



2026 Annual Meeting

Leadership Candidates

Please see the [Bylaws](#) for a specific list of elected committee and governing board positions. Members marked with an *asterisk are incumbent, returning to their role on the Governing Board or Leadership Development Committee. Those marked **bold** are up for election at this annual meeting due to being new to the role, or beginning a new term.

Governing Board

*Justin Fisher, President, 2025-2027 (continuing, no vote required)

***Gary Crevier, Vice-President, 2026-2027** (second of four possible 1-year terms)

*Beth De Stasio, Treasurer, 2025-2027 (continuing, no vote required)

Mark Panzer, Secretary, 2026-2028 (first of two possible 2-year terms)

***Beth Belmore, Member-at-Large, 2026-2028** (third of three possible 2-year terms)

***Chris Wales, Member-at-Large, 2026-2028** (second of three possible 2-year terms)

Adam Havel, Member-at-Large, 2026-2028 (first of three possible 2-year terms, appointed to complete Ligia Rivera's year when she needed to step down in March)

*Jerry Behrendt, Member-at-Large, 2025-2027 (continuing, no vote required)

Margit Kindel, Member-at-Large, 2026-2028 (first of three possible 2-year terms)

Leadership Development Committee (also known as the Engagement Hub Team)

*Constance Harrington, 2025-2027 (continuing, no vote required)

Rafe School, 2026-2028 (first of two possible 2-year terms)

Amy Behrendt, 2026-2028 (first of two possible 2-year terms)

Mary Bend, 2026-2028 (first of two possible 2-year terms)

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

Governing Board Candidates:

Gary Crevier (he/him)
Incumbent Vice-President

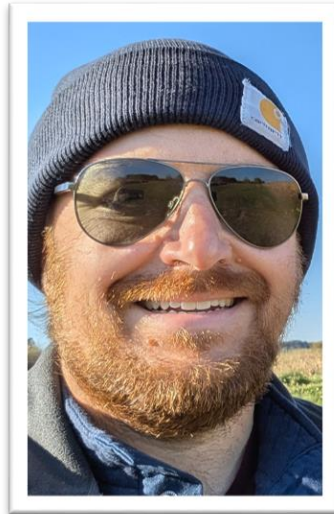


My passion for social justice is one of the main reasons I am a member of the UU Fellowship for two years now. I am a member of our Green Sanctuary and volunteer with my wife Helen here at the Fellowship whenever and wherever we can.

Over my past 19 years of retirement I've served on the board of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter and am presently on the board of ESTHER of the Fox Valley where I continue to work for social justice. Whenever the dignity of anyone or any part of creation is being abused, threatened or disrespected so is our own dignity, and the good of the community.

I enjoy riding out in nature on my e-bike, reading, meeting new people and enjoying my wife Helen's cooking.

Mark Panzer (he/him)
Secretary

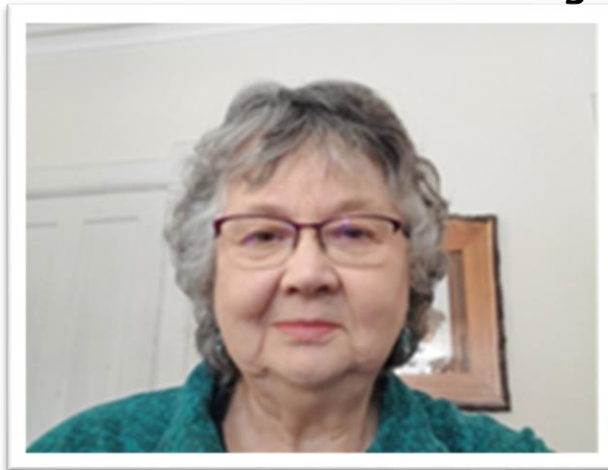


My family (my spouse and two kids) and I have been Fellowship members for 2 years. Serving on the Adult Faith Formation team has allowed me to support adult engagement at the Fellowship. Supporting the coffee service has allowed me to connect with so many other great UU members.

As a Systems Engineer in my professional life, I focus on my passion of supporting electrification, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and hybrid electric vehicles. This work has spanned a few decades and allowed me to contribute to the technology underlying these advances in the conservation of our planet.

When I get an opportunity, I'll be out running or biking the trails of the Fox Cities or tackling the latest woodworking project in my shop.

Beth Belmore (she/her)
Incumbent Member-at-Large



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 Congregation" program to support and celebrate LGBTQ+ people. 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.

Adam Havel (he/him)
Member-at-Large



Hello! I am Adam Havel. My wife Kristin and I officially joined the Fellowship in 2024. I've had a limited spiritual journey growing up in a non-religious household, but I did end up going to some Lutheran Churches prior to attending the UU.

