

First UMC of Evanston Leadership

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Report from the Nominations & Leadership Development Committee

Asterisk () indicates new to the committee or role*

“Pending” indicates someone has been asked for that role

“Open” indicates that the committee welcomes nominations (including self-nominations) from the floor.

CHURCH GOVERNANCE

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair: Matt Moy Johnson*
Vice Chair: Obi Fox-Nnebedum*
Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu
LMAC Rep: TBD

Class of 2028: Bob Easter*, *pending*

Class of 2027: George Asante, Mary Cauble, Obi Nnebedum, Matt Johnson

Class of 2026: Sam Erickson-Ely, Matt Peters, Jeanne-Marie Daly*

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: *Trustees elect their own chair*
Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox
Liaison to Finance: TBD
LMAC Rep: TBD

Class of 2028: Hugh Williams*, *pending*

Class of 2027: Grant Bailey, Don Baker, Carol Barnett

Class of 2026: Kris Kallembach, Rob Meyer, Joe Womack, Martha Rudy

The BoT serves as the steward of the church’s building and investments. Trustees liaise with community around neighborhood development and special events (i.e. Evanston Garden Walk, Open House Chicago). Near-term major projects include roof, leaded windows.

Trustee Subcommittees

Investment Subcommittee

Chair: Carol Barnett

Class of 2028: *pending, pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Eric Alonso, Carol Barnett, Phil Carihfield

Class of 2026: Bob Hetzel, Andrew Baker

Planned Giving

pending

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Rich Grodsky

Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

Church Treasurer: Tom Scott

Church Financial Secretary: *pending*

Liaison from SPRC: TBD

Liaison from Board of Trustees: TBD

Liaison from Church Council: TBD

Lay Member to Annual Conference: TBD

Finance Committee Members at Large:

Class of 2028: *pending, pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Tom Clemens, John Cheney Egan, Tom Scott

Class of 2026: Rich Grodsky, Shirley Keene-Gefvert, Katy Clusen

NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Rev. Grace Imathiu, Senior Pastor

Vice Chair for Nominations: Evelyn McGowan*

Vice Chair for Leadership Development: *pending*

Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2028: Roxann Specht*, *pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Jon Fox, Evelyn McGowan, Sydney Harkrider

Class of 2026: Nancy Pendergrass, Liz Blackwell, Emily McClintock

The committee works to (1) identify and nurture the gifts and passions of the congregation; (2) on the basis of those gifts and passions, identify and recruit persons for various First Church leadership and other ministry roles; and (3) provide intentional leadership development opportunities for adults and youth.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: *Pending*

Vice Chair: *Pending*

Senior Pastor: Rev Grace Imathiu

Executive Pastor: Rev. Britt Cox

Lay Member to Annual Conference: TBD

Class of 2028: *pending, pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Jeff Carlton, *open, open*

Class of 2026: Craig Chambers, Abby Neal, *open*

The work of SPRC includes: budgeting (negotiating with Finance and Stewardship committees, get alignment and agreement), hiring and firing (writing job descriptions, posting jobs, interviewing, offer letters, termination letters); conflict resolution staff-to-staff and congregant-to-staff; responding to e-mails and other feedback from congregation; soliciting feedback from the congregation; update handbook; review benefits; prepare for church conference; create staff plans/goals/strategies that support the church's strategic vision; support and encourage the staff; advocate for the staff; meet with staff and listen; annual plans and feedback for the staff.

PROGRAMMATIC COMMITTEES AND INTEREST GROUPS

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Chair: Dennis Barbour

Vice Chair: *pending*

Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2028: *pending, pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Ron Anderson, Dexter Bailey, *pending*

Class of 2026: Dennis Barbour, Jan Womack, Linda Brennan

The mission of the Adult Council is to provide opportunities to learn, reflect, and explore in a supportive community so that we can grow in our relationship with God and each other, and learn how to live out our faith in the world. Our goal is to offer a variety of formats and topics throughout the program year that support the strategic plan.

