

The Leadership Development Committee is pleased to present these 14 candidates for elected positions at VUU with terms beginning July 1, 2020.

These include:

- **Six candidates for the Board of Trustees to fill four vacancies**
- **Seven candidates for the Leadership Development Committee to fill five vacancies**
- **Three candidates for Special Funds Committee to fill two vacancies**

One each of the Board and LDC candidates will be elected to finish a term that was vacated during the first year.

Details on voting procedures will be provided as we get closer to the June 7 election date.

**Ken St. John
LDC Chair**



Mary Wolf-Francis, for Board of Trustees (appointed incumbent)

Mary Wolf-Francis was raised in a VERY Catholic family including attending 12 years of Catholic schooling. This built a strong religious foundation for her, but the patriarchal nature of the church didn't fit her personally. So she chose to raise her three now grown children in the Methodist Church, Dayspring to be specific which provided a much more liberal option for worship and a spiritual guide to living. Mary has always had a giving spirit and spent many years volunteering in her children's schools, in the neighborhoods in which she lived and other areas of the community. She strives to make her corner of the world a better place including sitting on many boards and commissions over the years. She is currently Development Director at ICM Food and Clothing Bank near downtown Phoenix serving the growing number of people all over the valley who find themselves in need of extra support during this time of crisis. As a relatively new member of VUU, she jumped right in to chair the Capital Campaign Committee in November of 2018 and continues to serve now on the board. She has truly found her home as a Unitarian Universalist and feels grateful to be a part of the VUU family.



Pam Swan, for Board of Trustees

We started coming to VUU in 2010 when it changed from being a church to a congregation. This was just the type of place I had been looking for... welcoming to all along a wide spiritual path. I was a member of the green sanctuary group and took over leadership of The Adopt a Road Highway clean up in 2012. I only live about a mile from "our road" so it was a great opportunity for me to be outside getting some exercise and sun while helping our little piece of the environment. I have served on the VUU auction committee for nine years including when it morphed into the very successful FUUND Together event. One of my responsibilities has continued to be the table set up each year. It is so rewarding to see how many people participate in our FUUND events. Although I have never served on a church board, I have had extensive leadership experience as a faculty member at

ASU. I was our program's PhD Director, the Chair of the Exercise and Wellness Department and was the Associate Director of the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion, thus I have experience working in organizational structures, and with people, policies, budgets and bylaws. As I am getting closer to retiring from ASU, I can see myself taking on more leadership roles with VUU to help implement the new chapter that our Congregation is visioning. My wife Ann and I both find VUU to be important in our lives and we are pleased to give back to the community as much as we are able.



Kevin Guhman, for Board of Trustees

My wife, Sarah, and I have felt truly welcomed and right at home from the moment we started coming to VUU two years ago. I've enjoyed participating in various activities, from the social suppers to the recent leadership seminar, as well as serving as a Coming of Age mentor last spring. I hope to further my involvement with VUU and give back to the community by serving on the Board of Trustees.

I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Engineering (with a minor in Environmental Studies) from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2002, and soon after moved to Arizona and started my own business in the RC car/hobby industry, designing and engineering parts that have been used around the world. Over the years I've delved into my passion for sustainability and the environment through volunteer work at The Phoenix Zoo, the South Mountain Environmental Education Center and the Arizona Sustainability Alliance. In addition, I'm a deep thinker and love pondering and researching sociological and philosophical topics.

I feel that my excellent communication skills, combined with my ability to listen thoughtfully and offer "outside-the-box" solutions, would make me a valuable asset to the board. I am deeply grateful for the community I've found at VUU, and look forward to working with you all.



Elizabeth (Libby) Bean, for Board of Trustees

I became a member of VUU almost exactly 2 years ago. I was raised in the Episcopalian faith, but after my best friend died when we were 12 years old, and then my father died when I was 15, I became angry with "God" for taking two of the most precious people in my life away from me so prematurely. I became interested in Unitarian Universalism shortly after I met my dear friend Jim Bennett. When he showed me the seven principles, they just seemed to speak to me, and so I began attending some services and very quickly learned that this really was the place for me, and very shortly thereafter became a member of the congregation. Since joining the

congregation, I have taken over scheduling the volunteers for the tech booth. I have also been a very active worker in the tech booth. I have fairly regularly also participated in helping to

serve our homeless community with Paz de Cristo and found it an incredibly rewarding experience.

