

First UMC of Evanston Leadership

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Report from the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee

Asterisk () indicates new to the committee*

*Two Asterisks (**) indicates returning to the committee in new term*

CHURCH GOVERNANCE

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair: Steve Prout

Vice Chair: Jessica Chadwick

Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

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

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

Class of 2024: Carol Barnett, Phil Crihfield, Steve Prout

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Elaine Moy Johnson

Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

Investment Consultant: Geoff Renk

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

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

Class of 2024: Eric Alonso, Jim Hagedorn, Elaine Moy Johnson

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: Eric Alonso

Class of 2026: Bob Hetzel, Andrew Baker*
Class of 2025: Phil Crihfield, Karen Young
Class of 2024: Eric Alonso, Geoff Renk

Planned Giving: TBD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: George Asante
Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox
Church Treasurer: Nancy Pendergrass
Church Financial Secretary: Bryan Wagner
SPRC: TBD
Board of Trustees: TBD
Lay member to Annual Conference: TBD

Finance Committee Members at Large:

Class of 2026: Rich Grodsky*, Shirley Keene-Gefvert**, Hugh Williams*
Class of 2025: Melissa Appelt, George Asante, Diane Baker*
Class of 2024: Don Bender, Nancy Pendergrass, Bob Hetzel

The Finance Committee's main purpose and highest priority is to ensure the short- and long-term financial viability of the Church, through oversight of the Church's financial policies and timely monitoring of the Church's current financial state. This work includes coordinating the preparation of the annual budget, monthly review of financial statements and the annual audit. Also the Committee has individual liaison relationships with the staff and committee leaders that is meant to enhance the knowledge and understanding of each of the ministry areas for the finance committee, increase communication between the Finance Committee and the ministry areas, and to provide business support to the ministry areas on fiscal related topics in their area as they carry out the work of the ministry and stewardship of the church.

NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Class of 2026: Nancy Pendergrass**, Mike Bergmann*, Liz Blackwell**, Emily McClintock*
Class of 2025: Cherie Asante, Julia Jackson, Grant Bailey**
Class of 2024: Jan Chapin, Don Baker

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 -or 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: TBD

Class of 2026: Craig Chambers*, Paul Kalil*, Abby Neal*
Class of 2025: Katie Brick, Abbey Ogunbola
Class of 2024: Beth Swanick, David Cerra, Marion Clemens, Devon Thrush

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

Co-Chairs: Henry Carrigan, Allison Greer
Staff Liaison: Colin McDonald

Class of 2026: Dennis Barbour*, Jan Womack*
Class of 2025: Elizabeth Cummings, Greg Pool, James Watts, Allison Greer*
Class of 2024: Henry Carrigan, Judy Freitag, Sharon Rader*

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

The Archives Committee organizes and maintains historic and recent church records and responds to requests for information.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

Chair: Jessica Radcliffe*

Staff Liaison: Colin McDonald

Class of 2026: Laura Curry*, Phil Thrush*

Class of 2025: Will Borders, Matlidah Dondo*, Jessica Radcliffe*

Class of 2024: Katy Clusen, Mary Hetzel, Dan Owens

The 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 2026: Andrew Shotwell**, Nancy Barbour*, Bruce Baumberger*

Class of 2025: Wendy Istvanick

Class of 2024: Karen Jordan Farr, Todd Kibbey, Lauren McDonald

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: Grace Imathiu

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

Class of 2025: Joe Agne, John Kerastas

Class of 2024: Susan Prout, Kathy Ryan, Barbara Sittler

Congregational Care Subcommittees:

<i>Greeting Card Ministry:</i>	Glynis Doyle
<i>Lay Visitor (Leaders):</i>	Janet Lutz
<i>Meals Ministry:</i>	Cheryl Price*
<i>Memorial Receptions:</i>	Susan Prout & pending
<i>Advent Luncheon:</i>	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: Grace Imathiu

Class of 2026: Marlyse Wiebenga*
Class of 2025: Liz Lithio, Jim Johnson, Lee Rader, Tom Scott
Class of 2024: Andrew Schumacher, Ann Robbins

The FFC serves as a “covenant group” that focuses on implementing new groups based on feedback from congregation and keeping in mind our church’s goals and mission. We work with Pastor Grace Imathiu to support ongoing small groups, plan new groups, and assess their effectiveness.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Cherie Asante
Staff Liaison: pending

