



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

March 14, 2019 – Connections Newsletter

Connecting with the Ministerial Search Committee

By Sara-Ann (Sally) Determen

MSC roles: Treasurer, Negotiating Team, Neutral Pulpit Arrangements



What a special joy to work with my gifted and enthusiastic colleagues on the UUCA Ministerial Search Committee! We have accepted from you, the UUCA family, a challenging obligation to use our combined skills and talents to ultimately propose an outstanding senior minister candidate for your consideration. We look forward to consulting with you throughout the search process to learn your goals for the future of our church and the ministerial qualities you deem critical in making progress toward them.

Let me briefly introduce myself to those of you who don't know me.

I lived for the first 18 years of my life in the small eastern Pennsylvania town in which both my parents were born. My father was a lawyer and my mother, a nurse and after my arrival, a full-time homemaker. They were only titular members of the local Lutheran Church, but insisted that both my sister and I regularly attend the Sunday school (in part, I suspect, to provide them some predictable privacy). I loved the music and the stories and the emphasis on kindness, but couldn't come to accept the core doctrines of the Christian faith.

Fortunately for me, my father encouraged my dreams of becoming a lawyer and aggressively resisted the many friends and family who regularly reminded me that "girls can't be lawyers." After teaching for three years while my then-husband was in law school, and taking the following year to focus on our first-born son, I attended and graduated from George Washington University Law School. I joined DC's largest law firm, of Hogan & Hartson (now HoganLovells), and became its first woman partner, retiring after 35 years of practice.

During my career I was very active in pro bono cases and in bar activities. I served as President of the DC Bar and as officer/board member for many liberal legal organizations including the ACLU (local and national), the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (local and national), the National Partnership for Women and Families, and others. I chaired the ABA's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities and worked for liberal ABA positions on LGBT, civil rights and civil liberties issues, as well as securing its backing for the Equal Rights Amendment.

I have been a member of our Beloved Community since, I think, 1964, attracted by UUCA's strong civil rights and public service activities. Over the years I have served on the Board of Trustees and on a prior ministerial search committee, and drafted the core legal documents to set up VOICE and secure its tax exempt status. I have worked in the kitchen, helped paint the labyrinth and participated in several covenant groups. I've also served as a member of the Endowment Committee.

I have two sons and four grandchildren; a third son died of leukemia many years ago. I am a widow. I am blessed at age 80 with nearby family, many close friends, good health -- and this opportunity to serve UUCA.

In addition to the Search Committee's general, shared responsibilities, I serve as its Treasurer, responsible for insuring that the funds allocated to the Committee's work by the Board are accurately accounted for. I also will arrange with area UU churches to provide pulpits for our finalist candidates to preach to their congregations and to the visiting members of our Search Committee. And when the time comes, I will work as a member of the negotiating team on the ministerial contract.

I am honored to be a member of the Ministerial Search Committee and confident that, with your help, we will introduce to you an excellent candidate who will lead us in connecting, learning and serving.