

2023 Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates and Board Officers

WUU Board

- **Linda Lane-Hamilton**, 3-year term, slot 4

Linda joined the Charlottesville UU congregation in 1973 and has been an active UU participant ever since. She then belonged to the early Williamsburg UU Fellowship (dissolved in the early 1980s) and the Peninsula UU Fellowship in Newport News. She was a founder of WUU, serving as chair of the organizing steering committee, and after WUU chartered serving on the board as the first vice-president and then second president of the congregation. Over the decades of WUU she has served in a variety of positions, most recently as co-chair of the Sabbatical Committee. She's chaired/co-chaired Nominating, Membership, Annual Giving, Leadership Training, Denominational Relations, Program Council, and in the early days the RE Committee. She has taught membership and leadership courses for WUU and the cluster. She served on both planning committees for WUU's building construction--*Home 95* for the sanctuary building and *Building Our Future* for the RE wing.



On the denominational level, she was president, VP and secretary of our UU district (now merged with other districts into the Southern Region) and chair of the Tidewater Cluster. She has received leadership training from the UUA—as a New Congregation Organizer in the mid 1990s, as a participant in Leadership School at the Mountain, in anti-racism trainings, and recently through the Extended Leadership Training Experience taught by Southern Region staff (online once COVID hit). For 32 years she was a career teacher of English, AP rhetoric and composition, and journalism, mostly at Lafayette High School, and advisor of the student newspaper. She and David met in 1981 at a UU congregation, where they were married, and will celebrate their 40th anniversary in November.

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- **Angela Surber**, 3-year term, slot 5

Angela became a member of the WUU in December of 2017 and has served in multiple roles: team leader for a Hospitality Team, co-chairing the Membership Team, worked on past auctions, yard sales, the Communications Team, Program Council, Caring Team, office volunteer, and special projects and fellowship events. Angela also serves on the Committee for Right Relations, Personnel Committee, and the Sabbatical Committee.



Angela works on a two-person real estate team with the main roles of marketing, communications, and transaction management. Prior to this position, she was an office manager for 10+ years at another real estate firm and a correctional officer. In addition to work at the WUU, Angela helps with the COFM winter shelter when possible, is a member of the League of Women Voters, the YJCW NAACP and the Toano Historical Society.

- **Phoebe Kent**, 3-year term, slot 6

With a career mostly in the nonprofit sector, Phoebe's last employment was in development/fundraising at Colonial Williamsburg for 17 years, retiring as development director of research and writing.

A committed UU since 1975, she joined WUU in 1995 when she and Jim moved to Williamsburg. Previously, she chaired the Marblehead (MA) Unitarian Universalist Church's Ministerial Relations Committee during a fraught period of ministerial change, and served ten years on the WUU Endowment Committee, working to build a lasting legacy.



"I treasure my multi-age covenant group that's met for more than a dozen years and my current Soul Matters sisters. Singing in the choir continues to be an important part of my WUU life. It was an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Sabbatical Team during Rev. Laura's absence," she said. Phoebe is on the Steering Committee for Senior Companions, in her second term on the Committee on Right Relations, and a member of the Caring Committee and the Aesthetics Team.

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- **Pat Russo**, 1-year term, slot 8

When Pat started attending WUU in the late 1990s, she immediately felt she had found her spiritual home. The decision to sign the membership book in October 1999 and officially join the UU faith after being born into Catholicism was not a decision taken lightly. After retiring in 2016, Pat became actively involved in various WUU committees and initiatives, including the Caring Committee, Leadership Development Team, Communications Team, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Lay Pastoral Care Associates, Breeze administration, Auction, Solar Panel project, the Yard Sale and most recently, the Sabbatical Committee. Each volunteer opportunity deepened the commitment to advancing the WUU mission and values, and to strengthening the relationships developed at WUU.



Pat moved from southwest Pennsylvania to Williamsburg in 1972 with her son and then-husband. A few years later, she began working in a physician's office and decided to go to nursing school. In 1981, her profession as a Registered Nurse began at Williamsburg Community Hospital in the ICU. The career path from staff RN to various nurse executive positions provided Pat many opportunities to learn compassion, resilience, critical thinking, leadership, and a sense of humor. Pat and her husband, Charles Apperson, live in Croaker and just celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary.

