

2023 Nominating Committee Report and Nominations

The current Nominating Committee members are;

Sheila Shea (co-chair), Deirdre McEachern (co-chair), Andrew McGeorge, Katharin Smith, and Cathy Okhuysen

We deeply thank Kim Schnell for his service to the Board of Trustees and Steve Pelletier, Elaine Beauchesne, Martha Cunningham and Anna Goldsmith for their years of service on the Personnel Committee as well as Sheila Shea, Deirdre McEachern and Cathy Okhuysen for their years of service on the Nominating Committee.

We are thrilled that Mark Eves will join the Board of Trustees and Greg Wurtz has agreed to be nominated to continue his service on the Board of Trustees.

Joining Alyssa Murphy on the Personnel Committee are Martha Netsch, Mary Banach and Judy Colavecchio.

Joining Katharin and Andrew on the Nominating Committee are Amanda Donovan, Cathy DiPentima, Joanne Foster, Meghan Harris and Rebecca Hennessey.

John Shea has agreed to serve another 3 year term as our Moderator.

Below are the nominations to be voted on at the 2023 annual meeting.

BOARD of TRUSTEES

Mark Eves (3 year term)

Mark Eves lives in North Berwick, Maine with his wife Laura and their three children Elaina, Lucas, and Naomi. Mark is the Executive Director of Woodfords Family Services a non-profit organization working with children and adults with autism and intellectual disabilities. Mark and his family have been members of South Church since 2012 after being drawn to the children's religious education program and finding a community where they can explore and grow in their spiritual journey together.

Greg Wurtz (3 year term)

Greg appreciates the opportunity to serve South Church for a second term as a member of the Board of Trustees. He has lived on the Seacoast for over 20 years and has been a member of South Church since 2015. Having served on the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee for five consecutive seasons, Greg has developed a sound understanding of the South Church community and mission. He recently helped facilitate the official naming process for the South Church Meeting House at 73 Court Street and has enjoyed performing as a member of the South Church Choir. Greg started his UU journey at First Church in Dedham, Massachusetts. Originally from Huntington, New York, he earned both his undergraduate and MBA degrees from Boston University. He currently directs client success in the healthcare data analytics field. Greg is the proud father of three young men and has a passion for sailing and maritime history.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mary Banach (3 year term)

Mary worked for 40 years as a social worker and teacher at various social services agencies and now enjoys basketmaking. She lives in Exeter with her son and joined South Church in 1980. Mary completed her term on the Social Justice Committee and has been involved with Fellowship Associates, the youth group and South Church Folk where she is inspired by singing.

Martha Netsch (3 year term)

Martha Netsch has been a member of South Church for 22 years. She has served in a variety of volunteer capacities including Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Fellowship Associates, Social Justice Associates, RE teacher, Personnel Committee, Committee on Ministry, Shared Ministry, and ABC campaign. She retired after 32 years as a Girl Scout Executive for NH & VT. She lives in Portsmouth with her husband Matt Madeira and their two young adult children Allison & Jason.

Judy Colavecchio (3 year term)

Judy Colavecchio has been a member of South Church since 1992. She has served on the Board of Trustees and was a Pocket Garden volunteer for 10 years. She enjoys retirement with her husband Tom Rogers in Newfields, NH. She will be forever grateful to the friend who introduced her to Unitarianism and South Church.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joanne Foster (2 year term)

Joanne (Jo) Foster joined South Church with her husband Peter in 2016, and has served two terms as a Social Justice Associate, and as a mentor for the Coming-of-Age program and is currently enjoying her third year as a member of the Pocket Garden scouting team. Jo's professional career spanned over thirty years where she served communities and nonprofits across Central Massachusetts in leadership positions while raising two daughters, serving in elected office, and a variety of volunteer roles. Since moving to Portsmouth and retiring from nonprofit management, Jo has been actively volunteering in electoral campaigns and with various nonprofits serving the region's unhoused community. Just recently, she joined the board of Womenaid of Greater Portsmouth. Her greatest joy is found in spending time with family, especially her 5-year-old grandson, Isla.

Amanda Donovan (2 year term)

Amanda Donovan has been attending South Church off and on since 1980. Early on, she was part of a committee that worked on a brochure for the church, which has been revised over time. She taught in the RE program for several years. She participated in a support group for caregivers of elderly parents. Most recently, for five years, she was a member of the volunteer coordinating team for Seacoast Family Promise. Married to Flynn and living in South Berwick, they have two grown children and five grandchildren. Her work life centered around children, Montessori, day care, and for twenty years in public school and now as a substitute teacher at

Sweet Pea Childcare. Her spare time is taken up with carving spoons, birds and small things.

Cathy DiPentima (2 year term)

Catherine DiPentima has a wonderful family including her husband of 53 years, two grown children and four grandchildren. She enjoyed a career in health care that spanned almost thirty years, working as an executive in Home Health and Hospice. She led small community organizations as well as large, complex groups for a Fortune Five Hundred Company. During her time as a South Church member, she chaired a search committee for an Interim Minister, served as a Board Member, an Endowment Committee Member, Fellowship associate, and coordinated Church Staff while our Ministers were on sabbatical. She looks forward to serving on the Nominating Committee.

Rebecca Hennessey (1 year term)

Rebecca Hennessey works at Backyard Garlic and St. John's Church. Garlic farmer, small business owner, and church administrator, she lives in Eliot, ME, with her daughter, Maren and her daughter's cat, Twig. Over the past 19 years, Rebecca has served, happily, at South Church as a Senior Youth advisor, OWL teacher, member of the Pocket Garden Committee, Committee on Ministry and Worship Associate. Rebecca enjoys poetry, photography, walking, running, throwing a frisbee, and exploring new places, meeting new faces, and learning new skills.

Megan Harris (2 year term)

Meghan Harris and her husband, Peter have been members of South Church for 28 years. Their three adult children grew up in South Church's RE Program. Meghan taught RE, was on the RE Council, chaired and worked on the Pocket Garden Tour many years, is a member of the Immigrant Support Fund Board, and organizes the Holiday decorations.

MODERATOR

John Shea (3 year term)

John Shea is an educator, writer, and hiker. He lives in Kittery with his family. His wife Sheila and he have been members of South Church for twenty years. He has served as a senior youth advisor, coordinated our congregation's first service trip to West Virginia, and has offered several Sunday sermons over the years. He is the co-chair of the Collaborative Governance Task Force and has served as church moderator for the past three years.