



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

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## **CUC Board of Trustees 2020-2021**

### **Voting Board Members:**

#### Margaret Wanlin (West) – President

Margaret has been a member of Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship (LUF) in Thunder Bay, ON since 1992. She has served on the Board as a member-at-large and Treasurer. Margaret leads LUF's Global and Local initiative where we choose a global and local charity to support each year through fundraising at periodic, delicious and varied "Super Soup Sunday" after-church lunches.

Margaret and her husband Bruce's son Michael has participated extensively in Sunday Religious Exploration, OWL, Young YRUU, CanUUdle and UUUNO Spring Assembly. She is a witness to the hugely valuable, life-shaping impact of these offerings for our young people.

Her musings these days are about "grace" and how to bring grace to our lives, the lives of others and to the world.

In her other life Margaret has a consulting practice where she works on multi-party planning, forming and reforming institutions to do society's work, public policy, leadership development, community economic development, and building relationships between First Nations and other parties. Much of her work is focused on these two themes: interface between people and the natural world and the governance (leadership and policy) to make organizations and society work.

#### Chuck Shields (East) - Vice-President

Chuck is a life-long Unitarian, has been an active member of Ottawa 1st for many years, and has served on the CUC's Shining Lights Award team, the Northern Lights Program team and on the CUC Board since July 2018. He is retired from a career of leadership roles with national and international health organizations. He brings happiness and joy into his life by working with his wife, Lynn, to build a new home, by exploring good food and wine and by travelling.

#### Joanne Green (West) - Treasurer

Joanne grew up in Calgary, where her parents joined the Unitarian Church when she was eight years old. She was active in the Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) as a teenager, and many of the social justice actions of the 1960s. After obtaining a diploma from SAIT, Joanne worked as an



architectural technologist in Calgary and then British Columbia, and then Saskatchewan. She and her husband moved to Regina in 1996, and promptly joined the Unitarian Fellowship. She has attended several CUC conferences and several Western Regional Gatherings. She served 3 years on the CUC Nominating Committee and is in her first board term as Treasurer of the CUC.

Joanne has held several positions on the Regina Board of Trustees (President, Treasurer, Secretary) over 24 years. Currently she is Treasurer, co-chair of the Program committee and the Property committee. Joanne has also been involved with nominations, fundraising, and two Western Regional Gatherings held in Regina.

Joanne hopes to contribute to the well-being of the CUC and the board by bringing a view formed by her membership in a small congregation. She would like to help keep the CUC a viable institution by maintaining lines of communication between the Western region and the national organisation. Finally, Joanne would like to help promote the services of the CUC and the connectivity we are all working on.

#### Kiersten Moore (BC) - Secretary

Kiersten's early childhood was spent in the Baha'i faith which gave her a very strong sense of mystery, spirituality, and connection between the ideas of science and religion. In 1987 her faith journey continued at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since then, Kiersten has always sought out the Unitarian Universalist community everywhere she has lived, from Iowa to West Virginia, Washington D.C. to Kentucky. Kiersten moved to Canada with her family in 2014 and has been a member of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver since the fall of 2015; she accepted the position of Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth there in July 2016.

Kiersten was a founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Community of Frankfort, Kentucky, sitting on the steering committee which drafted the original bylaws. She served a term as Board President of UUCF in 2010. Kiersten initiated and ran a children's program two Sundays a month and volunteered in the larger church Religious Exploration program in Lexington. At the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, Kiersten was a member of the Visioning Task Force put together by their board in 2016 which drafted a new Vision and Mission statement through consultation and engagement of membership. In her role as Director of Religious Education, Kiersten has focused on building Unitarian identity, community, and trust between the children and is working with Reverend Steven Epperson to create meaningful and engaging



all ages worship on a monthly basis. Kiersten maintains membership with the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Religious Educators (CUURE) and Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) and is working on building her professional knowledge of faith development and administration.

Kiersten brings a rich experience of many Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist communities to her work. She has a passion for learning, hearing people's stories, and imagining new ways of doing things. She hopes to build upon the visionary work of the CUC Board and represent the perspective of families, young children, youth, and the professionals and lay leaders who serve them.

#### Glenna Hanley (East) - Board of Trustees

Glenna was born into a large family in a small town in NB. She worked as a teacher and a government clerk before discovering her true calling as a journalist. A bit of a rolling stone, she has lived in five provinces. In 2007 she returned to NB and discovered the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. She soon became an avid volunteer and rose from the ranks of Sunday morning coffee maker to a three-year stint as President of the Board.

She currently serves as past President of the Board, Chair of Hospitality and member of building and grounds, and public awareness committees. She is involved in many other activities, such as fundraising, adult education programs, and attending just about anything that is going on at the fellowship.

