

## Board of Trustees Candidates

### Erica Birky Rios



**Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:** I was dedicated at UCL and was very active as a young person. I participated in the About Your Sexuality curriculum (pre-OWL), served on the Prairie Star District Youth Steering committee, organized youth conferences regionally, attended national conventions, led a UU group on my college campus, and hosted a student conference. Returning to Lincoln in the mid-90's, I became a youth group leader and mentored youth in the Coming of Age program. Although my life path changed, at one point, I was considering divinity school and interviewed at Meadville Lombard in Chicago. UCL was such an important community to my mother, Amy Birky. After her second cancer diagnosis in 2019 and during the pandemic, the church organized a meal train which meant so much to not only her and me but to my children and extended family as well. The Zoom church groups she participated in were truly a gift that allowed her to connect meaningfully with her community in spite of the quarantine. After her passing in 2020, I knew that I wanted to become more involved at the church to feel a stronger connection with like-minded religious liberals and to give back to the community. I feel fortunate to have been active on the Worship Committee, the Welcoming Committee, UCL Indigenous Allies, and the Nominations Committee as well as to participate in the choir and MUUSE, Justice in Action, and 6300 Supper Club.

**My goals for the future of the church if elected/appointed:** We are at such a hopeful time on our journey to settling a new minister, and, if elected to the Board, I am fully ready to embrace this next step. I am excited about working with the Board, minister, and staff towards growing our congregation and encouraging more young families and adults to discover our church and, ultimately, find a religious home here. I believe we could consider moving back the start time of our services to 10:30 AM as one way to encourage participation from more people. I look forward to being an active member of the Board of Trustees in order to bring our mission and collective goals to fruition.

**Some personal information about myself:** I enjoy gardening, music, cooking, being out in nature, and spending time with my adult son and daughter and friends. I enjoy and support the cultural, community and culinary diversity in Lincoln and feel lucky to have access to the amazing arts and media opportunities we have in Lincoln. As I grow older, I have come to appreciate that time is the greatest gift that we can give; it is the one thing you can't get back. I look forward to dedicating more of my time to our church

community and to helping us thrive and grow.

## **Marcia Cedardahl**



**Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:** I served on the Program Council as cluster leader of adult programming and education for one year and then for 2.5 years as Program Council Chair. I am currently serving as the vice president of the Board of Trustees, having been asked to fill a vacancy, until the election. I was also on the board of Justice in Action and am starting to get involved again with this organization again after my husband, Ray, died in

January 2014.

**My goals for the future of the church if elected/appointed:** I am so proud to be a member of this church, and my hope would be that we continue to grow. As the mother of an adult child who is a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I love our commitment to this group and would love to see this area grow. In addition, I am a grandmother of three (that will hopefully be five before the end of the year), and I am hoping our children's program will grow and flourish.

**Some personal information about myself:** I am a retired nurse, having spent most of my career in hospice and palliative care. As a widow, I am acutely aware of how lacking we are in the country related to grief support. I am currently co-facilitating an adult grief support group at Mourning Hope. My dream is to have one at our church. I love learning and am active in OLLI through UNL; I especially love the travel component. My family will always come first, and I adore being Gramma.

## **Kathy Disney**



**Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:** I have served in a variety of roles since joining the church in 1998, primarily in governance (board service, management team, program council, nominations committee) and worship. I greatly enjoyed working on the church's 150th anniversary committee. Currently, I am chair of the Ministerial Search Committee and try to keep my little section of the grounds free of weeds. I am an occasional usher and Time For All Ages

content provider.

**My goals for the future of the church if elected/appointed:** With a new minister coming in, this is an exciting time to be in leadership. I hope that the church will continue its role in the greater community through Justice in Action, the Faith Alliance, and other outreach and that within our walls, we will nurture and support each other during these difficult times. I hope that we will challenge ourselves and each other to draw the circle ever wider so that all who come through our doors feel welcome and feel that they matter.

**Some personal information about myself:** My husband, Curt Donaldson, and I are self-employed property managers (read landlords), and that work keeps me busy, particularly during the grass-growing season. We enjoy watching old movies, especially “creature features,” on a Friday night.

## Program Council Chair Candidate

### Bob Haack



**Current and/or past involvement and experiences in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln:** I have been a church member since 1997. For the past two years, I have served as liaison for the Sunday Services Cluster on the Program Council. When Marcia Cederdahl was asked to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, I was asked to complete her term as Program Council chair. I am also a member of the A/V committee and sing in the UCL choir. In the past, I was a volunteer teacher for Sunday School and served a three-year term on the Management Team when that was the form of governance for our church.

**My goals for the future of the church if elected/appointed:** My main goal is to work with the council to make our decisions and actions more visible to the congregation. Although our meeting agendas and minutes are available to anyone who views them on the UCL website, I hope to find ways to more effectively publicize what the Program Council is doing throughout the church year.

**Some personal information about myself:** I was a public school teacher for 34 years (24 of those with LPS). I retired in 2018, and then took a part-time job in the Special Education Department at UN-L. I ended my employment there in 2022. I enjoy taking walks, bicycling, gardening, cooking, and reading.