



Name: David Bowen

Preferred Pronouns: He/Him

1. **How long have you been attending CUUC?**
My family and I have been attending CUUC for 18+ years.
2. **Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?**
Bennett grew up in the Unitarian Church in Louisville KY, and we attended All Souls Church in NYC sporadically prior to settling in Westchester over 20 years ago.
3. **Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.**
I have been an active member in religious education at CUUC for at least 15 years. I have taught the Neighboring Faiths and Coming of Age curriculums, but my primary focus has been OWL – having taught the elementary, middle school and high school curriculums multiple times. I have served on the REC for 3 years and sat on the committee to hire Tracy. In addition, I sat on the Nominating Committee for 2 years (or was it 3) and chaired it my last year. I support both the cooking efforts and auction as my scheduled allows.
4. **What do you value most about CUUC?**
The community first, religious education, and the music.
5. **Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?**
Besides being personally interested in the process, I believe I will be an asset to the search committee in representing the religious education council and community in addition to the LGBTQ community and people of color as well.
6. **What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?**
In addition to my work in religious education, I am a former performer and skilled fundraiser – assets I believe are important to consider when looking at the qualifications of a new minister. Regarding fundraising, although it may not necessarily be part of the scope for a minister, I believe an awareness of and understanding the need for fundraising is important for all leaders at CUUC.
7. **What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?**
Charisma, depth, humor, compassion, hope, UU knowledge, commitment to social justice.



Name: Lane Cobb

Preferred Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

1. **How long have you been attending CUUC?** Two years – Please see question 3
2. **Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?**
I have provided guest minister services for Westchester UU congregations since 2019.
3. **Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.**
I was raised in the CUUC congregation. I stopped attending in my late teens. I moved out of the area in my early 20's and have stayed connected through my parents' involvement. I recently resumed my involvement with CUUC when I returned home to live with my parents in late 2020 and officially joined as a member in February 2023.
4. **What do you value most about CUUC?**
I value the history that I share with the institution and the congregation, particularly those people who have known me since childhood and who have contributed to my spiritual consciousness and UU identity.

More than that, though, I value the opportunity that CUUC has to be a source of education and a resource for community building within and outside of the congregation such that we are known for our advocacy and activism and also for our multicultural, multiracial, multigenerational transformative service to the community.
5. **Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?**
I have been told that it is important to have a person of color on the committee, if one is available, and I agree. As I am one of few in our congregation, and also happen to have a background that includes ministerial experience and racial justice education, I feel that: 1. I can lend a helpful listening to the process, and 2. I have a responsibility to be of service if I can.
6. **What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?**
Minister - Racial Justice Educator - Circle Keeper - Coach/Counselor -Caucus Facilitator
7. **What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?**
 - Commitment to and experience in social justice activism/leadership within and outside of the congregation
 - Commitment to and proven capacity for providing pastoral care
 - Commitment to and experience with interracial, intercultural leadership
 - Commitment to transgenerational leadership and capacity for connecting with young people
 - Commitment to promoting and supporting "8th principle activism"
 - Commitment to transparency
 - Vision | Passion | Patience | Compassion | Grace



Name: Ann Marie Damashek

Preferred Pronouns: she/her/hers

1. How long have you been attending CUUC? 21 years

2. Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long? No

3. Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.

- Served on Board of Trustees, including 1 year as vice chair.
- Member of Auction Committee since 2003, including serving as co-chair a number of times.
- Member of Tag Sale Committee in previous years.
- Chair of Projects of the Heart, predecessor of the Hungry and Homelessness SJT of which I am an active member.

4. What do you value most about CUUC?

The sense of community.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?

I want a voice in selecting our next settled minister who will hopefully help the congregation grow as we navigate a challenging future.

6. What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?

- I possess an even temperament that enables me to work well with a variety of personalities.
- As an entrepreneur, I have built successful businesses including hiring staff.
- As a real estate agent, I have a fiduciary responsibility to my clients. I would apply that same fiduciary responsibility to this process.

7. What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?

The ideal minister would be one who possesses the charisma to "win over" current members while at the same time attracting new people to CUUC and inspiring them so that they want to stay and engage in congregational life.

In addition, this person would also want to participate in congregational life on a daily basis (i.e., showing by example), and at the same time also have a solid understanding of the "business" side of a congregation.



Name: Ted Dreher

Preferred Pronouns: he/him

1. How long have you been attending CUUC? - 30 years

2. Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long? - no

3. Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.

