

First UMC of Evanston Leadership

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Report from the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee

Asterisk () indicates new to the committee or role*

CHURCH GOVERNANCE

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair: Matt Moy Johnson (1-year term)

Vice Chair: Obi Fox-Nnebedum

Senior Pastor: Rev. Paul Lee

Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Phil Carihfield

SPRC Chair or Vice Chair: Matt Rader

Finance Chair or Treasurer: Eric Alonso

Trustee Vice Chair or delegate: Dave Koester

Nominations & Leadership Dev. Vice Chair: Mike Cline

Spiritual Growth Cluster designee: Chris Baker

Fellowship/Cong. Care Cluster designee: Bob Berry

M&O/Social Justice Cluster designee: Beth Tipton

Communications/Membership Cluster designee: Jeanne-Marie Daly

Congregation Members-at-Large:

George Asante (1-year term)

Mary Cauble (1-year term)

Hannah McLean, Young Adult rep (2-year term)

Church Council: The governing body of the church is responsible for general oversight and direction. It develops our long-range plan and guides the church in its implementation. This structure was approved to begin July 2026. It meets approximately 8 times per year. Members serve 1 or 2 years. Membership includes representatives from multiple committees/groups as listed above.

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Carol Barnett

Pastor: Rev. Paul Lee

Liaison to Finance: TBD

Class of 2029: Steve Betzner*, Dave Koester*, Chris Webler*

Class of 2028: Hugh Williams, Cheryl Haack*, Emily McClintock*

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

Board of Trustees: The Trustees are stewards of our endowment, investments and properties (the church and the parish residences). They meet monthly. They designate members to the Investment sub-committee. Terms of service are 3 years with 3 people elected each year.

Trustee Subcommittees

Investment Subcommittee

Chair: Carol Barnett

Class of 2028: Charlotte Winters

Class of 2027: Eric Alonso, Carol Barnett, Phil Carihfield

Planned Giving: Phil Carihfield, Matt Moy Johnson

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Eric Alonso*

Pastor: pending

Church Accountant: Athina Sato

Church Treasurer: Tom Scott (through June 2027)

Church Financial Secretary: Kim Bobo* (through 2028)

Liaison from SPRC: TBD

Liaison from Board of Trustees: TBD

Liaison from Church Council: TBD

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Lisa Jacob*

Finance Committee Members at Large:

Class of 2029: Eric Alonso*, Kim Bobo*, Sarah Scarlett*

Class of 2028: Helen Newland, Jim Lynch, Glynis Doyle*

Class of 2027: Tom Clemens, John Cheney Egan, Tom Scott

The Finance Committee meets monthly to manage the finances of the operations of the church, including payroll, operating expenses of the properties, and the apportionment. The committee prepares the annual budget based on the expected pledges and income. Terms of service are 3 years with 3 people elected each year plus liaisons from other committees.

NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Rev. Paul Lee

Vice Chair for Nominations: Evelyn McGowan

Vice Chair for Leadership Development: Mark Henry

Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2029: Max Bernhardt*, Kris Kallembach*, TBD

Class of 2028: Mike Cline, Mark Henry, Roxann Specht

Class of 2027: Jon Fox-Nnebedum, Sydney Harkrider, Evelyn McGowan

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee identifies and nominates individuals for various leadership and ministry roles and provide/promote intentional leadership development opportunities. Terms of service are 3 years with 3 people elected each year. Per Book of Discipline, the Senior Pastor is chair.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Carol Barnett through December 2026

Vice Chair: Matt Rader*

Pastors: Rev. Paul Lee, Rev. Britt Cox

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Leah Holzwarth

Class of 2029: Kali Jankovich*, Bruce Lindvall*, Matt Rader*

Class of 2028: Jan Womack*, Tom Butler, Ann Weatherhead, Henry Pleas

Class of 2027: Jeff Carlton, Dan Owens*, Carol Barnett (until Jan.1)

The work of SPRC includes tasks and activities associated with human resources. Terms of service are 3 years with 3 people elected each year, plus one LMAC.