Committee for Right Relations

- **Fred Gilbertson**, 3-year term, slot 1

Fred is a charter member of WUU. He was on the Buildings and Grounds Committee before we had buildings and grounds. He was on the Music Committee when the sound system was Fred's or David Hamilton's boom box. Over succeeding years, he has been on a few Nominating Committees, a



Sabbatical Committee, a Ministerial Search Committee, assorted pledge drive teams, the Adopt a Highway team, the YRUU team, the Board, and he facilitates a Soul Matters group. He was a member of the group that developed the original Committee on Right Relations. He is retired from a career in social work, mostly at Eastern State Hospital.

Nominating Committee

- **Peter Mellette**, 3-year term, slot 1

Peter has had many roles and worked with many people at WUU, including two tours on the WUU Board; Stewardship chair; Lay Leadership Committee chair and leadership program facilitator; Trustee; Membership Team Chair, facilitator, and longtime member; RE teacher; Program Council member, and occasional legal advisor. Peter grew up in Richmond and graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in policy studies. After attending law school at the University of Richmond, Peter focused his law practice on representing health care providers of all shapes and sizes on regulatory, payment, and transactional issues. Peter's wife of 39 years, Kerry Crowley Mellette, previously worked as a nonprofit manager and fundraiser and her job brought them to Williamsburg from Richmond.



He's had the opportunity to meet many WUU congregants and hopes to contribute to the Nominating Committee. Peter participates in a variety of community and bar activities, including past service as chairman of the boards of the Virginia State Bar Clients' Protection Fund, Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg, Literacy for Life, Torch Club of Richmond, and the Rotary Club of Williamsburg. He currently serves on the Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation Board and is active with the Torch Club, the Virginia State Bar, and the Virginia Bar Association.

Endowment Committee

- **Allen Cooke**, 1-year term, slot 1

Molly and Allen moved to Williamsburg in 1999. They met while serving in the Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa and were married there in 1965. During the course of their 57 years together, they raised two children and lived in Indiana, New York, New Jersey and Texas as well as Hamburg, London and Hong Kong where Allen worked in senior systems management positions for Exxon. Since moving to Williamsburg, they performed volunteer work for Colonial Williamsburg, and Allen was a member of the First Night board for five years. They both joined the Williamsburg Choral Guild in 1999 and Allen was on the board for 8 years, serving as president for three of those years.



Raised in a Methodist family, Allen was an active participant in the church until he started drifting away during his college years. Molly and Allen began attending Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists in search of a spiritual community soon after moving to Williamsburg and are members of the WUU choir. They became WUU members in April 2007. Allen has served on the WUU Nominating Committee, as a member of the Worship Associate Committee, on the Sabbatical Committee, on the WUU Board as chair of the Finance Committee, on the Strategic Planning Committee, on the BOF team as lead of the Capital Campaign and as co-chair of the annual giving campaign. He served as a member of the Committee on Right Relations and recently as a trustee.

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- **Ann Tetrault**, 1-year term, slot 5

After serving on the Endowment committee for five years, including as chair, Ann agreed to fill a vacancy for an additional year. She has worked in a number of roles at WUU, including the annual giving campaign and Green Sanctuary committee.



Trustee

- **Stuart Saunders**, 5-year term, slot 1

After 53 years of practicing law, Stuart retired in 2020. He was involved, primarily, in criminal defense, handling court-appointed cases. He was a member of the Hampton public defender office from March 2005 to July 31, 2016. Today, he is an artist, ballroom dancer, and guitarist. He joined WUU in May 2018, started dancing and painting in November 2018, started playing the guitar in August 2021. “Basically, I began life at the age of 77!” he said. He’s pleased to add his legal expertise and care for our community as a Trustee.



Board Officer Nominees

- **Linda Lane Hamilton**, President 1-year term
 - Bio—see earlier statement
- **Pat Russo**, Vice President 1-year term
 - Bio—see earlier statement
- **Les Solomon**, Secretary 1-year term
 - Bio--Born and reared in the midwest, Les spent most of his career at USC (South Carolina) and in the federal government after completing graduate programs in Geography and Project Management. At the Census Bureau, he managed the college curriculum support project, led statistical training programs for international students and the Bureau’s new hires and served as Chief of Customer Services. Jo and Les retired to Williamsburg in 2008 to be near families in the Tidewater Area. For years, Les volunteered on several United Methodist Church projects doing demographic research to plan regional and state church programs, researching/publishing issues of gender and race salary equity among the clergy, and participating in a peace with justice mission to Israel/Palestine. Since retirement, he served as Membership chair and Vice President of the Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters. He joined WUU in 2006 because he wanted to participate in a liberal faith community that would become an integral part of his life, social justice activities, and spiritual growth. After serving as WUU president for the third time, he is delighted to have the opportunity to serve in a supporting role on the Board’s Executive Committee.