ARCHIVES

Co-Chairs: Patty Baker & Cate Whitcomb

Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Members: Marge Bradford, Marcia Epting, Janet Lutz, Barb Miller, Joann Rea, John Rea

The Archives exist to organize and retain documents, media and memorabilia that tell the history of the church's membership, worship committee activities and mission outreach.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

Chair: *Pending*

Staff Liaison: Colin McDonald

Class of 2028: *Pending, pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Eli Hetland, Zoe Dillon (youth); Griffin O'Connor (youth)

Class of 2026: Laura Curry, Mary Hetzel, Phil Thrush, Stephanie Peters

Children's Council consists of committee members who are committed to nurturing and engaging children as “they grow in their relationship to God” and “live their faith in the world”. Children’s Council members actively assist in the Children’s Ministry program as volunteers – teaching, and assisting in Sunday School and/or Chapel, helping as needed with Messy Church, Connect 56, Nursery, Summer Camps (Creation Camp, VBS, Family Camp), and pitching in with Fellowship Groups (Jump and Club 123), Pageant, and holiday celebrations (e.g, Advent, Lent, Easter).

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: *Pending*

Staff Liaison: Rev. Britt Cox

Class of 2028: *pending, pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Beverly Olson, Matt Diener, *pending*

Class of 2026: Bruce Baumberger, Joe Bare, Wendy Istvanick

To improve the tools and messages used to connect our congregation and the community to the First Church mission.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Keith Slater*
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2028: Susan Prout, *pending*

Class of 2027: Brooke Cline, Jim Erickson, Teresa Grodsky, Keith Slater

Class of 2026: Karen Bailey, Connie Gilman, Genevieve Costello

Congregational Care Subcommittees:

Greeting Card Ministry: Glynis Doyle

Teas at Retirement Communities: Glynis Doyle

Lay Visitor (Leaders): Janet Lutz

Meals Ministry: Brooke Cline

Memorial Receptions: Susan Prout & Keith Slater

Advent Luncheon: Stephanie Clemson

The Congregational Care committee is made up of chairs of the subcommittees (Greeting Card ministries, Lay Visitor leaders, Meals Ministry, etc.) and members-at-large. Their mission is to support the work of these various ministries.

FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL

Chair: *Pending*
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2028: Courtney Zirkle*, *pending, pending*

Class of 2027: Glynis Doyle, Virginia Lee, Mari Leonard

Class of 2026: Marlyse Wiebenga, Andrew Schumacher, Marge Bradford

The Faith Formation Council offers groups, classes and other resources that help participants to grow in their relationship with God and to connect with one another through prayer, reflection, and sharing of their faith journeys. We believe that through deepening spiritual practices, participants will be better equipped to love and act in the example of Jesus, who himself was deeply grounded in these practices.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Cherie Asante
Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Class of 2028: *Pending, open*

Class of 2027: Deborah Hays, Kelsey Morton

Class of 2026: Cherie Asante, Krys Juleen, Leah Holzwarth

The Fellowship Committee coordinates after-worship community hour and leads all-church special events including Rally Day and the Chili Cookoff. The committee also oversees ongoing fellowship groups.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Lynelle Diener
Staff Liaison: Mary Taylor-Johnson

Class of 2028: Vivian McWilliams-Green*, Ray Newland*
Class of 2027: Lynelle Diener, Liz Raymond, David Smith
Class of 2026: Julie Womack, Debbie Zimmerman, Jean Clipperton, Ivy Joe Kuruvila*

The Membership Committee works to think strategically about and develop strategies for inviting and welcoming visitors into the church; connecting and engaging both visitor and members to opportunities for “growing in our relationships with God and living our faith in the world”; encouraging discernment and participation in the Inquirers membership process, and strategies for promoting member retention and re-engagement.

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Chair: Beth Tipton (stepping down in June 2026)
Vice Chair: *Pending*
Clergy: Rev Britt Cox

The Mission and Outreach Chair and Vice Chair (Chair Elect) facilitate coordination between the various mission and outreach projects with the goal of (1) supporting project coordinators in leading their respective mission and outreach programs via quarterly meetings; (2) helping with volunteer recruitment and management (e.g., use of Realm); (3) providing supports when new projects are developed, during leadership transitions, and when projects are sunset; and (4) helping with ad hoc projects as needed. The Mission and Outreach Committee Chair’s role at First Church is analogous to the Board of Church and Society’s role in the United Methodist Church.

