

# The FUUSB Ministerial Search Committee

2022 - 2023



Rose Ledoux



Peggy Owen Sands



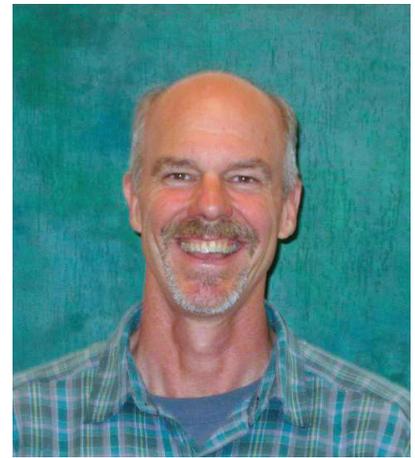
Nancy Hellen



Amelia Schlossberg



Tom Porter



Tom Hyde



Brian Haas

# Candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee

The board of trustees is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee.

The selection of members for this committee was based on nominations that the Board of Trustees received through calls to 150 randomly selected members (by both board and nominating committee members) and through an online survey link that was sent to the full membership. Additional consideration was given to nominees who represented a diversity of qualifications and experiences to help round out the group. The board is pleased to present this slate for congregational approval.

## **BRIAN HAAS**

Brian joined FUUSB with his wife Suzy in 1989. He is a strong proponent of the Faith Development program. Brian has served as VP and President of the Board of Trustees and has been a member of multiple committees to help FUUSB function and thrive. Most recently, Brian has been a member of the Healthy Congregation and the Climate Response Teams. Brian says, “I would consider it an honor to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee and an opportunity to pay it forward to future generations, in gratitude for all the benefits my family and I have received by being part of this FUUSB community.”

## **NANCY HELLEN**

Nancy started attending FUUSB in 1996 and joined in 2007. She has been a member (and sometimes leader) of Healthy Congregation Team, Youth & Adult Faith Development Committee, Immigration Justice Team, Restorative Circles Team and the Caring and Belonging/Radical Welcoming Team. Other relevant experiences in her work outside FUUSB include restorative circles training, equity literacy training with the Equity Literacy Institute and, as a puppeteer for programs on bullying, abuse, autism, health and cultural/physical differences. Nancy is an education consultant for the Agency of Education, focused on Equity and Family Engagement, and was previously an Elementary Educator.

In Nancy’s words: “I see FUUSB at an exciting juncture of exploring what Community means and how our mind-set and actions can lead to a deepening of our faith-based commitments, and be a place for spiritual growth, healing and support.”

## **TOM HYDE**

Tom joined the choir in 1985 and signed the membership book in 1988. He is a member of the Endowment Team, Finance Team, Choir, Cranks, the Live-Stream crew, and co-chaired the 2012-13 Ministerial Search Committee. He turned his career experience as a programmer in the finance industry to non-profit work, especially fund raising. He has served on the boards of Lake Champlain Waldorf School and Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions. When Oriana Singers' original conductor retired, he negotiated the conversion to Aurora Chamber Singers, where he chairs the board.

Tom says, "The 2012-13 search committee combined service to the Society with a wonderful learning experience, about the UU world and ministry, about how groups work intensively together, and about myself; what I was able to bring to the group."

## **ROSE LEDOUX**

Rose discovered the FUUSB community during the pandemic and joined in 2022 as a new member. She and her husband are parents of two children and is particularly impressed with FUUSB's children's programming. She works as a social worker and is an avid reader. Rose feels they have been searching for and have truly found a community that involves advocacy and open spirituality with an individual perspective.

In Rose's words: "Through my work at Howard Center, I have been a part of many hiring committees. I hope to put these skills back to use on the UU Ministerial Search committee. I am excited to have an opportunity to serve on this committee to help find the right match for this diverse, amazing community; one for my family to grow into the future with--for many years to come."

## **TOM PORTER**

After Tom and his partner, Nancy Joined FUUSB in 1987, they were married by then-Rev. Robert Sengas in July 1988. Their two children grew up attending RE classes, which Tom helped teach for many years. Tom's service to our society includes membership on the Board of Trustees in the 1990's, the Stewardship Committee, the initial Planned Giving Committee, the Legacy Society, the Nominating Committee, and various roles on the Ministerial Area Group (MAG). His leadership roles included being Co-Chair of the 1993 capital campaign, and serving as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer. He is currently on the Finance Committee.

In Tom's words: "FUUSB has been a major part of my life and that of my family for over 35 years. I have known several ministers and lived through the process of prior ministerial searches. This experience has shown me the critical importance to our Society of an inspiring, dynamic, organized, thoughtful and prudent ministerial leader. I bring to the task a clear understanding of our Society's mission and goals based on long experience, and knowledge of our finances. Having retired recently from regular work commitments, I am able to commit the time needed to actively participate with the Committee in the search for our next minister."

## **PEGGY OWEN SANDS**

Peggy joined FUUSB in 1994. She has served the society in a variety of roles including teaching RE, being a liason between RE Committee and the Library Committee, and membership on the RE Committee, Healthy Congregations Team (which she chaired for a year), and the initial UU Legacy Committee. She is currently a member of the Racial Justice and Radical Welcoming Teams, and its 8th Principle sub-group. Outside the society Peggy worked in a variety of roles where she experienced the power of working in teams. This included work as a Physical Therapist within the public schools, being part of a group focused on improving Special Education Services delivery, and a member of VT LEND, VT Interdisciplinary Leadership Education for Health Professionals Program at UVM. She writes of this experience: “I believe in the power of working as a team. I have worked for inclusion throughout my career as a physical therapist and it continues to be an important focus of my life. I am good at thinking of different solutions to problems that arise. I am not afraid of conflict. I value listening to the voices of all to make the best decisions.”

Peggy expresses her interest in being on the Search Committee as follows: “I am interested in learning about this process while also supporting our UU Society in finding a settled minister. I have found the people within this UU Society to be such an important part of my life that I am invested in doing all I can to help our Society grow and develop into the best community we can be.... I look forward to serving our UU community in this capacity.”

## **AMELIA SCHLOSSBERG**

Though Amelia officially joined FUUSB in 2016, they actually grew up in this congregation: they have been part of the FUUSB community through at least eight ministers. In prior years, Amelia has chaired the Internship Search Committee, acted as Chair of the Healthy Congregation Team, OWL (Our Whole Lives) team lead, Restorative Circles team and the LGBTQ Chalice Circle. Currently, Amelia is on the FUUSB Board of Trustees, Internship Committee and Transition Team. They have been an OWL 7th/8th/9th grade teacher since 2013. In their professional life Amelia is the Population Health Program Manager for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Prior to that, they served in the Office of the Health Care Advocate at Vermont Legal Aid, in the Department of Vermont Health Access, and with Community Health Centers of Burlington.

Amelia notes their professional work in facilitation, communications, advocacy, health law, health equity and education is in alignment with values that UU’s cite as important, saying simply: “I am interested in serving on this Ministerial Search Committee because I care deeply about the future of this congregation and this faith.”