I graduated from ASU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology with an emphasis in recombinant DNA technology. After deciding that I wanted to spend more time competing with my horses in the Hunter/Jumper show world than in the lab, I decided to start my own business as a horseshow photographer. Later I became a Real Estate Agent. I worked as a Realtor for almost 10 years where I was a multi-million-dollar producer. In 1998, I decided I wanted to turn my focus back to the horses. I bought a large property in Scottsdale and decided to jump headfirst into full time horse business.

After about 8 years of running my farm, buying/selling/breeding and showing horses, I fell on hard times with the horse business due to the actions of a less than ethical CPA. As a result, I found myself needing to undertake a career change. I pulled myself up, dusted myself off and enrolled in Paralegal School. I graduated with a 4.0 grade average with both national and institutional honors. Shortly after graduating, I was hired in the position I now hold as a Patent Consultant for Lodestar Patents, PLLC working as a Patent Agent under my boss's credentials. I write patent applications and prosecute them through the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

“No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Author unknown. This quote says it all for me. Showing how much you care is the first step in helping others to do the work, or to join in the movement, or any other facet of life.



Rebecca Riggs, for Leadership Development Committee (appointed incumbent)

I have been a member of VUU since the 1980s and raised my sons in this congregation. Over the years I have been a member of the choir, served on the Board of Trustees, been chairperson of the Religious Education committee, and been a Worship Associate, although most of those positions were held quite a long time ago. I have stepped away from leadership roles during the last several years, but still participate as one of the “worker bees” whenever I can. Valley UU is my spiritual home, and I want still do what I can to keep it strong and vibrant.



Beverly McCormick, for Leadership Development Committee (incumbent)

As a long term members of VUU, I have seen and been part of the evolution of our congregation and the way we conduct business. Previous positions I have held: Board Vice President and President, part of the team that purchased this building, religious education teacher, volunteer coordinator, membership committee, choir member, Ministerial Search Team and others.

It has been my pleasure to be part of the Leadership Development Committee once in the distant past, and the term I am currently completing. The success of our work has made me want to continue to remain a part of this committee, therefore I am a candidate for a position.



Joyce Donahue, for Leadership Development Committee

Originally from NY/NJ, my family moved to Arizona in 1994. I joined VUU in 2015. I recently retired from ASU, where I was an academic advisor and career counselor, working with Business and Engineering students for 23 years.

I am looking forward to making stronger connections with and greater contributions to the VUU community.



Lee Laskowski, for Leadership Development Committee

I have been a member of VUU since 2009. In the past I have been in the choir and bell choir. I have also been the kitchen person for potlucks (impromptu and planned), Cabaret, and auctions. I used to coordinate the café and pitched in for coffee service. I was also an advisor to the young adult group. In the last year before I moved to Charlotte for work, I served on what was then the Nominating Committee. While attending the UU Church of Charlotte, I was in the choir and bell choir and worked on the Sunday coffee crew. My mom and I even got tasked with refreshing the costumes for the Christmas Pageant. Outside of VUU I am

a mortgage underwriter and have been in that business for almost 20 years. My mom and I share a house with our dog, Gronk. I am excited to be back home where I belong in Phoenix and at VUU. I'm so happy to find that VUU is still a beacon of hope and a truly vibrant community. I look forward to serving the community and helping us grow.

Garry Klepser, for Leadership Development Committee



I started attending VUU Services in July of 2014. It wasn't long before I just had to join the choir. I became a member in October of 2015. Previously, beginning in 1999, I was a member of two other UU Congregations. I was privileged to serve in several ways including Board, Choir, Worship Committee, Finance and Nominating Committee. Currently I am also a member of the Finance Committee.

VUU is truly my Spiritual Home!



Rosaland (Roz) Hawkins, for Leadership Development Committee

Originally from St. Louis, MO, I took job transfer to Prescott Valley in 1999 and worked there for a manufacturing company in Human Resources until 2007. I left the workforce in 2015 to care for my grandson, Jaxson. Prior to that, I had spent 18 years in banking working my career from teller at Bank of America to a department manager at the Federal Reserve Bank. I had divorced in 1983 and raised 3 beautiful children. After they were all out of the home, I successfully completed by Bachelor of Science degree in

Professional Communication in 2008 while working full-time and serving in multiple community non-profits such as United Way (Board member & officer), Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Red Cross, Americorps, and Prescott Fine Arts. I left the workforce in 2015 to care for my grandson, Jaxson and now care for he and his sister, Josephine, full-time while my daughter works. I started attending the UU church in Prescott around 2003, then began attending VUU regularly in 2007 with my husband when I moved to Chandler. For many years, we were "friends" of VUU, but officially joined a few years ago. I have participated in several classes and currently serve on the Worship Associate team and the Lay Pastoral Associate team. I am excited to continue to serve this community.



