



Confirmation Consideration January 2023

Nominating Committee of 2022-2023

Motion to be made by **Chloe Emily Ockey**, Chair of UUSJ Nominating Committee, at the meeting of UUSJ Board of Trustees, January 20, 2023:

- The Chair of the Nominating Committee moves for confirmation of the following individuals to the Nominating Committee for terms to be effective January 20, 2023, and terminating June 30, 2023.

Under Section 7.5 of the Bylaws, a majority of the Nominating Committee must not be Trustees of UUSJ, but the Chair must be a Trustee.

- The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Chloe Emily Ockey, a UUSJ Trustee, was previously elected to a one-year term ending June 30, 2023.
- A second Trustee on the Nominating Committee, **Vonna W. Heaton**, was previously elected to a one-year term ending June 30, 2023.

Non-Trustee NOMINEES:

Non-trustee candidates for confirmation by Board:

1. Micheal **Lennon**, Non-Trustee, Washington **D.C.**
2. Patricia **Marr**, Non-Trustee, state of **California**
3. Rita **Parks**, Non-Trustee, state of **Maryland**
4. Rev. Joan **VanBecelaere**, state of **Ohio**

BIOS:

- Trustee Bios are available [online](#)
- Non-Trustee Bios are available below on the next pages

Michael Lennon is a member of All Souls Church (ASC), Unitarian, Washington D.C., a Senior Fellow at George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Public Leadership (CEPL), a social entrepreneur, and a community "happtivist." He is a former IBM, PwCC and World Bank technologist and economist with deep experience assisting organizations and communities to innovate and transform their systems, management practices, and people.



Michael has diverse experience supporting the operation of the ASC congregation (e.g. Board Nominating committee, Governance team of the Transformation Team, etc). Professionally and communally, Michael specializes in activating collective intelligence through participatory evidence-based, action learning sprints – usually prototyping wellbeing and prosocial governance-related experiments and ventures targeting congregational, community, metropolitan, federal, and/or global impacts. These sprints weave insights from science, the marketplace, and from practitioner experiences into innovations aimed at both performance-boosting impacts and growing the experience of flourishing. Some of this well-being and “co-regulation” ventures include:

- Long-term ally to indigenous-led Transformational Collaboration between Indigenous nations and beneficiaries of colonialism to decolonize minds and systems; (through this work, he is also known to the UU Ministry For Earth);
- Negotiation of group forgiveness around collective trauma agreements (e.g. sexism, racism, privilege, etc);
- Equipping the Metropolitan Washington area Council of Governments (MWCOG) 50-year Strategic plan to monitor regional Well-being more accurately;
- Contributing to global technology design standards for supervising artificial intelligence's impact on social and ecological well-being;
- Prototyping tools for monitoring and co-regulating congregational well-being;
- Equip groups of social entrepreneurs (as well as, marginalized youth employment services) to incubate new knowledge advisory ventures based upon more skillful measurement and co-regulation of local mutualism.

A common byproduct of these learning sprints is transforming dread into delight -- regenerating collective capacity for transforming uncertainty & adversity into mutualism, adaptation, and renewal.

Patricia Marr is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, California, ([UUCLB](#)), and has been for 31 years. Pat joined the church after retiring from the court-reporting profession to be a stay-at-home mom.

Pat began her Social Justice journey in the early 1990s with the Social Concerns Committee of UUCLB. It was there she learned of the congregation's desire to establish a deeper connection with multi-faith, multi-cultural communities in Long Beach. She was the congregation's representative to the local Interfaith Council when she learned of an effort by the PICO National Network ([now Faith In Action](#)) to establish a faith-based community organizing non-profit in Long Beach (ICO), which she helped establish and is where she worked for many years.



Pat was the Service Project Coordinator for the 2004 UUA General Assembly, where fellow UUs generously donated \$70,000 to ICO's permanent year-round homeless shelter startup project, which is still in existence today.

As ICO finalizes its merger with its sibling PICO federation [LA Voice](#), Pat serves on ICO's board as its secretary. She also sits on the board of LA Voice, representing Long Beach, California. She is UUCLB's contact for community organizing at the congregation and community along with Minister, Rev. Lissa Gundlach. Pat is a member of UUCLB's Social Justice Council. When not organizing, she enjoys time with her delightful spouse, her magnificent children and their wonderful partners, and her two amazing grandchildren.

Rita Parks is a long-standing member of River Road Unitarian Universalists, in Bethesda, Maryland, where she currently co-chairs several racial justice initiatives via Racial Justice Pathways.

The Supporting Educational Access Racial Justice Pathway (SEAP) raises money for River Road's College Access Fund and awards deserving, financially challenged D.C. High School graduates 4-year scholarships.

Educating4Change Racial Justice Pathway (E4C) focuses on educational events that denounce systemic racism and promote antiracist learning and action. As part of E4C, Rita facilitated congregation-wide multi-media sessions on topics such as "Implicit Bias," "Exploring White Privilege," and discussions of books related to Racial Justice.

She is a former vice-chair of River Road's Board of Trustees and a former member of the Leadership & Nominations committee.

Rita co-chairs the Jewelry "store" at River Road's annual Bazaar.

For over 25 years, Rita was a Board member, Board secretary then Board Chair of Northwest Settlement House, which served the children and families in the Shaw community in D.C. since 1934 until the difficult decision to close during the pandemic in July 2020.

She is retired from IBM and also from her work as a consultant to facilitate organizations to become more effective with communications, processes, and technology.

As we return to a pandemic-driven "new normal," Rita hopes to find new ways to contribute using her abilities and passion for promoting racial and economic justice.



Rev. Joan VanBecelaere is a retired Unitarian Universalist community minister living in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to retirement, she was the Executive Director of Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio, where she worked in collaboration with dozens of local, statewide and national non-profits, voter advocacy groups, and other social justice organizations. Beginning in 2020 and continuing into 2022, she and her co-leader, the Rev. Dr. Susan K Smith, have trained over 200 clergy and social workers to act as PeaceKeepers for the Polls and conducted Community Conversations for voter engagement throughout the state and on zoom during the pandemic.



Prior to her work with UU Justice Ohio, Rev VanBecelaere was regional Lead with the Central East Region, district executive for the old Ohio Meadville District, vice president for student services at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, and taught as an adjunct instructor in UU polity. As a vice present at Iliff, she initiated the school's denominational support structure for UU students.

Rev. VanBecelaere received her MDiv from Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado. She has an MPA from the Graduate School of Public Administration at CU-Denver and a BA in Communications Arts from Lindenwood College, St Charles, Missouri, and extensive doctoral work in public administration and DMin classes from the University of Creation Spirituality.

Despite declining eyesight and mobility that led to her retirement, Rev VanBecelaere continues to serve on the board of the National Voter Empowerment Project, a nonprofit that supports increased voter engagement in under-represented and marginalized populations. She serves as treasurer on the board of the StoryTellers of Central Ohio and believes that effective story work can help us understand one another and change minds and hearts. In the past, she has also served on the Ohio Poor People's Campaign Coordinating Committee and the Ohio National Voter Registration Day Ohio organizing committee.

She is a member of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center, Ohio, where she has offered various classes, is helping start a new Social Justice Team, preaches occasionally, and loves to serve homemade goodies at coffee hour. She lives in Columbus with her spouse, Jerry, and four rambunctious felines.