



## 2024 Annual Meeting

### Leadership Candidates

This list is all open positions currently up for election for the term beginning in 2024-2025 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**

Justin Fisher, Vice President, 2024-2025

Erin Vandenlangenberg, Secretary, 2024-2026

##### **Board Members-at-Large**

Beth Belmore, 2024-2026

Chris Wales, 2024-2026

Marti Wheeler, 2024-2026

##### **Leadership Development**

Jeff Miller, 2024-2026

Nancy Vilker-Krause, 2024-2026

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



## Justin Fisher

Justin and his family (Ann, Clara, and Leo) have been members of the Fellowship for about seven years. Justin has served on the Leadership Development Committee. Justin is a software developer by trade and enjoys tinkering with computers, camping, hiking, and being with his family.



## 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, Noelle, and Eila, 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, current governing board member and facilitated the Parenting Group.





## Christine Wales

My Fellowship journey started 14 years ago after a colleague connected me with the Fellowship. I am forever grateful because shortly after attending services, I knew I had found my spiritual home.

Our Fellowship is a gift to us all and in that spirit of giving, my active practice is to intentionally share my time, talent, and treasure to ensure the legacy of the Fellowship continues. I believe in "walking the talk" :-). I financially contribute to our Fellowship on an ongoing basis and have volunteered in a variety of roles including: supporting the RE program, leading Journey Groups, starting a small group focused on exploring books with a spiritual theme, then transitioning to becoming a member and eventually the chair of our Care Team. I have been nominated to serve as a member of your Governing Board. This is a tremendous honor, and I am grateful for the trust of our Fellowship in considering this nomination.

I bring over 30 years of operational, strategic, and financial leadership experience in the public service sector as well as a long history of serving our community in various volunteer roles outside of our Fellowship. I'm excited about the future of our Fellowship and all the good work to come!



## 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 31 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 led 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 continue my 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.

## Marti Wheeler

My family joined the Fellowship 39 years ago as soon as we moved to Appleton. I realized I was a UU in high school after hearing a talk by a friend's mother who was a Universalist minister. During my time at the Fellowship, I have had the privilege of serving on many different committees and the governing board. I have also taught children's Religious Education many times and been a youth group advisor and Coming of Age coordinator. I am retired, the mother of two daughters and grandmother of 4. I look forward to continuing my service on the board.





## 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 as director of campus safety at Lawrence University.

I have served as both President and Vice President of the Fellowship Board in the past and I look forward to serving on the Leadership Development Committee of the Fellowship.



## Nancy Vilker-Krause

I have been a member of the FVUUF for over 30 years. I joined when my first child was born and subsequently raised my 3 children as UU's. I am thankful for the Fellowship for so many reasons. I have taken comfort in knowing there are like-minded people living here. I had been active on the RE committee and wrote curriculum at a time of need for the fellowship. My husband and I have lived in Appleton since 1988. I am a Speech Pathologist with the Appleton Area School District. In my free time I enjoy connecting with my kids (which frequently consists of Catan via facetime), traveling and camping with my husband, reading, biking and just being anywhere in nature.