Tentative class assignments:
Class of 2026: *pending*
Class of 2025: Cherie Asante*, Krys Juleen*
Class of 2024: Leah Holzwarth**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Mark Henry
Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2026: Christine Taylor Conda*, Julie Womack*, Debbie Zimmerman*
Class of 2025: OPEN
Class of 2024: Christian Farr, Lambert Habonimana*, Mark Henry

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: Alli Henry

Vice Chair: Beth Tipton

Clergy: Rev. Britt Cox

Class of 2026: Sharon Campbell*, Dave Koester*, Beth Tipton**

Class of 2025: Ann Weatherhead**

Class of 2024: Rich Hobson, Alli Henry, Lynn Forbing

M & O ministry area leaders

Adult Mission Trips Grant Bailey

Alternative Christmas Giving Beth Tipton

Bundled Blessings Diaper Pantry

Nancy Brown & Sue Hagedorn (co-chairs), Dexter Bailey, David D’Arcy, Tina Kalil, Pam Kendall, Krys Juleen, Mike McGowan, Shanah Slade, Caroline Wagner

Emergency Overnight Shelter TBD

ESCCA Alli Henry

First Friday Lunches Rebecca Beiter

Habitat for Humanity Joe Haughney

Sunday Lunches (twice/month) Rich Hobson, Ann Weatherhead

Change for Change Alli Henry

The Night Ministry Ann Weatherhead

SNAPGap (Interfaith Action) Melissa Appelt

Soup Kitchen Dave Koester*

Star Tree

Bev Otey

Refugee Ministry

Pam Kendall

Walk for Warmth (Interfaith Action) Melissa Appelt, Ann Weatherhead

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Tom Butler

Staff: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Tom Butler, Mary Cauble, Robert Harris

Current focus on education and engagement addressing racism

Earth Care Committee

Chair: Eileen Chambers

Vice Chair: Judith Campbell*

Staff Liaison: Grace Imathiu

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

Class of 2025: Kathryn Calkins, Alex Chadwick*, Betsy Ingle*, Paula Scholl

Class of 2024: Phyllis Bird, Eileen Chambers, Emma Jackson*

Reconciling Congregation Task Force

Chair: Rev. B.J. Birkhahn-Rommelfanger*

Staff Liaison: Grace Imathiu

B.J. Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Kathy Cheney-Egan, Beth Swanick

To celebrate First Church as a fully inclusive congregation and to hold the church accountable for living up to that inclusivity.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Catherine Cerra* and Paula Scholl*

Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu
Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

Members:

Marion Clemens
Leah Holzwarth
Abbey Ogunbola
Beth Swanick
Ed Webler
Cate Whitcomb

YOUTH COUNCIL

Chair: Jim Hagedorn
Staff Liaison: Sydney Harkrider

Class of 2025: Jackie Owens, Devon Thrush
Class of 2024: Janet Simpson, Jim Hagedorn

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:

Term ends July 2024

Grant Bailey
Phil Carihfield
Elaine Moy Johnson
Rebecca Smith
Colin McDonald

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

(through June 2024)

NIC Annual Conference Committee: Martha Rudy

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

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 Committee on Investigation: Kathy Cheney-Egan, Anne Hampson

NIC Council on Finance and Administration: Rebecca Smith

NIC Council on Young People's Ministries: Jim Hagedorn

NIC Nominations Committee: Nancy Pendergrass

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

Jurisdictional Conference Reserve Delegate: Nancy Pendergrass (lay); Rev. Britt Cox (clergy)

Church Conference Recording Secretary

Cheryl Haack

Interfaith Action of Evanston

Ann Weatherhead

Melissa Appelt, Board President

University Christian Ministry Board

Katie Brick

TOTAL CHILD BOARD

Chair: Lisa Kampwirth*, Total Child Director

Board Chair: Kyle Davis (church member, TC parent)

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

Treasurer: Brian Starr (church member)

Vice Treasurer: OPEN – for transition to Treasurer ASAP

Executive Pastor and Staff Liaison: Rev. Britt Cox

Members at Large:

Nancy Ansorge (non church member, former TC teacher)
Deb Hays (church member)
Lorraine Murphy (TC parent)
Miles Shultz (church members, TC parent)

Advisory board for Total Child Preschool

7/17/2023