

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE SLATE

Allison Starr
Colleen Kadleck
Deb Hope
Gillian Toland
Kathy Disney
Sandra Washington
Shelly Fowler

Dear Members of the Congregation,

The Board of Trustees has nominated the following church members to form the Ministerial Search Team. These seven individuals will be presented for a vote at the congregational meeting on June 8th.

The selection process for these volunteers was comprehensive and involved input from the entire membership. Please note that your vote will be for the entire slate of nominees. The process by which this group was assembled will be discussed further at upcoming Town Hall meetings on May 25 and June 1. We also want to clarify that self-nominations or nominations from the floor are not part of this process.

We are pleased to present the nominees:

Kathy Disney - I have been a member of UCL since 1998 and have been consistently involved in many aspects of church life, including board and management team service, as well as worship, membership, and other committee contributions. I have enjoyed and contributed to many of the social events at church, such as the 6300 Club and various auction offerings over the years. I believe I can bring strong institutional knowledge to this search committee, along with a commitment to finding a ministerial candidate who can propel UCL into a vibrant, inclusive, and compassionate future in our uncertain world.

Deb Hope - This year, I celebrate my 30th anniversary of joining the church, finding this community soon after starting my psychology faculty position at UNL. The Unitarian Church of Lincoln has been my community and spiritual home through the ups and downs of life and has broadened my understanding of faith and spirituality. I have served on a variety of committees and councils, including finance and fundraising, the capital campaign for the building remodel, and the LGBTQA Welcoming Committee. These days I am the coordinator for the monthly Coffee House. I am very honored to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. Especially in our current political climate, the Unitarian Church must thrive as a welcoming congregation, committed to social justice and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Gillian Toland - Hello, everyone! My name is Gillian Toland. I am a chocolatier and baker. I have been a member of UCL for one year, and I am so proud to be a part of this lovely faith community. You may have seen me singing with our church choir! UCL has been such a welcoming place for me. As a newer member, it would be a privilege to serve on the ministerial search committee. I would love to help us find our new settled minister and work towards building our future together.

Shelly Fowler - My first visit to The Unitarian Church of Lincoln was the summer of 89. During the service, we pushed all the chairs to the corners and danced together. I knew that I belonged

here. In 1993, my ex-husband (RIP) and I brought our 6 month old and two-year-old to find a church home and they grew up here. I started teaching/assisting in class with the kiddos right away, and joined the choir soon after. These have been my favorite ways to serve UCL throughout the years. I am excited to find a new way to serve my church family, searching for our new settled minister will be good hard work; I will bring my creativity, QUEER Joy, and gratitude.

Colleen Kadleck - I have been a church member for over 15 years and have served in various roles at the church. I have a sixteen year old son, Henry. I am a faculty member in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UNO and work mainly on the UNL campus. I wanted to serve on the ministerial search committee because it is an important process and the church is important to me.

Sandra Washington - I believe our Unitarian Universalist faith compels us to create beloved community, and each of us is responsible for participating in its creation, however we are able. Intentional service to this mission can be done in many ways. Over my long association with UCL, I have sung with the choir, served as a Sunday school teacher, been a member of many committees, the Program Council, and been a worship associate. In the last few years, I have taken a quieter approach in my service to our congregation and see the search committee as a way to actively serve UCL in our shared creation of beloved community. I bring with me multiple perspectives (black+woman+midwestern+mom+lesbian+scientist+policy wonk), as well as analytic and facilitator skills to the search committee.

Allison Starr - I have attended the Unitarian Church of Lincoln since I was born, and was dedicated by Rev. Charles Stephen. I became a member officially in 2019. Most recently, I have had the great privilege of serving on the Board of Trustees for a 3-year term. I have learned much about our beloved community, both in terms of policy and who we are together. Serving on the ministerial search committee means deepening my relationship with our church community, learning and listening, and representing us well to potential ministerial candidates.

We are grateful for the dedication and willingness of these members to serve our congregation in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees
Unitarian Church of Lincoln