medical device product development on a contract basis for other companies. I am a mechanical engineer by schooling, and have worked in the medical device world for most of my career. I have two partners in the business, but as president I do most of the work to recruit and hire new employees. Sage is currently around a dozen people, and it's a great team. I get a lot of satisfaction from finding and hiring the right people, and then helping them develop in their careers.

Reasons why you may or may not want me to be part of the Ministerial Search Committee:

Pros:

- Long history of commitment to FUSF.
- Significant professional experience with the hiring process.

Cons:

- I am very busy with work and life and will have limits on the amount of time I can commit (though there is an expression "If you want something done right go to a busy person").
- I have been serving on the Transition Team and could get a bit burnt out moving right to the Search Committee.



Jim Kennedy

In a better world, we wouldn't need a minister. We wouldn't need food banks, or soldiers.

Until then, we have a need for a leader who laughs with us, gets angry with us, cries with us.

At FUSF, the search for a new minister gives the congregation an opportunity to find a leader who will accompany us as we move in a new direction. For decades we had the steady, present influence of Carol Rosine. Now we search not for a replacement, but a person who shares our passion for creativity, our longing for justice, and our commitment to each other.

I have an academic background in psychology, with a Bachelor's from Fairfield University and a Master's in Human Relations from AIC.

Professionally, I've been a mental health worker for people with mental illness, a counselor for the homeless, a supervisor in call centers and a manager for global operations.

I came to the UU faith late in life, joining the Medford congregation eight years ago. It is a natural fit, as I see the role of any faith tradition to expand the boundaries of inclusion to reach to the edges of the universe. The Catholic faith was, for me, a little too limiting. I couldn't be part of a group that wouldn't allow women to speak openly from the pulpit. While in Medford, I coordinated the social hour with my wife, Rebecca, much like I do here in Franklin. I also was chairperson of the Board of Trustees during a similar transition for that congregation.

This experience and worldview gives me a certain perspective on life that I would bring to the search process for the new minister at FUSF. With an unyielding faith in humanity and an unbending critical eye on our individual successes and failures, I think I would contribute meaningfully and nurturingly to the decision to welcome a new leader to our congregation.

I ask for your vote to be part of the Search Committee.



Donna Morin

I have been a member of FUSF for almost a decade, when my son Max toddled around the sanctuary. I've been an active member of Interweave and the Green Committee, and taught in the R.E. program since becoming a member.

I am a former elementary school teacher, and now work as a health coach and health activist. I'm presently consulting with Mel Robbins Productions. My new book, *Indulge Your Way to Healthy*, has just been released.

I'm interested in the Search Committee because I understand the importance of a spiritual home to help recharge, renew, inspire, and create positive change in the world. The right spiritual leader can help create that kind of climate. I would be honored to represent the FUSF community and work with the search committee to find the best fit for FUSF.



Elizabeth Randall

I live in Wrentham, MA with my husband, Doug and daughter Sarah. Both Doug and Sarah are also members of FUSF. We also have two beloved dogs, Teddy and Lilly.

I work on my own as an Interior Designer and Preservation Consultant. Previously, I worked at Harvard University for 22 years as a Construction Project Manager. After that I worked for Dean College managing some of their construction projects.

I have been a member of FUSF for about twenty years now. During that time, I served as President for three years and am now the Chair of the Welcoming Team. I have also taught RE many years and was a Junior Youth Advisor, along with my husband. I served on the Building Committee in various capacities when we were building the church and the RE wing.

During my time as President I oversaw the removal of the old house that was on the site, as well as dealing with a large sprinkler leak that caused the foyer to need major restoration.

I contribute to the church by organizing various events, including the Birthday Bash when we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the building, the end of the year party, Rev. Carol Rosine's retirement event, the Miracle Sunday, and (unfortunately) many funeral services.

I would like to serve on the Search Committee because I feel that choosing the correct Reverend for our church is one of the most crucial ways that I could contribute to our community and I realize how important it is to find the right fit for us. I am an extremely organized person so I think that will help with all the paperwork moving forward. I have also had to interview many people in my job so I think I am good at understanding personalities quickly. Over the years, I have visited many other U. U. churches so I understand the U. U. community in a larger picture. I also know a great deal of history about our church and our congregants and can bring that knowledge to the process. I am admittedly not the best listener, but I think I am getting better at that, thanks in large part to being a part of this church. I also think I have a sense of humor, which could contribute to the process. (Though if you ask my 17 year old daughter, she would say that my sense of humor was whacked!)



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Sue Sheridan

Professional background:

I graduated from UMASS Amherst with a B.A. in Fine Arts. My resume shows that I have had a varied work history, teaching high school art, bookkeeping, administrative positions, and finally a career in the federal government. I worked first in the Department of Agriculture, and finally 25 years in the Social Security Administration, from which I retired. My career with Social Security included interviewing applicants for benefits and making decisions on eligibility, management positions in field offices, and finally as a management specialist serving the New England region in the human resources area.

Volunteer work:

My interest in the arts has led me to take on various roles including a 6 year term on the Franklin Cultural Council, president of the Franklin Art Association, and a current member of the Franklin Cultural Festival/District Committee. I also volunteered at the Franklin library teaching English as a second language.

FUSF:

Since joining 13 years ago I've served on the Hospitality Committee, the Fundraising Committee, as a Lay Minister, on the Board of Trustees, the Ministerial Relations Committee, as a choir member, and currently serve as chair of the Aesthetics Committee.

Search Committee:

I think I have the necessary skills to serve on this committee. I'm a good listener, and work well with others. I strongly believe in a collaborative approach toward reaching consensus. I have a strong work ethic and will commit to the process of choosing the best candidate for our congregation. It would be an honor to serve on the Search Committee.



Wayne Toye

Personal:

- Married to Joan since 1978 with three children who grew up in the FUSF Religious Education programs
- Accountant for the past 15 years after 20 years in the computer industry
- 28 year resident of Franklin

Relevant FUSF Experience:

Knowledge of FUSF history and operation

- Pledging member since 1990
- Served FUSF in various capacities including Sexton, RE Teacher and Coming of Age mentor
- Served on Board and Building Committee during Chestnut Street purchase and building design

Experience with Minster evaluation and support

- Member of FUSF Ministerial Relations Committee
- Member of Ministerial Intern Committee for 4 interns during the past 20 years

Knowledge of FUSF organization and governance

- Served as Trustee and Officer for both FUSF and District (Ballou-Channing)
- Served on By-Laws Review Committee