

**Bios of Nominees for Elected Volunteer Positions as of May 21, 2021**  
**Submitted by the Nominating Committee**  
**for the June 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting**

**President Elect:**

**Ken Stephenson** has been a member of TVUUC for over 40 years, along with his wife Dee (Dolores). Their two children, Laura and Jon, grew up in this church. Ken has served the church in various capacities, from the nursery to ushering to organizing the retreats, and most recently as Chair of the Endowment Committee. He is retiring from UT and wants to serve our wonderful church community.

**Board of Directors Secretary:**

**Jeff Mellor** joined TVUC (then with one U) when John Buehrens married him and Doris Gove in 1977. Later, he served as Board Member when Bob Swain was Minister and Ginna Mashburn was President. He taught in the RE program under then DRE Chris Buice. From 2014 to 2019, he helped in the UU Conversations program led by David Massey and Beauvais Lyons. This past year, he served as Secretary to the TVUUC Board. He taught German at UT from 1970 to 2016. He and Doris have one daughter, Laura Mellor, 37, and one grandson, Andrew Baker, 17.

**Board of Directors Treasurer Elect:**

**Bill Cherry** has been a member of TVUUC since 2008, was church administrator for 3 years and has served on a number of committees and task forces. He is currently on The Mountain Endowment Board and the board of Flying Anvil Theatre.

**Board of Directors, Member at Large, three-year term:**

**Heather Kistner** was raised in the old building of TVUUC from 1986-1993. After extensive travel and a professional career on the west coast, she moved back to Knoxville, met her wonderful husband Dee, now of 13 years and have two beautiful boys, Bremen and Gavin. She is a homeschool mom and a student at Pellissippi pursuing a degree in Social Work. Her and her family love their dogs Homer and little Bella and reside in South Knoxville.

**Board of Directors, Member at Large, three-year term:**

**Mary Rogge** joined TVUUC in 2008. Over time, she's been involved with several committees, including the Memorial Gardens, the Environmental Committee, a staff hiring committee, and a policies review committee. She is a social worker by trade, who retired from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work in 2017.

**Endowment Fund Committee Treasurer, three-year term:**

**Robert McMurry** began attending TVUUC in the fall of 2008. He works as a staff accountant and IT manager for McMurry & Company, PLLC, CPAs in Knoxville. He was the Treasurer-elect in 2016-2017 and Treasurer of TVUUC from fall of 2017 to spring 2020. He is married to Gretchen McMurry. They have 3 children (Reyn-16, Julianna-14, & Nora-8), 1 dog, 2 cats, and 14 chickens.

**Endowment Fund Committee Member at Large, three-year term**

**Joy Fels** has been attending TVUUC since we moved into our “new” building in 1998. In her 20 years as a member, she has served on the Nominating Committee, Program Council, Caring Committee, Art committee, UU Conversations, Memorial Committee, and Personnel Committee. She is a proud mother to Serra, who teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design, and Andrew, who teaches at LMU Law School. Both were raised as teenagers in the TVUUC religious education program.

**Endowment Fund Committee Member at Large, three-year term**

**Grier Novinger** has been a member of TVUUC since 1986. She’s lived in Knoxville since 1966; She is married to Richard Lillie and has two sons and two grandsons.

**Endowment Committee, Member at Large, two-year term (Replaced a member who resigned in 2020)**

**Stephanie Seay** joined TVUUC in 2004. She has served as a teacher, high school youth advisor, and on several committees, including RE and the Endowment Fund. Stephanie was lucky to be volunteering in the TVUUC office on the day of the historic Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage, and witnessed many joyful unions in the weeks following. She is a science writer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, is married to Steve Seay, and is proud mom to daughter Hannah.

**Nominating Committee, Chair Elect**

**Melissa Reed** has been a Unitarian Universalist and a member of TVUUC for 12 years. She has served in several committees/programs, served on the Board, and even worked as the church’s administrative assistant. She was born in Knoxville and has two children, ages 23 and 20. She lives with her five dogs in North Knoxville

**Nominating Committee, Member at Large**

**Susan (Sue) Kersey** has been a member of TVUUC for 13-plus years. She is active in the sanctuary choir, and has been involved with Family Promise and the Caring Committee. Sue is married to Roy Kersey. She enjoys travel and interaction with people of diverse cultures, and loves to visit with her grandchildren as often as possible.

**Nominating Committee, Member at Large.**

**Seema Singh** first began attending TVUUC in the late 80's and continued to be a friend of the congregation and peripherally involved with UU congregations when living in Raleigh and NYC. She began attending and became an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of

South Suffolk in Bayshore, NY in 2003. She was the treasurer for the congregation for 7 yrs till returning to Knoxville. She returned to TVUUC and became a member 6 years ago. She has been active with High School Religious Education and is currently involved with the 8th Principle working Committee. She has 1 daughter and 2 nieces that have been involved in and benefited from the RE programs and the connection to the UU community. She runs an alternative to jail program working in the field of Domestic Violence Prevention and currently serves on the Knoxville City Council.

**A note to the board about Program Council Leadership:**

When we began looking for a new Program Council Chair Elect, we realized that the church programs were so dramatically disrupted by the pandemic that the Program Council Chair never had a real opportunity to serve in the positions to which she'd been elected, and that the "Chair-Elect" did not feel prepared to take on the job of Chair. Because of these disruptions,, the nominating committee is recommending that 2020-2021 be regarded as a "lost year" in the cycle of elections for the Program Council Chair and Chair-Elect positions.

That is, we are recommending that Jamie Dobbs, who was elected Chair Elect in 2019, and was scheduled to serve as Chair in 2020-21, will serve her term as Chair in 2021-22 and Allan Braswell, who was elected Chair Elect in 2020, will serve his term in 2021-22 and move into the Chair position in 2022. Both Jamie and Allan have agreed to this arrangement and are happy to have the opportunity to actually serve in the positions to which they'd been elected. Jamie plans to reach out to former Program Council Chairs for mentoring, and we hope that the church staff will also help her find her footing. We believe that this "lost year" approach will help get the Program Council back on track as we begin to emerge from the pandemic.