M&O Ministry Project Teams

Bundled Blessings Diaper Bank

Co-Chairs: Sue Hagedorn & Krys Juleen

Dexter Bailey, Nancy Brown, John Bausch, Lynne Carlton, David D'Arcy, Pam Kendall, Shanah Slade, Caroline Wagner, *pending, pending*

Soup Kitchen

Overall Chair: Dave Koester *stepping down at end of 2025*

New Leadership and Structure: *in progress*

First Friday Lunches

Coordinator: Rich Hobson* (through June 2027)

Kathryn Calkins, Willi and Marcia Epting, Bob and Susan Henderson, Mary Hetzel, Pam Johnson, Barb Miller, Diana Mawhinney

Sunday Lunches

Coordinator: Karin Dillon*

Emergency Overnight Shelter (w/ Interfaith Action)

Coordinator: *Pending*

Walk for Warmth (w/ Interfaith Action)

Coordinator: Melissa Appelt

Interfaith Action of Evanston

Courtney Zirkle*, First Church delegate

Melissa Appelt, Board Member

SNAPGap (w/ Interfaith Action)

Coordinator: Melissa Appelt

Change for Change

Coordinator: Mission & Outreach Chairs (as needed)

Star Tree

Coordinator: Linda MacCracken

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Chair: Bonny Roth

Vice Chair: *pending*

The Social Justice Chair and Vice Chair (Chair Elect) facilitates coordination between the three groups in the Social Justice area with the goal of (1) identifying collaborative opportunities within the SJ area; and (2) providing opportunities for the congregation to engage in hands-on

justice and activism work. The Social Justice Chair's role at First Church is analogous to the Board of Church and Society's role in the United Methodist Church.

Race and Ethnicity Committee

Coordinator: *Pending*

Staff: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Mary Cauble, Robert Harris, Lisa Jacob, *seven asks pending*

Earth Care Committee

Coordinator: Judith Campbell

Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Phyllis Bird, Judith Campbell, Kathryn Calkins, Scott Fosdick, Marianne Griebler, Paula Scholl, Jennie Schumann*, *pending*, Roxann Specht

Reconciling Congregation Committee

Coordinator: OPEN – Asking Katie Brick

Staff Liaison: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Todd Bowen*, Kathy Cheney-Egan (checking), Antoinette Senjanovich, *pending, pending, pending*

To celebrate First Church as a fully inclusive congregation and to hold the church accountable for living up to that inclusivity.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Dan Owens, Eileen Chambers*

Senior Pastor: Rev. Grace Imathiu

Marion Clemens

Steve Prout

Paula Scholl

Tom Scott

Ed Webler

Cate Whitcomb

Pending

Pending

Pending

Pending

YOUTH COUNCIL

Chair: Chris Nieuwsma*

Staff Liaison: Sydney Harkrider

Class of 2028: Chris Nieuwsma*, *pending*

Class of 2027: *pending, pending*

Class of 2026: *pending, pending*

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES

TOTAL CHILD BOARD

Chair: Lisa Kampwirth, Total Child Director

Board Chair: Jackie Owens (church member, TC parent)

Treasurer: Jeff Wolfe (church member, TC parent)

Executive Pastor and Staff Liaison: Rev. Britt Cox

Members at Large:

Nasim Alexander (TC parent)

Nancy Ansorge (former TC teacher)

Lorraine Murphy (TC parent)

Miles Shultz (church member, TC parent)

Advisory board for Total Child Preschool

LAY MEMBERS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Representing this congregation (July 2024-July 2028)

Phil Carihfield (LMAC rep to Finance)
Jim Hagedorn (LMAC rep to Church Council)
Leah Holzwarth
Henry Pleas (LMAC rep to SPRC)
Colin McDonald

Alternates: Grant Bailey, Katie Brick

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE, LAKE NORTH DISTRICT, AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

(Term began July 2024)

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate: Nancy Pendergrass (lay)

Jurisdictional Conference Reserve Delegate: Rev. Britt Cox (clergy)

NIC Annual Conference Committee: Martha Rudy

NIC Annual Conference Shepherding Team: Rev. Britt Cox (Justice and Mercy Ministries Designate)

NIC Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries: Ilsup Ahn (Co-Chair), Katie Brick

NIC Board of Ordained Ministry: Rev. Britt Cox

NIC Board of Pensions: Beth Swanick

NIC Board of Trustees: Grant Bailey

NIC Council on Finance and Administration: Rebecca Smith

NIC Council on Young People's Ministries: Jim Hagedorn

NIC Committee on Personnel: Jim Hagedorn

NIC Commission on Archives & History: Cate Whitcomb

NIC Credentials Committee - Nancy Pendergrass

NIC Assistant Secretary for Standing Rules: Nancy Pendergrass

Lake North District Shepherding Committee, Lay Academy Team, Committee on Personnel,
Youth Team: Jim Hagedorn

Lake North District Committee on Church Building and Location: Martha Rudy

Lake North District Youth Lay Member to Annual Conference: Laura Thrush

Church Conference Recording Secretary

Cheryl Haack

University Christian Ministry Board

Katie Brick

5/27/2025