At the Fellowship, I'm part of the Meaningful Fun Team, and I also help in Religious Exploration in the middle-school Crossing Paths program.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, family, friends, and pets. I also enjoy reading, playing games and video games, hiking, discing, bowling, and watching football. I am glad to be a part of the governing board and helping to make a difference in our Fellowship community.

Margit Kindel (she/her)
Member-at-Large



Hi my name is Margit Kindel. I have been a member of the Fellowship since December of 1995. At that time, we were in the Moose Lodge and it was very cozy with personal mugs hanging on the wall! The Director of Religious Education at the time, Ann Barker, made us feel very welcome with our special needs daughter. We were not familiar with UU at the time, but enjoyed the services.

Fast forward to 2026, and I have two grown children, one of whom still attends the Fellowship. During my years here I have been involved with teaching RE, working in the nursery and participating in many groups and committees. I have helped with the Partner Churches Committee and am currently on the Green Sanctuary Committee and Healthy Congregation Team. I have been involved with Journey Groups and the Women’s Group and volunteered for many fundraisers over the years. I am a committed environmentalist and try to live out those values in my everyday life. I LOVE to ride my bike – year-round if possible— and am grateful for the places I have been to do that. I look forward to helping out on the board and making the Fellowship the best it can be.

Chris Wales (she/her)
Incumbent Member-at-Large



My Fellowship journey started 16 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 Religious Exploration program, leading a Journey Group, starting a small group focused on exploring books with a spiritual theme, and then transitioning to becoming a member and later the chair of our Care Team. I am honored to continue to serve our Fellowship as a member of your Governing Board.

I have 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!

Leadership Development Committee Candidates:



Mary Bend (she/her)

I joined the Fellowship in 2001, a few years after moving to Appleton from Pennsylvania. I grew up in a Catholic family. In my twenties, I felt that I no longer belonged in my home religion. Through my early adult years, I often missed being part of a faith community. When my husband and I became parents, we joined the Fellowship. I volunteered as a teacher in the RE program at that time. Initially, we joined in large part to give our son a sense of religious history and spiritual grounding. However, I found that the beauty and spiritual wisdom of the community fed my own soul.

I retired from my job as a high school librarian at Appleton East in 2022. I loved working with teenagers. It was deeply satisfying to spend time with students, watch them grow and change. I always hoped that I contributed to their sense of worth and possibility through my caring attention and enthusiasm for ideas, books, and writing. In retirement, I continue to read widely and voraciously. I garden, walk in nature, and dabble in crafts and cooking. My husband is also a retired librarian (although a public librarian not a school librarian). Our adult son, Sam, is working in Minneapolis. We live a quiet kind of life in our Appleton home, with two cats and a large garden.

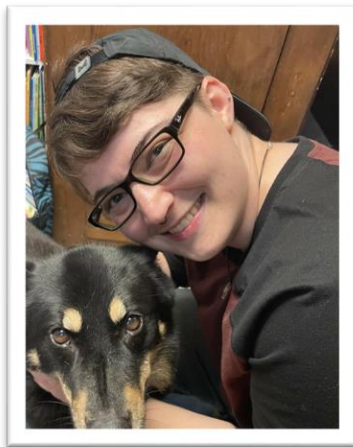
I have been absent from the Fellowship for a few years. Work stress, fatigue, overwhelm, and the pandemic all contributed to a desire to withdraw and stay home. My introverted instincts have so often led me to try to recharge on my own, though I realize that community is a necessary part of flourishing and healing. This past year, my husband and I have rejoined the Fellowship and it has been so moving to enter this welcoming space again.



Amy Behrendt (she/her)

My husband Jerry and I found the Fellowship in 2016, and loved the welcoming environment from day one. We have enjoyed watching our kids Peyton and Tyson make new friends, and grow in their spirituality right along with us. I previously have helped with religious exploration, and currently serve as an usher.

I have a degree in journalism, and have worked as a reporter and in PR/Marketing in the past. My current jobs both revolve around customer service, which is great because I LOVE helping people. When I'm not working or spending time with my family and rescue pup Sady, you can find me running (and probably stopping to pet all the dogs), discovering the world of Dungeons and Dragons, bowling, and volunteering for the rescue group, Wisconsin Adopt a Golden Retriever. I have been a volunteer for more than 20 years with the rescue, and on their board since 2022.



Rafe School (he/him)

I'm Rafe School and I have been a member of the Fellowship since 2024 and a lay worship leader since 2025.

As a Fox Valley native, I graduated from UWO with a degree in philosophy. I fill my time with reading, writing, knitting, and spending time with my loved ones.