Roberta (Bert) Baker, for Leadership Development Committee

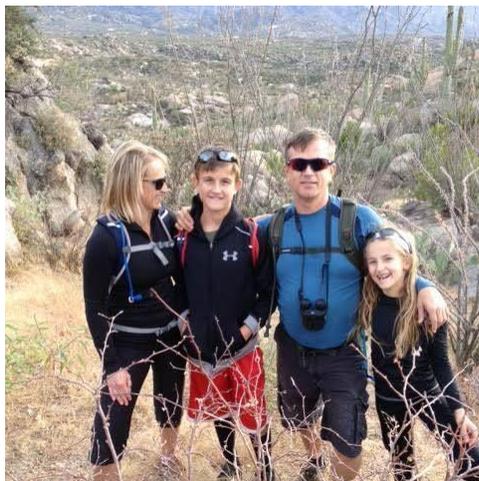
First attended VUU on Christmas Eve 2000 at Warner Road and was hooked! Choir consisted of 8 people and I joined immediately.

Became a member in October 2001. Since then I have helped with membership, cabaret, attend UUAZ where prime interests are social

justice for the tragedy of family separation at the border, prison reform, voting legislation, homelessness, maintaining our public school system and combating all other menacing plans to completely privatize our system of government. Work with the Climate Control Legislation group and serving on the Capital Planning Committee are pleasures.

Helping out is not only a gift to others, it is a gift to ourselves.

It would also be a pleasure to serve on the Leadership Development Committee.



Joel Sannes, for Special Funds Committee (incumbent)

I have had a lot of great experiences in different volunteer capacities with VUU. Serving on the Special Funds Committee has given me a perspective of what we want the Congregation to be in 10, 20 and 50 years from now, and that is what the Committee thinks of when it makes decisions. Most of our work is monitoring our investments which is usually easy but at times requires heavy thinking and open debate. My family has benefited greatly from our life in this Congregation, so it would be my pleasure and honor to serve another term on the Special Funds Committee.



David Sheh, for Special Funds Committee

I have been a UU for 21 years and a member of VUU for 19 years. I have served as Personnel chair, head usher, and a total of 6 years on the Board: 3 as president, 1 as secretary. I have participated in 8 Stewardship drives (including the last Capital Campaign drive). I was elected 2 terms (4 years) on the Leadership Development

Committee (LDC recruits candidates, puts on training seminars and runs the annual election). And am starting my 3rd and final term as Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) Secretary. I joined Finance in 2008 and was chosen Finance Chair in 2016. I enjoy all the VUU activities I can attend, which these days means zoom and computer screens. I have been exceptionally fortunate to be part of this VUU community that has given me an opportunity to learn, grow, and to matter. The day job is software engineer, which I am currently working from the relative safety of my front bedroom.

When I was approached to serve on Special Funds I was honored and excited, looking forward to growing the Endowment and using its earnings to best effect. The events since then have magnified the potential importance of that service, as the Endowment may provide the key to seeing VUU through this pandemic crisis intact. I have always felt that Special funds is able to speak for the saints, martyrs, and generations unborn in a way that no other group in the congregation can. Finding good discernment through all those competing perspectives will, I think, be even more challenging in the year ahead.

If elected, I will embrace that challenge and do whatever I can to continue supporting the mission of VUU.



Carl Anderson, for Special Funds Committee

Sue and I have been members of VUU since 1995, and I have had several opportunities to become involved in service to the congregation as we have pursued our spiritual journey. I have served on the Board of Directors twice, been a member of the Finance, Budget, Stewardship, Special Funds committees. I have

served as a facilitator of New Member classes and as a Worship Associate. Currently I am serving as a Lay Pastoral Care associate. I also am an instructor in the Our Whole Lives sexuality education program and help co-facilitate the Coming of Age program as well as help as a chaperone for the Agua Prieta and Boston Heritage trips with our youth. I am also a neighborhood contact for our Caring and Concerns group. Over our membership Sue and I have also hosted New Member Parties, and organized the Halloween Party for many years. I have been fortunate to be able to be part of this community.