



2023 Annual Meeting

Leadership Candidates

This list is all open positions currently up for election for the term beginning in 2023-2024, and does not include the names of members previously elected and serving a current term. Please see the [Bylaws](#) for a specific list of elected committee and governing board positions.

Governing Board

Officers

Dana Johnson, President, 2023-2024

Jeff Miller, Vice President, 2023-2024

Patrick Mitchell, Treasurer, 2023-2025

Board Members-at-Large

Beth Belmore, 2023-2024 (finishing the second year of a two-year term)

Beth De Stasio, 2023-2025

Brian Murton, 2023-2025

Erin Vandenlangenberg, 2023-2025

Leadership Development

Brianna Gallagher, 2023-2025

Helene Iverson, 2023-2025

See pictures of all the candidates and read their bios below...



Dana Johnson

My husband Eric and I joined the Fellowship three years ago. We have found the sense of authentic community and spiritual connection with the congregation to be inspiring. I joined the Care Team shortly after becoming a member, and have been in the role as the Care Team Chair for almost 3 years. My background is rooted in social work and I have served county child welfare and human service agencies for over 12 years. I have been the Director of a human service agency where my responsibilities include reporting to and leading the county board committee on health and human services. I have served on boards including the House of Hope (Green Bay), Children's Museum (Stevens Point), Pride Center (UW-Green Bay), National Association of Social Workers - WI Chapter, and several smaller nonprofits in Wisconsin. My husband and I own two small businesses, including a brick and mortar location in Appleton; highlighting my ability to organize and lead organizations, financial acumen, and support others within the organization. I believe my role on a board is to be a great steward of congregant voice as well as financial assets. I believe being a leader's greatest asset is the ability to listen, followed by being decisive and communicative of the decisions made. I am humbled by the request to continue to serve in a leadership role in our congregation, as this is truly a family and organization I wish to continue to contribute and to help flourish.



Jeff Miller

Julie and I signed the book in 2000 shortly after we moved here. We were looking for a place that called to us after falling out of our childhood religious traditions. We found the Fellowship on the web from Central Texas where I was stationed in the US Army. We felt immediately welcomed and have benefited greatly from membership.

Our kids (Maddie and Mia) have been a part of the Fellowship's Religious Education (RE) program over the years. Julie has helped out in the nursery and assisted in RE. I have also been a member of the safety committee and assisted in RE.

I was a police officer for the City of Appleton for over 20 years before retiring in November of 2020. I am now enjoying a career in education and compliance in the health industry.

It has been an honor to serve as Vice President of the Fellowship Board this year, and I look forward to again serving as the Vice President of the Fellowship Governing Board in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.





Patrick Mitchell

I've been a member since 2004. I've been a member of the services committee since about 2012. I joined the Fellowship governing board in 2020.

I'm married to Sara. We have three adult children. I work at Kimberly-Clark in logistics. I like outdoor activities, running and keeping up with the kids in their events.

It has been an honor to serve on the governing board as the Fellowship Treasurer since 2021, and I look forward to another term as the Treasurer of the Fellowship Governing Board.



Beth Belmore

While I was raised with a very active membership in a small Presbyterian Church in Eau Claire, WI, I think my parents' decisions to allow me to do significant mission trips while I was in high school was the major contributing factor to who I am. For as long as I can remember I have known my mission in this life is, "To Love and To Learn." My early experiences advised my life's work of 40 plus years in education, human services leadership, and volunteerism, as well as my choices in retirement.

I found the Fellowship 30 years ago this year about the time this community was embracing "Welcoming Congregations." I am drawn to others who are dedicated to their own spiritual growth and find this here in this beloved community. I enjoy Journey Circles, Meal Ministry, being a Worship Leader and participating in special events.

I have lead and served on numerous boards, foundations, and committees on a local and state level, and I would look forward to using my skills and energy to work for the Fellowship on this Governing Board. The Fellowship's healthy existence is vital internally as well as for the Fox Valley Communities.

My spouse, Lynne Drews, and I have shared nearly 30 years of life together and reside between Appleton and our home in the woods in central Marinette County, WI. We have one daughter and a grandbaby, Nora, in Minneapolis. We love time with family, including our 4-leggeds, outdoors sports, reading, journaling, and travel.





Beth De Stasio

I and my husband Bart were introduced to the UU denomination in Providence, RI after being recruited by a friend. The leader of that congregation was Buddhist and a dynamic speaker, and we were intrigued. We joined the congregation in Madison while we lived there for 3 years and then joined the Fellowship in Appleton when we moved to Appleton in 1992. I served as a religious education teacher many times, was the chair of the landscape committee for several years, and was a co-leader of the heart-to-heart couples' retreat. I've had some experience on a board of directors, first at Project Bridges Day Care and later at the national level for the Genetic Society of America. Our two sons were raised in this Fellowship and are living their UU values. I am happy to continue to serve the Fellowship in this way. My gratitude and love for the people who preceded me and those to come is deep. Thank you all for the support and spiritual challenges this community has provided to me and my family.



Brian Murton

I've been a member of the Fellowship for 17 years after purchasing a home nearby and wondering about that place with the super long name on the sign whenever I drove past. Here I've found a community where I can gently challenge my beliefs, bask in the warmth of deep friendship and continually be reminded that a better world is possible. I've been on several committees over the years, including worship services, healthy congregations, and the internship committee for Rev. Ali Peters. I've been on three search committees (for Rev. Dottie Matthews, Rev. Wayne Arneson and Rev. Katherine Rolenz, and Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave). I've also served as a lay minister and a worship leader for several years. My professional background is in human resources as a practitioner and I'm currently in the employee retention software industry. In my free time I enjoy tennis, cribbage, and embarrassing my teenage son.





Erin Vandenlangenberg

I've been a member of FVUUF since 2014. At that time, we had moved back to Appleton after living in Minneapolis for the 15 years prior. My husband, Ben West, was raised attending the Fellowship and so we decided to check it out again. It immediately felt just like home. I've enjoyed being in a community of "seekers." I'd say wondering is one of my favorite things! Our children, Sloane (8), Noelle (7), and Eila (5), attend RE and we appreciate the values that are taught in that program. I attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota, receiving a Master's in Public Health and a Doctorate in Psychology. I work at Catalpa Health and my position includes some clinical work but primarily I serve as a Clinical Director. I'm passionate about teaching and enjoy working with psychologists and counselors in training as part of my role. At the Fellowship, I have been a member of the Health Congregations Team for the past several years and facilitated the Parenting Group.



Helene Iverson

Helene Iverson joined the Fellowship more than five years ago. She is a retired elementary educator. Volunteers at Leaven and NAMI, and is a member of AAUW. An avid reader, traveler and grandmother; and still trying to learn Spanish and golf.



Brianna Gallagher

My name is Brianna Gallagher. I joined the Fellowship in 2020 just a few months before the pandemic shutdown, and moving to Atlanta Georgia. When I moved back in February 2023, I knew I wanted to get involved with the Fellowship again right away. I'm coming up on my first wedding anniversary with my darling wife and we have a six year old who constantly keeps us on our toes. I'm currently working as a home caregiver, while working on my career goal of becoming a hospice chaplain. I love to write poetry and short stories, ballroom dance, and crochet. I am an avid reader, and have recently joined roller derby.

