

Nominations for Board of Trustees

The Nominations Committee is presenting three candidates for the Board of Trustees. We posted the openings in the Beacon, and the Nominations Committee listed people they felt would make good board members. These names accounted for all demographics. We contacted the individuals and found three excellent candidates who felt they have the time to take part in board meetings and activities. The nominees will be present at one or both of the Town Hall meetings.

Lori Straatmann, Church member since 2014

Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:

Choir, Auction dinner host on multiple occasions, Pastoral Care Associates, Back-up for Youth in Action, Usher, Coffee host

My goals for the future of the church: My aim is to provide balance for the Board so all voices are heard and considered with respect. As a director at the University of Nebraska, working across departmental, cultural, and institutional lines, I believe I have the experience and skill sets that will be an asset to our church.

Some personal information about myself (profession, hobbies, interests, etc.):

I am the Director of Enrollment Operations for the UNL College of Engineering. I have been with the college for 21 years and have enjoyed all of my roles a great deal.

I am also the owner and artist of Bad Hare Pottery, specializing in Medieval and Viking era reproduction pottery. My husband, Michael, and I are avid historical reenactors, and I create many of our garments and accessories for the events we attend and facilitate.

I have a 17 yr.-old son, Nels, who earned his Eagle Rank here at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln 2 years ago. He will be leaving for college this fall, making my husband and me empty-nesters. I love singing in the choir, making things for the church auction, and seeing the occasional Marvel movie.

Trevor Jones, Church member since 2016

Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:

I am currently filling the remainder of Rich Little's term on the board as Board Secretary. I previously served as the liaison from the Facilities Cluster to the Program Council. I am also a teacher for the high school RGL class.

My goals for the future of the church:

I believe that the role of any board is to ensure financial stability and plan for the long term. My goal would be to work with the board, staff, and congregation to develop a new strategic plan for the church and help make sure that progress is made toward strategic goals. I believe in our recently adopted Program Council model and I will work to help strengthen and clarify roles and responsibilities in order to fulfill UCL's vision of being a "loving community uniting reason with spiritual exploration to transform ourselves and our world."

Some personal information about myself (profession, hobbies, interests, etc.):

I am director and CEO of History Nebraska (the Nebraska State Historical Society) a statewide organization with 75 employees and 25 buildings. I'm a beekeeper and avid traveler who remains obsessed with making the perfect bread.

Michael Krumm, Church member since 2015

Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:

I was drawn to the Unitarian Church of Lincoln because of its social consciousness. Our church is about questions, not answers, which distinguishes us from other churches. I became a member because of the authenticity of our church and its members.

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(Michael Krumm bio - continued from page 1)

Several members were kind to my wife, which was extremely important to me because of her disability related to Parkinson's Disease. Since Melinda's passing, I have had my own battle with cancer, which limited my participation last year. Things have improved. As a result, I do feel a need to serve my church and see this as an opportunity to fulfill that need.

My goals for the future of the church:

The things that are happening now are the future. The problem is determining which of those things will determine the future. Prediction is often flawed, but we can recognize those things as they happen and not be unaware or paralyzed. For example, it is obvious that we need to be concerned about growth, but at the same time, we should also keep our eye on development. They are not the same thing. Growth is about quantity. Development is about deeper relationships and quality. Development spurs commitment while growth can leave us empty. Are members attenders? Are attenders members? Do our members have commitment? What factors are going to determine the health of our church?

Some personal information about myself (profession, hobbies, interests, etc.):

Prior to retiring in 2011, to become full-time caregiver to my wife, Melinda, who passed away July 9, 2018 from Parkinson's Disease, I was the District Administrator of the Kewaskum School District in Wisconsin for 5 years, Superintendent of Schools in Iowa at the Ballard Community Schools for 12 years, and the Jesup Community Schools for 8 years. I was also a high school principal for 2 years and a language arts teacher for 12 years.

I made numerous presentations at state and national conventions on strategic direction, character education, scenario development, and resident artists in the schools as well as conducting workshops on bullying prevention and student advisement throughout Iowa, Wisconsin, and Germany. In addition to my presentations, I wrote over 45 articles for various educational publications and taught graduate classes for Viterbo, Upper Iowa, and Drake Universities.

Over the course of my career, I received many awards and honors for my work in the arts and character education including the Jeff Grimes Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa School Psychologist Association, the School Administrators of Iowa Award for supporting the arts, and the Iowa Band Masters Association Outstanding Administrators Award. I was honored by the Eastman School of Music for leadership in the Chamber Music Rural Residency Initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, named Outstanding Middle Level Educator in Iowa, and elected President of the Iowa Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Since moving to Lincoln, five years ago, I have returned to my college roots by taking up the tenor sax and writing poetry after a 45-year absence from both activities. I have derived considerable satisfaction from being part of the Eldon Drive Quartet.