Served on the Board of Trustees twice (once as Board Chair), member of Committee on Ministry, ran several BBQ's and managed the Canvass for 2 years. Recently I have volunteered as Head Usher, assisted in the kitchen for Meals for HOPE, worked with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and ran the Bid & Bump Board at the Annual Auction.

4. What do you value most about CUUC?

CUUC is a safe place where everyone is welcome and everyone has a voice. Great sense of community.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?

CUUC has provided great value to my family and myself. This is an important process and I believe I have the skill set to make a meaningful contribution.

6. What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?

I see my role on the Search Committee as representing the needs of the congregation. I spent 20 years of my career at Citigroup representing various internal clients and communicating their needs to the technology teams. I know how to bring consensus to groups and have worked on several long-term projects.

7. What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?

The new minister should be a positive force capable of providing value to our CUUC Community through interaction and leadership. The new minister should create meaningful worship services, directly support our RE Programs, and work cohesively with staff to form solid partnerships



Name: Mary Kingsley

Preferred Pronouns: she

1. **How long have you been attending CUUC?** 7 years

2. **Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?** no

3. **Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.**

I was raised Roman Catholic. I have attended CUUC for 7 years and I have participated in Journey Groups, the racial justice team, the economic justice team and the congregational self-assessment committee. I have had a son and a granddaughter in RE.

4. **What do you value most about CUUC?** The congregation, the physical plant and the belief system. I like the social just teams and the journey groups. I very much appreciate being with people that are questioning, thinking, discussing and moving forward to personal spirituality. I like the congregational led aspect of CUUC and the participation of the members.

5. **Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?**

I hope to bring a perspective that is somewhat different from others and enrich the search from all perspectives. I am able to participate in team building exercises and have a professional experience in building diverse teams, incorporating differing views and finding a compromise solution that serves all

6. **What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?**

Occupationally and avocationally I have a long history of team and consensus building and public service. I have hired and evaluated countless employees and have served on two Judicial Search Committees in Mt. Vernon. I am the president of the Rotary of Mt. Vernon, have been on the Charter Revision Commission where I was land use subcommittee chair, and successfully placed 4 ballot items. I have been on the Mayor's transitional team for organization and finance, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee. I also served on the Police Reform Commission and co-authored and implemented annually a Mt. Vernon survey for the MVPD. I am maternally first generation from Nicaragua and bilingual. I have adopted two children; I have experience in both the physically handicapped and mentally ill and seeing to it that they are well incorporated into the community. I am a non-traditional head of family. I am a certified teacher and a Registered Nurse with a Masters in Health Care Administration and another in Elementary Education. I am also a Real Estate broker with my own agency. I am a small business owner. I serve professionally as a realtor on the Realtor's political action committee, the legislative committee, the fair housing committee and I am a member of the professional standards committee and sit on ethics hearings and arbitrations. I have experience in root cause analysis and have chaired incident review committees in hospital settings. These activities demonstrate that I am capable of viewing things from many perspectives, that I can collaborate and work toward achieving consensus in diverse groups. I seek the greater common good. I take this task seriously and am committing to attendance and participation as this is of great importance to our congregation. I will be an empty nester for the first time in September (gasp!)

7. **What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?**

Collaboration, social justice commitment, a wide base of knowledge, good sermons, a pastoral sense, a willingness to participate in building community and in outreach, some experience managing support staff. I want it all!! Strong moral convictions in line with UU principles. Somewhat scholarly but not overly so. A person who recognizes that diversity of thought and experience can be brought into the fold as strengths, not challenges.



Name: Eileen Macholl

Preferred Pronouns: She/They

1. How long have you been attending CUUC?

First service attended in August of 2019. Officially joined as a member in January 2021.

2. Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?

I was first introduced to UU-ism by my wife in 1998. For 15 years: as CFO at Auburn Theological Seminary (a progressive multi-faith leadership-training institute) I was exposed to clergy of many religions, and had the privilege of working closely with several prominent UU leaders. The final 5 years of my career, I served as the Executive Director at The Unitarian Church of All Souls, a large (>1000 members) congregation on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Full disclosure: Most of my religious practice has been as a practicing pagan (Reclaiming Tradition – see Starhawk’s writings for more information) with a focus on earth-based personal magical practices and social justice. I didn’t *officially* identify as a Unitarian Universalist until I decided to join CUUC.

3. Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.

- Placekeeping: I delight in meeting fellow congregants in our 9-acre outdoor sanctuary on the first Saturdays of each month for Day-in-Place.
- Anti-racism: As a continuation of prior anti-racism studies and advocacy, at CUUC I studied the Beloved Conversations/Within curriculum (in fall 2021), took part in the Jubilee3 anti-racism training (in January 2023), and am an active participant in the Racial Justice team.
- Music: Since the spring of 2021 I have sung tenor in the choir.
- General Assembly: On-line delegate to the UUA’s G.A. for CUUC in June of 2021 and will attend the Pittsburgh G.A. this June as one of CUUC’s four delegates.

4. What do you value most about CUUC?

- The congregation’s push-up-your-sleeves attitude of involvement and participation!
- Our land and the precious array of life with which we coexist and thrive together.
- Rev. Meredith’s powerful and consistent words supporting anti-racism work, which helped CUUC become an early adopter of the 8th Principle – proud of this initiative!
- The minister’s weekly practice of speaking the phase of the moon and lighting flames to acknowledge the week within the season – this supports the 7th Principle in a very real, tangible, and personally poignant way.
- Strong music leadership and talent – especially for a congregation of this size.
- Outstanding educator and faith-leader serving as our Director of Lifespan Religious Education.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?

I am acutely aware of what an important moment a ministerial transition can be in the life of a congregation. I am excited to help support CUUC during this from whatever vantage point seems most advantageous to the whole.

6. What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?

I closely observed All Souls’ two-year-long search for a called Associate Minister and bring a wealth of professional experience working to help shape faith communities in transition.

7. What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?

- I would be most guided by the results of the congregational self-survey that has already been so carefully collected and summarized.
- Hopefully our new minister will inspire each of us as they exhibit great grace in all their human imperfections. (In other words – let’s collectively remember that no one minister will meet ALL our expectations perfectly.)



Name: Charles McNally

Preferred Pronouns: he/him/his

1. **How long have you been attending CUUC?** About 30 years (1992)
2. **Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?**
I was an RE student at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County (Lincroft, NJ) in the 1960s.
3. **Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.**
RE teacher 1993-98
RE Council 1995-98
Shannon Bernard's Ministerial Relations Committee 1996-98
Board of Trustees 1998-2001 (chair 2000-01)
Coming of Age mentor 2000-01
RE teacher 2001-03
Carol Huston's Committee on Ministry 2003-05
Coming of Age mentor 2008-09
Usher team 2011-15
Meredith Garmon's Committee on Ministry 2013-16
Environmental Practice Group (Social Justice team) co-chair 2015-present
Journey Group participant 2015-present
Usher team 2018-present
Coming of Age mentor 2019-20
Meredith Garmon's Committee on Ministry 2021-22 (chair)
4. **What do you value most about CUUC?**
Sermons, camaraderie, and shared values
5. **Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?**
To understand the opportunity set of what's possible for CUUC's next minister, helping the congregation transition to a new paradigm while preserving its most strongly self-identified traditions.
6. **What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?**
Lifelong U-U, organizational and consensus-building skills, and long experience with CUUC's ministries.
7. **What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?**
I would look for vision, communication, recruitment, delegation, and pastoral care skills; I expect that **every** serious ministerial candidate will already have a strong U-U identity and spiritual practice (including a commitment to social justice), so I would look for qualities that suggest an ability to connect with both theists and atheists, irrespective of whether individual members desire more or less spirituality in our worship.



Name: Alex Sehdeva

Preferred Pronouns: he/him/his

1. How long have you been attending CUUC?

Our family started attending in August of 2013; the first service that we attended was a summer sermon by Joann Prinzivalli!

2. Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?

No.

3. Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.

I have been involved in the religious education program as a facilitator fairly continuously since we started attending services. I completed the 8th-9th Grade OWL training and have facilitated that curriculum a few times. I have been a Journey Group co-facilitator since 2019. I have served one term on CUUC's board of trustees. My family has participated in food preparation for Hope Food Kitchen a handful of times. I have been the chair of the membership committee for a few years. My family participates in the talent show each year that it is held.

4. What do you value most about CUUC?

CUUC shows me the value of "being present" by rewarding presence with diverse "doing good" experiences.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?

The fundamental problem inspires and stimulates me: How do we align and harmonize the spiritual needs and ambitions of the congregation to a single personality?

