

# **First UMC of Evanston Leadership**

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Report from the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee

*Asterisk (\*) indicates new to the committee or role*

## CHURCH GOVERNANCE

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chair: Jessica Chadwick\*

Vice Chair: Matt Johnson\*

Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu

LMAC Rep: Jim Hagedorn

Class of 2027: George Asante\*, Mary Cauble\*, Obi Nnebedum\*

Class of 2026: Jessica Chadwick, Sam Erickson-Ely, Matt Johnson

Class of 2025: Todd Bowen, Linda Federer, Matt Peters

## BOOK OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chair: To be named by Trustees

Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

Liaison to Finance: TBD

Class of 2027: Grant Bailey\*, Don Baker\*, Carol Barnett\*

Class of 2026: Kris Kallembach, Rob Meyer, Joe Womack

Class of 2025: Catherine Cerra, Martha Rudy, Cardelle Spangler

The BoT serves as the steward of the church's building and investments. Trustees liaise with community around neighborhood development and special events (i.e. Evanston Garden Walk, Open House Chicago). Near-term major projects include roof, leaded windows.

### *Trustee Subcommittees*

#### **Investment Subcommittee**

Chair: to be named by Trustees

Class of 2027: Eric Alonso, Geoff Renk

Class of 2026: Bob Hetzel, Andrew Baker  
Class of 2025: Phil Carihfield, Karen Young

**Planned Giving**  
*Pending, pending*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Rich Grodsky\*  
Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox  
Church Treasurer: Nancy Pendergrass (interim until Dec. 31)  
Church Financial Secretary: Melissa Appelt\*  
Liaison from SPRC: TBD  
Liaison from Board of Trustees: TBD  
Liaison from Church Council: TBD  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Phil Carihfield

Finance Committee Members at Large:  
Class of 2027: Tom Clemens\*, John Cheney Egan\*, *pending*  
Class of 2026: Rich Grodsky, Shirley Keene-Gefvert, Katy Clusen\*  
Class of 2025: Melissa Appelt, Diane Baker, *pending*

**NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Chair: Rev. Grace Imathiu, Senior Pastor  
Vice Chair: Mike Bergmann\*  
Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2027: Jon Fox\*, Evelyn McGowan\*, Sydney Harkrider\*  
Class of 2026: Nancy Pendergrass, Mike Bergmann, Liz Blackwell, Emily McClintock  
Class of 2025: Cherie Asante, Julia Jackson

The committee works to (1) identify and nurture the gifts and passions of the congregation; (2) on the basis of those gifts and passions, identify and recruit persons for various First Church leadership and other ministry roles; and (3) provide intentional leadership development opportunities for adults and youth.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair: Beth Swanick

Senior Pastor: Rev Grace Imathiu  
Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Henry Pleas

Class of 2027: Jeff Carlton\*, *pending*  
Class of 2026: Craig Chambers, Paul Kalil, Abby Neal  
Class of 2025: Katie Brick, Abbey Ogunbola, Beth Swanick, Marion Clemens

The work of SPRC includes: budgeting (negotiating with Finance and Stewardship committees, get alignment and agreement), hiring and firing (writing job descriptions, posting jobs, interviewing, offer letters, termination letters); conflict resolution staff-to-staff and congregant-to-staff; responding to e-mails and other feedback from congregation; soliciting feedback from the congregation; update handbook; review benefits; prepare for church conference; create staff plans/goals/strategies that support the church's strategic vision; support and encourage the staff; advocate for the staff; meet with staff and listen; annual plans and feedback for the staff.

## PROGRAMMATIC COMMITTEES AND INTEREST GROUPS

### **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Chair: Dennis Barbour  
Vice Chair: Jan Womack  
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2027: Joe Agne\*, Ron Anderson\*, Dexter Bailey\*  
Class of 2026: Dennis Barbour, Jan Womack, Linda Brennan\*  
Class of 2025: Elizabeth Cummings, Greg Pool, Allison Greer

The mission of the Adult Council is to provide opportunities to learn, reflect, and explore in a supportive community so that we can grow in our relationship with God and each other, and learn how to live out our faith in the world. Our goal is to offer a variety of formats and topics throughout the program year that support the strategic plan.

### **ARCHIVES**

Co-Chairs: Patty Baker & Cate Whitcomb  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Members: Marge Bradford, Marcia Epting, Janet Lutz, Barb Miller, Joann Rea, John Rea, Jennie Schumann\*

The Archives exist to organize and retain documents, media and memorabilia that tell the history of the church's membership, worship committee activities and mission outreach.

