



Brianne Testa-Wojteczko

Board of Trustees

Why are you interested in being a member of the Board of Trustees at First Unitarian Church?

I believe my skills and experience match well with the goals of this church and would like to continue to serve our congregation in this manner. This is one way in which my relationship with First Unitarian can make both the church a better place and me a better person.

Brianne Testa-Wojteczko (continued)

2. The Board is moving towards a Policy Governance model. What skills and strengths do you bring to develop and support this model?

I've had a bit of a "crash-course" in policy governance as I accepted the request to take over the seat of a board member who resigned last year, and find that it suits my ethos well. Policy governance puts the power into the hands of the congregation. I find that small groups of people making decisions about what others must execute is disempowering to both parties and I am fully in favor of the board tacking the "big picture" decisions. I trust the congregation (and staff) to execute the minutiae in whatever way works for them—the product (not process) is what is important here. I back policy governance as the best way to have empowered leaders, lay leaders, and congregants executing the many volunteer duties required to keep our church running smoothly.

3. What part of the work of the Board are you most passionate about and hope to be involved in?

Right now I'm still "finding my way" into what aspects of the Board most suit me, but I am finding myself drawn to the investment/finances side of things. My professional life is very involved in finances and budgeting and I would like to figure out a way to navigate the many complicating variables currently preventing us from investing with our values by supporting a socially responsible investment portfolio.

First Unitarian - Board of Trustee
Candidate

Brianne Testa-Wojteczko (continued)

4. Describe your experience working to consensus, representing and helping to implement policies which may differ from your own original concepts.

My current service to the board aside, I have much background in group consensus building, both in practice as well as in theory. In my previous employment in Washington State, I was responsible for annually training multiple teams (totaling about 45 people) in effective group work on topics ranging from personality types to effective functionality and communication. I joke though, that despite many work and volunteer situations which require the skills needed to accomplish those things outlined in this question, perhaps nothing has trained me better to understand all sides of any story than being raised by two diametrically opposed parents. I understand the balance that must be struck between group consensus and not compromising individual opinions/stifling debate.