

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

Serving on the First Church Board of Trustees

Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018

Who is eligible to serve on the Board of Trustees?

- Anyone who has been a member of First Church for at least a year.

What does the First Church Board of Trustees do?

- Monitors church activities and policies.
- Represents the congregation, focusing on the long-term future of the Church, delegating authority to and working in partnership with our Senior Minister.
- Monitors the performance of the Senior Minister through explicit Board policies: updating these policies as needed to realistically define the church's goals, addressing the broadest levels of all organizational decisions and situations, and establishing boundaries for executive activities and decisions.
- Communicates on a regular basis with our members, maintaining year round reporting about important issues and seeking feedback from the congregation about their concerns and options.
- Monitors itself to be sure it is performing per the job description guidelines.

More specifically the First Church Board...

- Approves the yearly budget and presents it for a vote by the membership at the Annual Meeting in June.
- Creates and monitors specific goals (Ends) and clear boundaries (Limitations) of our Senior Minister using policy based governance.

What are the benefits of Board service? The opportunity to...

- Work with lay leaders of the church from all three campuses.
- Shape the future of the church.
- Develop meaningful relationships that outlast the Board term.
- Expand personal leadership skills.

Anything else? The Nominating Committee seeks Board candidates who...

- Are big picture thinkers who have the health of the whole church in mind.
- Can communicate clearly and respectfully.
- Have a high tolerance for ambiguity, respect opposing viewpoints and are comfortable with diversity in the broadest definition of same.
- Can create an open exchange with church members and encourage their participation in church activities.
- Are team players who can support sometimes unpopular decisions and speak with one voice after the Board has reached a consensus.
- Support and participate in First Church's fundraising.
- Are committed to the health and well being of the church community.

What is the Board Composition?

- The Board has nine voting members, each serving a three-year term.
- Each Year, the congregation elects three new members at the Annual Meeting
- There must be at least one member from each campus on the Board.
- The President and Vice President are elected by the Board.
- The Treasurer, Past President/Secretary, and Senior Minister are non-voting members of the Board.

What is the Executive Committee?

- This subsection of the Board is made up of the Board President, the Vice President and the Senior Minister. Their role is agenda setting, problem solving and decision making as delegated by the Board.

Who is encouraged to be on the Board of Trustees?

- Members who have supported First Church with their time and energy.
- Members who have accepted leadership roles on church teams or task forces.

What are the requirements for serving on the Board?

- Agree to serve for three years. The term of office for members of the Board of Trustees begins upon election and continues until their successor is elected. Elections are held at the annual meeting in May.
- Faithfully attend monthly meetings @ 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, and reading the agenda and related materials ahead of the meeting.
- Attend extra meetings as necessary.
- Regular attend the Sunday service and many church wide events.
- Make a personally significant pledge towards the support of the church.
- Attend a two-day retreat near the beginning of the new fiscal year and a half day retreat in January.
- Commit time for events other than Board meetings – such as serving on Board Task Forces, Board Duty on Sundays, conducting Appreciative Inquiry and other linkage events.

Who are the current Board members and what are their terms?

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| Michael Morrison, President | Museum District | (2017) |
| Jennifer Sorrells, Vice President | Museum District | (2018) |
| Jan Elias | Thoreau | (2019) |
| Frances Johnson | Museum District | (2019) |
| Bob Miller | Museum District | (2019) |
| Allan Perkins | Copperfield | (2018) |
| Linda Richardson | Museum District | (2018) |
| John Vindekilde | Thoreau | (2017) |
| Joe Zuchlewski | Museum District | (2017) |

Ex-officio Board Members

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|---|-----------------|
| Evan Michaelides, Treasurer | Museum District |
| Karen Carlson, Clerk and Past President | Museum District |

(If you want more information, please see the church website for more details:

<http://www.firstuu.org/board.php>)