

First three bios and pictures are candidates for the Board and second three are for the Nominating Committee

Patrick Kirwan

Patrick Kirwan has been a member of the church since 2018. He has served on the Welcome Team since 2019 and this year joined the Stewardship Committee. Patrick first became acquainted with UU during the fight for marriage equality in New Jersey. He and his partner, now husband, Robert, attended many meetings and events in their local UU church.

Patrick recently retired from Lincoln Financial Group. During his 40-plus years in IT, technology changed and Patrick adeptly changed with it, from punch cards to smart phones, from computer rooms to work from home. Patrick is eager to bring his commitment to excellence to the Board of Directors, building on his successful career.



Eileen Allan

Eileen is originally from Memphis and has lived in Miami and New Orleans as well. She moved to Houston in 1990. She initially visited First Church a few years after her son Douglas was born in 1993, when she sought a place to assist her in giving him a religious education. She did not want to return to the religion of her youth and church “shopped” until she found First Church, where open-minded thinking and searching for truth and meaning thrives in a culture of deeds not creeds.

Although she originally came for her son, Eileen has benefitted from many years of learning and spiritual growth in the beloved community of First Church. This church greatly influences her thinking and socially responsible behavior.

Eileen has served on many groups at First Church, including Religious Education, Personnel, Chalice Society, Stewardship, Capital Campaign, and Greeters. She has not served on the Board of Directors and looks forward to serving this important work of First Church.



Joan Waddill

Joan moved to Texas when she was 12 years old. Her family lived in Bunker Hill which at the time was a place filled with small ranches and, compared to today, modest homes. She graduated from Spring Branch High School in 1960 and received a BSEE degree from the University of Houston in 1969. She spent most of her working years in the Dallas area, employed by various local electronics firms. After retiring from the engineering firms, she went back to school to obtain an EMT certificate. She then worked for the Hilltop Lakes Volunteer Fire Department for 6 years as an EMT. She has two daughters and four grandchildren, all of whom live out of state.

Joan moved to Houston in 2009 and joined first UU shortly thereafter. She was on the care team as well as the welcome team, and also worked on various rebuilding projects such as the Yates museum and the rebuilding Houston together.

In 2019, she was elected the Board of directors at First UU. She looks forward to serving again on the Board and helping build a church that can meet the present challenges and help position the church for the future.



Carl Walther

Carl was introduced to First UU in the 1980s by his parents. Angela and he were married here in 2003, and after a long leave of absence they started attending just before the pandemic hit. He served on the church's Health Advisory Committee during the pandemic, and as the pandemic waned the family started attending services regularly.

Last year he joined the Religious Education team, where he work with the Spirit Play group. He believes First UU provides a critical service to its members and the community in offering the many beneficial aspects of organized religion (such as community, consolation, philosophy and exploration, music) to all who desire them, not limited by tradition, metaphysical beliefs, or creed.

He works as a nephrologist at Baylor College of Medicine and Ben Taub Hospital. He and Angela and their three sons (Charlie, James, and Sam) live in the Willowbend area

just outside the loop. He looks forward to He looks forward to serving the church on the Nominating Committee.



Lauri Plesur Zuchlewski

Lauri has been a member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston since 2006. She originally hails from Buffalo, New York and has lived in Houston since 1981 with her husband of 43 years, Joe. They raised their son Nick who married his wife Kelsey at First Church, and grandson George attends RE when possible.

Lauri is currently serving her third and final year on the Board of Directors (ends June 2024) and worked as the Board Liaison to the Nominating Committee during the same period. She has participated in multiple Adult Programs over the years and has been involved with the Auction, provided organizational support to Stewardship, and volunteered on several Social Justice efforts. She brings her career experience in management, project management, leadership and IT to FUUCH,

What she really loves about First Church is the community and the liberal, open, and welcoming nature of the congregation. She has made many close friendships over the years at

the church that have enriched her life and is eager to make more friends. Finding a diverse set of people for the Board and the Nominating Committee is a great way to contribute back to the



Church.

Natalie Browne

Natalie was born in China to Presbyterian missionaries. When she was 2, the family moved to Brazil (her Mother's home) where she lived until she came to college. So she is half Brazilian and half American. In 2003, she and her first husband, Al Kondo, joined First UU, where his atheism and her Christian upbringing were welcomed. She met her second and current husband, Bill Nelson, at First UU. He and his first wife, Barbara Nelson, joined the church in 1984.

Natalie's background as a Child Development Consultant has served her well at church, especially with the Parents' Group and as the Director of Religious Education on staff for four years. She has served as a Greeter, Board Member, Worship Associate, Flower Provider, member of the Personnel Team, and member of the Nominating Committee. She is proud to belong to this community: her faith has changed in subtle and profound ways, and she feels both blessed and able to bless others.

She looks forward to continuing her service on the Nominating committee. She is honored to work toward finding excellent and diverse candidates and she loves getting to know new people.