6. What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?

My daily job performance is proportional to my endurance for summoning a logical and mathematical mindset. I enjoy brainstorming ideas with multiple constraints. I enjoy finding rapport with people whom I know well, and whom I don't yet know very well. I don't hold opinions too strongly but I enjoy expressing my opinions in detail when it's helpful.

7. What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?

Our new minister should:

1. inspire and challenge us to transform ourselves and our community,
2. have a vision for organizing and motivating diverse volunteers and employees to accomplish focused work,
3. deeply feel an urgency for 8th principle work,
4. help us feel at home when we are at the congregation,
5. delight and inspire visitors!



Name: Jeff Tomlinson

Preferred Pronouns: he, him

1. How long have you been attending CUUC? 31 years

2. Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?

I was raised in the May Memorial UU Church in Syracuse until 13 (about 10 years), and attended the UU Congregation at Plandome (now Shelter Rock) for 2 years

3. Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.

As a child at May Memorial I spent much of my time falling in the creek behind the church.

At CUUC I started off in RE for many years teaching 6th grade then 7th grade Neighboring Faiths, and the Youth Group. I have served on the Worship Committee, the Ministerial Intern Committee, a Minister Search Committee, the Social Justice Coordination Committee, the Racial Justice Team and Nominations and Leadership Development.

4. What do you value most about CUUC?

All the wonderful resources and opportunities, from our amazing facility and its beautiful grounds to the great work that we all do together. A top notch Religious Education program, the thought provoking sermons, the music, the social events and the social justice work that raises my awareness of issues in the world.

5. Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?

Serving on the Ministerial Search Committee is a great opportunity to give back to our congregation, to help secure a strong future and an opportunity for growth.

6. What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?

Working in mental health care for many years I have strong interview skills.

Having been active in Unitarian Universalism for many years, and having been on a Search Committee before, I have significant knowledge and experience re. the faith, it's ministers and the search process.

7. What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?

First and foremost, genuine compassion and a strong interpersonal ability to connect with people in the congregation. Second, a level of intelligence and knowledge about the faith and our world that makes each sermon stand out as remarkable. Third, an ability to socially network with our Westchester communities and raise the awareness and public image of our faith and our congregation. Fourth, the ability to be creative and collaborate with the congregation in developing new opportunities for people in our communities to engage with CUUC.



Name: Nicole Turygin

Preferred Pronouns: she/her/hers

1. **How long have you been attending CUUC?** I began attending CUUC in Fall 2015.
2. **Have you been affiliated with other UU congregations and if so how long?** I was a member of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge for more than a year in graduate school, visited a variety of UU Churches in Indianapolis before settling in Westchester county and attending CUUC.
3. **Please detail the nature of your involvement at CUUC or in previous congregations.** In my original congregation in Baton Rouge, I was involved in a graduate student group, as well as the religious education program, and "Lunch Bunch". During my time at CUUC I have served as the chair of the Hunger and Homelessness Social Justice Team, helped to kick start the Pandemic HOPE Kitchen project, have been a teacher in the RE program since 2016, and have served on CUUC's board of Trustees since 2019.
4. **What do you value most about CUUC?** There is so much I love about this community but the people are the part that I value the most. The people at CUUC embody Unitarian Universalist ideas of open-mindedness, service, social justice, and community. Our community is pluralistic and encompasses a diversity of ways that people live out their faith and provides an environment to support others in their expressions as well, and by being in community with one another there is always something to learn and to teach. We have people who are more philosophically minded, as well as those who prefer to demonstrate their faith through community, environmental, and other tangible actions.
5. **Why do you want to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee?** My term for BOT will be concluding at the end of this congregational year and during my term, I have gained a lot of knowledge and insight about the congregation. A new minister represents a new chapter of the congregation and I see it as an important way to serve the congregation.
6. **What skills and experiences would you bring to the Search Committee that would be helpful?**
In my life outside of CUUC I work with adults, children, and people with disabilities. I also possess strong reading, writing, and analytical skills, as well as conflict resolution.
7. **What do you think are some of the most important attributes our new minister should have?**

It is important that our minister be someone who is open to the diversity of thought and approaches within our congregation, and who can strike a balance between supporting long-standing activities at CUUC while bringing new ideas and a new energy. I would love for a new minister to be able to attract a new generation of Unitarian Universalist families and individuals.