PROGRAMMATIC COMMITTEES AND INTEREST GROUPS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL

Chairs: Dennis Barbour

Vice Chair: Matt Bales*

Staff Liaison: pending

Joe Agne, Dexter Bailey, Debbie Baugher, Friedrich Doku, Glynis Doyle, Robert Harris, Mari Leonard, Laura Mills, Antoinette Senjanovich, Courtney Zirkle

Note: The two groups currently known as the *Adult Christian Education Council* and the *Adult Faith Formation Council* will merge in Fall 2026, creating the *Adult Faith Formation Committee* (listed above). The newly formed committee will 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 to live out our faith in the world through a variety of formats and topics that support the strategic plan. Membership composition is flexible to support activities.

ARCHIVES

Co-Chairs: Patty Baker & Cate Whitcomb

Staff Liaison: pending

Members: Marge Bradford, Marcia Epting, Janet Lutz, Barb Miller, Joann Rea, John Rea
Persons who serve as archives volunteers organize and retain documents, media and memorabilia that tell the history of the church's buildings, membership, worship activities and mission outreach. Committee composition is flexible.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

Chair: Katie Fahey*

Staff Liaison: Colin McDonald

Jessica Hager, Eli Hetland, Meg Lohr

Children's Council supports children's ministries to honor, embolden, and celebrate children's spiritual formation, connections, and active participation in the life of the church and our world. The committee meets monthly and membership composition is flexible.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Lindsay Theile (until July 1, 2027)
Vice Chair: Jeanne-Marie Daly*
Staff Liaison: pending
Communications Staff: pending

Matt Diener, Christian Farr, Jennie Schumann, Christine Taylor Conda

The Communication Committee works to improve the tools and messages used to connect our congregation and the community to the First Church mission. This group meets monthly and membership composition is flexible.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Keith Slater
Vice Chair: Martha Rudy*
Staff Liaison: pending

Karen Bailey, Robert Berry, Marge Bradford, Brooke Cline, Jim Erickson, Teresa Grodsky, Susan Prout

Congregational Care Subcommittees:

<i>Greeting Card Ministry:</i>	Glynis Doyle
<i>Teas at Retirement Communities:</i>	Glynis Doyle
<i>Lay Visitor (Leaders):</i>	Janet Lutz
<i>Meals Ministry:</i>	Brooke Cline
<i>Memorial Receptions:</i>	Susan Prout & Keith Slater
<i>Advent Luncheon:</i>	Stephanie Clemson

Congregational Care supports ministries for the health and benefit of the congregation, such as meals, greeting cards, and memorial service receptions. Membership composition is flexible.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Kelsey Morton* (through June 2028)
Staff Liaison: pending

Karen Bailey, Jean Clipperton, Jim Johnson, Kelsey Morton, Melvina Slim

The Fellowship Committee coordinates after-worship Community Hour, leads all-church special events, and oversees fellowship groups. Membership composition is flexible.

MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: David Smith*

Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Laura Beenders, Tom Clemens, Vivian McWilliams-Green, Ray Newland, Liz Raymond

The Membership and Engagement Committee develops plans for inviting, welcoming and engaging visitors into the church; assists with the Inquirers Class and membership process; and implements strategies for promoting member retention and re-engagement. Membership and Engagement composition is flexible.

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Chair: Marianne Griebler*

Vice Chair: Andrew and Valli Stewart*

Staff Liaison: pending

Bundled Blessings Diaper Bank

Co-Chairs: Sue Hagedorn & Krys Juleen

Dexter Bailey, Nancy Brown, John Bausch, Lynne Carlton, David D'Arcy, Pam Kendall, Shanah Slade, Caroline Wagner.