Given the direction in which western democracies are headed, Glenna believes UUism is the religion for our times, a place where people can find hope, renew spiritually and help make a better world.

Now retired, her major commitments are her local congregation, politics, and visits to her family in Norway. She wants to devote time to the CUC board and play a small part in seeing this unique movement grow throughout Canada.

#### Margaret Kohr (Central) - Board of Trustees

Born and raised in Ottawa, Margaret Kohr moved to Toronto in 1976, to begin a long career as a lawyer in the Ontario Public Service (now happily retired). She and her husband, Richard Kirsh, were married by a UU Lay Chaplain, in a ceremony that addressed their diverse faith



backgrounds. Later, when searching for a spiritual community where their two sons could explore religion in a liberal environment, they realized that their own principles and that of the UU faith were closely aligned and they became members of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

Over the past 25 years Margaret has had the privilege of volunteering at First on too many committees to mention, but highlights include: as an RE team teacher, as a member of the Ministerial Search Committee, as a member of the Board (two years as President), Denominational Convenor, and delegate for many, many CUC AGMs. Margaret is a retired Lay Chaplain, a member of First's Jewish Awareness Group, a supporter of the Syrian Refugee Project and a participant in the Central America Construction Expeditions.

She has been a consistent volunteer for the CUC including assisting the ED during the CRA Audit, and disentangling the licencing issues for Lay Chaplains, with the Marriage Office in Ontario. As a CUC Board member, she looks forward to gaining new connections with UUs nationally and to getting a better perspective of the issues facing congregations across the country.

#### Michael Scales (BC) - Board of Trustees

Michael considers himself to be a “mid-century-modern man” since he was born in San Francisco, in the exact middle of the century (1950). In addition, although it may appear that he might be made of teak, that is only because his parents were an interracial couple. More importantly, due to his Unitarian upbringing, he was not willing to support the war in Vietnam. So, just before he turned 18, he hitchhiked to Canada to live. Eventually, he became a special education teacher and a school psychologist in a number of towns around British Columbia. He retired last fall from that career and is now living in New Westminster.

As he was planning for his retirement, he realized that a successful retirement involves a person having some meaning in their life to replace the meaning that is often connected to their previous career. Since Michael does not have any of his four grandchildren in any town nearby to easily provide that meaning, he is hoping that his contribution to Unitarianism through service to the CUC will fill that void in a productive way. Michael hopes that the CUC will be one of the reasons he gets up each morning.

#### Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel (Central) - Board of Trustees/YOB Buddy

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Rod is the minister at the southernmost UU congregation in Canada, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda, which was founded as a Universalist church. He lives in Leamington ON, with his partner Sarah.

Originally from Mexico City, Rod has lived in Canada since the early 90s, spending some time in London, ON, and later going to Carleton University in Ottawa, graduating with a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management (B.PAPM). It was at Ottawa First that Rod found Unitarian Universalism, getting very involved with the Young Adults group, serving on the congregation's board, as well as Worship Associate and Lay Chaplain - this service was Rod's confirming experience in pursuing a call in ministry!

After going to seminary at the Montreal School of Theology (affiliated with McGill University) and serving as Board Secretary at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, Rod served as intern minister at Toronto First, and was ordained in 2016 at Neighbourhood UU Congregation in Toronto, where he is still a member.

Rod enjoys playing ukulele and exploring other forms of musical experience.

### **Observers:**

#### Fiona Butler (Sr. YOB)

Fiona lives in Saskatoon where she is taking a gap year. She loves being involved in the national UU youth community through sitting on staff teams for youth events and in her role as YOB. Fiona loves dance, plays the tuba and fiddle and has recently been doing lots of embroidery. She's really enjoyed her term as YOB so far and is very excited to see what the rest of the year brings!

#### Linnea Granberg (Jr. YOB)

Linnea lives in Toronto where she attends the University of Toronto, but is from Thunder Bay, ON. She is involved in the youth community in Canada, serving as staff at multiple conventions. She loves being one of YOBs and loves working with the CUC. In her free time, she sails in the summer, both teaching and racing, and in the winter she downhill skis. She also plays the flute and the Irish whistle.

#### Rev. Debra Thorne (MOB)



Rev Debra Thorne began serving the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo in the summer of 2019. She offers to our congregation her passion for building spiritually deep and meaningful community, her zest for life, and her creative and thoughtful message of human dignity and hope in hard times. Rev Debra has a background teaching acting for film and theatre. She is a spiritual director, a gardener, a creative cook, a mother of two, and a partner to Theo.



**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA**  
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