

Statements of Candidates for the Board of Trustees 2021

The Board of Trustees, comprised of nine church members, is the governing body that oversees the activities and affairs of the church. Members of the church for more than one year are eligible to serve up to two consecutive three-year terms on the Board. Each year the congregation holds an election for three of the nine seats, plus any seats of unexpired terms that become vacant, in conjunction with the February congregational meeting – which this year is **February 14**.

Voting for the Board seats begins at least two weeks before the congregational meeting. This year voting will begin by **January 31** and will be done on-line, with an alternative method available; see instructions from the church.

Each candidate has written a statement, below, about serving on the Board. They also will all be available to speak about their interests and ideas, and answer questions from members of the congregation, at a Candidates Forum on **January 31**. The forum will take place via Zoom immediately after the church service in place of Coffee Hour.

This year there are three three-year terms and one one-year term. All of the candidates were selected by the Nominating Committee; no candidates are seeking office under the petition provisions of the church's by-laws.

The candidates are:

Three-year terms (3 seats): Cordell Sloan (incumbent), Randall Hudson, and Bill Brown
One-year term (1 seat): Ariel Smith-Iyer

Leaving the Board of Trustees are: Logan Stump-Vernon, Kathryn Jay, and Jack Duggan
Continuing on the Board are: Helen Tinsley-Jones, Kerry Simpson, David Roberts, Beth Pollard, and Elaine Miller

The candidates were chosen by the Nominating Committee, in a deliberative process over a period of months. The Committee greatly appreciates the candidates' commitment to this meaningful work on behalf of the congregation!

For more information, please feel free to contact the committee at Nominating@uucb.org, or any member of the Nominating Committee: Victoria Bowen, Dayana Claghorn, Robin Cooper, Selene Fabiano, Max Jenny, Don Klose, and Marta Tobey, or its convener Board Vice-President Beth Pollard.

Cordell Sloan



My interest in serving on the Board of Trustees of UUCB comes from my commitment to help enable UUCB to powerfully affirm and promote the principles of Unitarian Universalism. This involves a lot more than agreeing with them and merely speaking them. We together must increasingly involve ourselves and our resources in activities that teach, activate, develop, and protect those principles. We together must share responsibility for making them real in our society and world. This will require us to imagine strategize organize and implement programs to this end.

The movement that will be needed to see these principles steering our society forward through history will involve curating and creating programs that prepare our community and its members to be effective actors and agents in influencing the way "we the people" live in this world together. I hope to be engaged in architecting technology systems to support the planning and operationalization of our mission. I believe my IT

skills complement the rich value systems we hold in our community and would empower our work and service.

I have a profound appreciation for the “will to be woke” character of our congregation which operates on every occasion and event. My confidence in our congregation’s ability to have meaningful impact has grown steadily.

I want to bring a “necessity is the mother of invention “ orientation to our board and community and thus am focused on the generation of new ideas and strategies, believing that a different future for our congregation and world will not emerge by doing the same things we did yesterday. We must seek in new ways and imagine with audacity to dream up our better brighter future.

Bill Brown



Bill's Vision for UUCB: Honestly, I am not sure. We are in a transitional period and I am willing to explore all possibilities.

What strengths does Bill bring to the Board? I am loud! (In the military, they call this a "Command Presence") I have a low tolerance for B.S. and will do my absolute best to ensure everyone remains in Covenant. Ooh, and Sarcasm. Lots and lots of Sarcasm. 😊

What valuable experiences does Bill have at UUCB? The most impactful experience I've had at UUCB was Kristin's 2019 sermon on *why it's OK to be wrong*. Such a simple concept, but one that has evaded me and many others for so long. That sermon allowed me to realize that it is OK to make mistakes and allowed me to give myself permission to change. I think I've listened to it at least a dozen times since that day.

Participating in the Social Justice Chalice Circle for 2.5 years really gave me perspective on a lot of issues that I had not considered or even been exposed to before. I grew up in the Salinas Valley, in a community of conservative produce growers who talked about the United Farm Workers Union the same way they did Al Qaeda... Talking about the role of unions with a former lawyer for the UFW was an awesome experience for me. So many different perspectives, many of which I have never experienced before.

What would Bill like to bring to the Board? Smoked Tri-Tip? Tiramisu?

Ariel Smith-Iyer



“Mystery is greater than all human knowledge”, that’s one of the notes I wrote on the printed order of service I kept from my first visit to UUCB in 2006. Sunday service has been an integral part of my week ever since. The joy of singing alto in the choir and experiencing deep listening in a chalice circle helped me decide to join in 2007. I have served as RE co-chair and many years as a teacher, as well as on the Community Ministry Committee and the Intern Minister Committee. I’ve been a part of several

Chalice Circles, including one that I co-led and have served the last three years on the Nominating Committee.

Aside from spirit and community, what keeps me coming back to UUCB are all the opportunities to learn. I understand the drive to do more, but I am also in regular awe of all that we do as a congregation. My vision for UUCB is for more people to see us as a resource for both personal growth and social justice activism. I also hold a vision for more love and trust within our membership. Personally, serving on the Board would give me an opportunity to live more in-line with our covenant and grow my connection to this place and you all.

This year, with so many of our members struggling to keep up with the demands of remote work and their children home too, I realized this would be a good time for me to step up.

Randall Hudson



From that very first Sunday service in 2014, Sylvia and I knew we had found a ‘home’ — a place where we could congregate together. Since we come from distinctly different religious and non-religious traditions, the shared values at UUCB provide solid ground to explore our spiritual growth and be part of a loving community. The eclectic nature of UUCB programming is a smorgasbord of light, love, and wisdom that deserves to be supported and nurtured. As a candidate for the UUCB Board of Trustees, my deep personal desire to keep UUCB strong, supported by my professional background in social work, social service policy, finance, systems integration, and data analytics, brings a considerable breadth and depth to an already talented Board. As we move beyond these challenging times and look towards the future, UUCB is poised for a great renaissance of growth and prosperity. I firmly believe that “staying on the hill” provides for a necessary stability and the best strategic opportunity from which to reach out and serve the many diverse peoples of the East Bay. My goals for UUCB are for us to fortify our financial outlook, explore creative ways to encourage spiritual growth and community engagement, and grow into the powerful force of peace, love, justice, and joy. Our church at One Lawson is the aggregate from which we launch our future and I want to be a part of this exciting opportunity.

In the Spirit — Randolph “Randall” Hudson.