Soup Kitchen

Coordination team: Marianne Griebler (volunteers), Jessica Hager (communication & schedule), Scott Fosdick (supplies & dining room), Melissa Appelt (dining room)

First Friday Lunches

Coordinator: Rich Hobson (through June 2027)

Kathryn Calkins, Willi and Marcia Epting, Bob and Susan Henderson, Mary Hetzel, Pam Johnson, Barb Miller, Diana Mawhinney, Debby Pool

Sunday Lunches

Coordinator: Karin Dillon

Emergency Overnight Shelter (w/ Interfaith Action)

Coordinator: Sharon Campbell

Walk for Warmth (w/ Interfaith Action)

Coordinator: Interfaith Action delegate(s)

Interfaith Action of Evanston

Britt Cox, First Church delegate

Courtney Zirkle, First Church delegate

SNAPGap (w/ Interfaith Action)

Coordinator: Interfaith Action delegate(s)

Change for Change

Coordinator: Children's Ministry

Star Tree

Coordinator: Linda MacCracken

Mission and Outreach Ministry supports the mission programs of the congregation. Programs include, but are not limited to, these key to the identity of First Church: Bundled Blessings, Thursday Soup Kitchen, Sunday Sack Lunches, Winter Overnight Shelter, and Star Tree Christmas gifts. Membership composition is flexible.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Chair: Bonny Roth

Vice Chair: Lisa Jacob*

Staff Liaison: pending

Earth Care

Coordinator: Judith Campbell

Members: Phyllis Bird, Judith Campbell, Kathryn Calkins, Scott Fosdick, Wendy Istvanick*, Paula Scholl, Jennie Schumann, Ann Sinclair

Economic Justice

Coordinator: Melissa Appelt*

Members: Interested persons are welcome to help launch this new team.

Gender Justice

Coordinator: Todd Bowen

Members: Kathy Cheney-Egan, Antoinette Senjanovich, open to other persons who want to serve in this area.

Immigration Justice

Coordinator: Dan Owens*

Members: Interested persons are welcome to help launch this new team.

Racial Justice

Coordinator: Henry Pleas*

Members: Melissa Appelt, Roger Baugher, Mary Cauble, Robert Harris, Winder Holeman, Lisa Jacob, Malik Kemokai, Richard Mosley, Belinda Numbi, Beth Tipton.

Social Justice Intersections Coordinating Team

Coordinator: Joe Agne

Members: Judith Campbell, Mary Cauble, Lisa Jacob, Chris Nieuwsma, Bonny Roth, Melvina Slim*

Social Justice supports and coordinates many ministries for justice within the church and the larger community, plus stewardship of the environment (Earth Care). Membership composition is flexible.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Eileen Chambers and Joe Womack*

Senior Pastor: Rev. Paul Lee

Marion Clemens

Alli Henry

Paula Scholl

Andrew Shumacher*

Tom Scott

Mary Taylor-Johnson

Cate Whitcomb

The Stewardship Committee plans and executes the annual pledge campaign for the operating budget.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Chair: Chris Nieuwsma

Staff Liaison: Sydney Harkrider

Chris Baker, Lily Cline (youth), Susan Dittmer, Devon Thrush

Youth Council plans and promotes programs that focus on the spiritual growth, discernment and Christian education of the youth. Confirmation class for 7th and 8th graders and ASP are

identifying programs of FUMC. The committee meets monthly, and membership composition is flexible.

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES

TOTAL CHILD BOARD

Chair: Lisa Kampwirth, Total Child Director
Board Chair: Miles Shultz* (church member, former TC parent)
Treasurer: Jeff Wolfe (church member, current TC parent)
Staff Liaison: Colin McDonald, Director of Children's Ministry

Members at Large:
Nasim Alexander (TC parent)
Nancy Ansorge (former TC teacher)
Preston Bateman (TC parent)
Michele Bergmann* (church member)
Lorraine Murphy (TC parent)

Advisory board for Total Child Preschool

LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Representing this congregation (July 2024-July 2028)

Phil Carihfield
Leah Holzwarth
Lisa Jacob
Henry Pleas
Colin McDonald

Alternates: Katie Brick, Susan Dittmer, Laura Thrush (youth)

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

(Term began 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 Pensions: Beth Swanick

NIC Board of Trustees: Grant Bailey

NIC Creation Care Advocate: Paula Scholl

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 Inclusivity Committee Chair: Rev. Britt Cox*

NIC Assistant Secretary for Standing Rules: Nancy Pendergrass

Lake North District Shepherding Committee, Lay Academy Team, Committee on Personnel, Youth Team: Jim Hagedorn

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

Church Conference Recording Secretary

Marsha Niazmand* (beginning July 1, 2027)

University Christian Ministry Board

Katie Brick

10/1/2026