## **CHILDREN'S COUNCIL**

Chair: Jessica Radcliffe  
Staff Liaison: Colin McDonald

Class of 2027: Eli Hetland\*, Zoe Dillon\* (youth); Griffin O'Connor\* (youth)  
Class of 2026: Laura Curry, Mary Hetzel, Phil Thrush, Stephanie Peters\*  
Class of 2025: Will Borders, Matlidah Dondo, Jessica Radcliffe

Children's Council acts as both a work committee and an advisory board to the Director of Children's Ministry. The Children's Council focuses on formulating and supporting the vision of our various children's ministries. We consult with the Director of Children's Ministries to plan the yearlong calendar. Under the umbrella of Children's Ministries are the following programs: Sunday School, Chapel, Connect 56, Nursery, Summer Camps (Creation Camp, VBS, Family Camp), Fellowship Groups (Jump and Club 123), Pageant, and holiday celebrations (e.g, Advent, Lent, Easter).

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair: Andrew Shotwell  
Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2027: Beverly Olson\*, Matt Diener\*,  
Class of 2026: Andrew Shotwell, Bruce Baumberger, Joe Bare\*  
Class of 2025: Wendy Istvanick, Frank Montagna\*

To improve the tools and messages used to connect our congregation and the community to the First Church mission.

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Susan Prout  
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2027: Brooke Cline\*, Jim Erickson\*, Teresa Grodsky\*

Class of 2026: Karen Bailey, Connie Gilman, Genevieve Costello, Keith Slater

Class of 2025: John Kerastas, Susan Prout, Barbara Sittler

***Congregational Care Subcommittees:***

<b><i>Greeting Card Ministry:</i></b>	Glynis Doyle
<b><i>Lay Visitor (Leaders):</i></b>	Janet Lutz
<b><i>Meals Ministry:</i></b>	TBD
<b><i>Memorial Receptions:</i></b>	Susan Prout & Keith Slater*
<b><i>Advent Luncheon:</i></b>	Stephanie Clemson

The Congregational Care committee is made up of chairs of the subcommittees (Greeting Card ministries, Lay Visitor leaders, Meals Ministry, etc.) and members-at-large. Their mission is to support the work of these various ministries.

**FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL**

Co-Chairs: Lee Rader and Tom Scott

Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2027: Glynis Doyle\*, Virginia Lee\*, Mari Leonard\*

Class of 2026: Marlyse Wiebenga, Andrew Schumacher, Marge Bradford\*

Class of 2025: Jim Johnson, Lee Rader, Tom Scott

The Faith Formation Council offers groups, classes and other resources that help participants to grow in their relationship with God and to connect with one another through prayer, reflection, and sharing of their faith journeys. We believe that through deepening spiritual practices, participants will be better equipped to love and act in the example of Jesus, who himself was deeply grounded in these practices.

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair: Cherie Asante

Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2027: Deborah Hays\*, Kelsey Morton\*

Class of 2026: Matt Peters\*

Class of 2025: Cherie Asante, Krys Juleen, Leah Holzwarth

The Fellowship Committee coordinates after-worship community hour and leads all-church special events including Rally Day and the Chili Cookoff. The committee loosely oversees ongoing fellowship groups.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair: Lynelle Diener\*  
Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2027: Lynelle Diener\*, Liz Raymond\*  
Class of 2026: Julie Womack, Debbie Zimmerman  
Class of 2025: Jean Clipperton\*, Matt Rader\*, David Smith\*

The Membership Committee works to think strategically about and develop strategies for inviting and welcoming visitors into the church; connecting and engaging both visitor and members to opportunities for “growing in our relationships with God and living our faith in the world”; encouraging discernment and participation in the Inquirers membership process, and strategies for promoting member retention.

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Chair: Beth Tipton  
Clergy: Rev. Britt Cox

Class of 2027: Karin Dillon\*, *pending, pending*  
Class of 2026: Sharon Campbell, Dave Koester, Beth Tipton  
Class of 2025: Ann Weatherhead, Steve Betzner\*, Rich Hobson

### ***M & O ministry area leaders***

#### ***Bundled Blessings Diaper Bank***

Nancy Brown & Sue Hagedorn (co-chairs), Dexter Bailey, John Bausch\*, Lynne Carlton\*, David D’Arcy, Tina Kalil, Pam Kendall, Krys Juleen, Shanah Slade, Caroline Wagner

***Emergency Overnight Shelter***      TBD

***First Friday Lunches***

Rebecca Beiter (lead), Kathryn Calkins, Willi and Marcia Epting, Bob and Susan Henderson, Mary Hetzel, Pam Johnson, Barb Miller, Diana Mawhinney

<i>Sunday Lunches (twice/month)</i>	TBD
<i>Change for Change</i>	Beth Tipton
<i>SNAPGap (Interfaith Action)</i>	Melissa Appelt
<i>Soup Kitchen</i>	Dave Koester and Ann Weatherhead
<i>Star Tree</i>	Linda MacCracken
<i>Walk for Warmth (Interfaith Action)</i>	Melissa Appelt, Ann Weatherhead

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR**

Coordinator: Bonny Roth\*

The Social Justice Coordinator facilitates coordination between the three groups in the Social Justice area with the goal of (1) identifying collaborative opportunities within the SJ area; and (2) providing opportunities for the congregation to engage in hands-on justice and activism work. The Social Justice Coordinator's role at First Church is analogous to the Board of Church and Society's role in the United Methodist Church.

### **Race and Ethnicity**

Chair: Tom Butler  
Staff: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Tom Butler, Mary Cauble, Robert Harris, Lisa Jacob\*

### **Earth Care Committee**

Chair: Judith Campbell\*  
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class 2027: Scott Fosdick\*, Marianne Griebler\*

Class of 2026: Phyllis Bird, Judith Campbell, Jason Lewis\*, Roxann Specht\*

Class of 2025: Kathryn Calkins, Alex Chadwick\*, Eileen Chambers, Paula Scholl

### **Reconciling Congregation Task Force**

Chair: B.J. Birkhahn-Rommelfanger  
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

B.J. Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Kathy Cheney-Egan, Antoinette Senjanovich\*

To celebrate First Church as a fully inclusive congregation and to hold the church accountable for living up to that inclusivity. Priority for this coming year: What is the role of this group now? (What is RMN focusing on now?)

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs: Paula Scholl and Dan Owens\*

Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Catherine Cerra

Marion Clemens

Ivy Joe Kuruvila

Linda MacCracken

Steve Prout

Beth Swanick

Tom Scott

Ed Webler

Cate Whitcomb

### **YOUTH COUNCIL - *in progress***

Chair:

Staff Liaison: Sydney Harkrider

Class of 2027:

Class of 2026:

Class of 2025: Jackie Owens, Devon Thrush

Youth Council members serve as creative planners, vision keepers and advisors to the Youth Ministry of First Church including learning (classes), serving (mission trips and local service work) and connecting in community (engaging kids in this community).

### **OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES**

### **LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Representing this congregation (July 2024-July 2028)



Phil Crihfield (LMAC rep to Finance)  
Jim Hagedorn\* (LMAC rep to Church Council)  
Leah Holzwarth\*  
Henry Pleas\* (LMAC rep to SPRC)  
Colin McDonald

Alternates: Grant Bailey, Katie Brick

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE, LAKE NORTH DISTRICT, AND  
JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP**

*(pending June 18 NIC Annual Conference and beginning July 2024)*

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate: Nancy Pendergrass (lay)

Jurisdictional Conference Reserve Delegate: Rev. Britt Cox (clergy)

NIC Annual Conference Committee: Martha Rudy

NIC Annual Conference Shepherding Team: Rev. Britt Cox (Justice and Mercy Ministries Designate)

NIC Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries: Ilsup Ahn (Co-Chair), Katie Brick

NIC Board of Ordained Ministry: Rev. Britt Cox

NIC Board of Pensions: Beth Swanick

NIC Board of Trustees: Grant Bailey

NIC Council on Finance and Administration: Rebecca Smith

NIC Council on Young People's Ministries: Jim Hagedorn

NIC Committee on Personnel: Jim Hagedorn

NIC Commission on Archives & History: Cate Whitcomb

NIC Credentials Committee - Nancy Pendergrass

NIC Assistant Secretary for Standing Rules: Nancy Pendergrass

Lake North District Committee on Church Building and Location: Martha Rudy

Lake North District Youth Lay Member to Annual Conference: Laura Thrush

**Church Conference Recording Secretary**

Cheryl Haack

**Interfaith Action of Evanston**

Ann Weatherhead, delegate

Melissa Appelt, Board President

**University Christian Ministry Board**

Katie Brick

**TOTAL CHILD BOARD**

Chair: Lisa Kampwirth, Total Child Director

Board Chair: Jackie Owens\* (church member, TC parent)

Treasurer: Jeff Wolfe\* (church member)

Executive Pastor and Staff Liaison: Rev. Britt Cox

Members at Large:

Nasim Alexander (TC parent)

Nancy Ansorge (former TC teacher)

Lorraine Murphy (TC parent)

Miles Shultz (church member, TC parent)

Advisory board for Total Child Preschool

8/1/2024