

# Nominees for the Ministerial Search Committee

The following individuals have been nominated many times by fellow congregants to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. Please review their bios prior to voting on who should be on the Ministerial Search Committee.

## Nadine Bowden



I started attending All Souls in 2011 and joined in 2012. Since joining All Souls I've volunteered as a worship associate, completed Jubilee training, facilitated A.D.O.R.E. meetings and served on the board of trustees. In fact when the pandemic struck I was serving as the president of the board. Unfortunately, because of my job at the FDA reviewing diagnostics for infectious diseases I had to step down from the board. There are now over 400 different tests on the market to aid in the diagnosis of COVID-19 and while the workload is still higher than it was before the pandemic, psychologically it is easier to step away and reengage with other important aspects of life, like All Souls. It would be a privilege to help find the right minister(s) to walk with us into the third century of our congregation.

Morgan Duncan has been attending All Souls Church since 2008. During this time he has served as a Worship Associate, been a member of the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee, led the Worship service for the Children's Religious Education and participated in a number of All Soul's social events. He's an active member of the Black Souls Group and the Black Men's Group. Morgan's work as touring performer allowed him the privilege of visiting many UU churches around the country, providing him some perspective, which, he hopes, might be beneficial to aiding the search process.

## Morgan Duncan



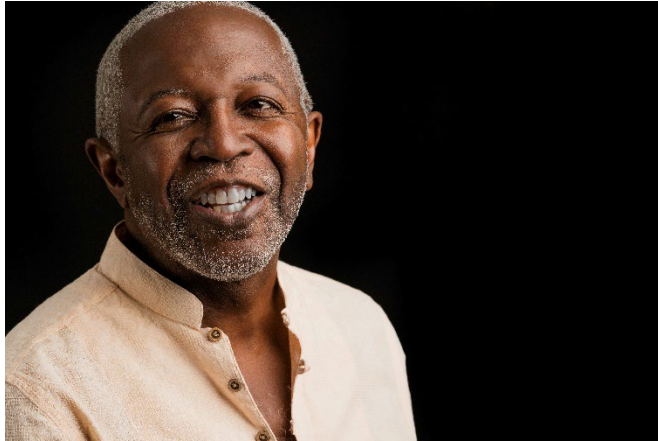
## Mark Ewert



Mark Ewert has been a member of All Souls Unitarian since 2002, served for many years as a stewardship leader, and is a past President of the Board of Trustees. He was married at All Souls in 2012 to OWL rock star, Bicentennial Co-Chair, and bellringer Steven Stichter. Mark probably qualifies for Silver Souls at this point, yet is still hoping to get invitations to brunch from the Young Souls! Professionally, Mark is a congregational stewardship consultant for Unitarian Universalist communities, having worked with more than 45 congregations over the last twelve years. He also has a practice as an executive coach and consultant. He is a Professional

Certified Coach (PCC), a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®), and holds a certificate in *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace* from the University of South Florida. Mark authored a 3-session module on Race and Money in America for the “Beloved Conversations” curricula of Meadville Lombard Seminary. Mark’s book, *The Generosity Path: Finding the Richness in Giving*, published by Skinner House Books, is available through the UUA Bookstore.

## Gregory Ford



Gregory Ford came to Washington, DC in 1972 after having attended St. Johns College in Santa Fe, NM. He began attending All Souls Church in 2003. He served for many years as Coordinator of Worship Associates and more recently on the Committee on Ministry. He currently is co-convenor of The Black Men’s Group @ All Souls. He is a clinical practitioner of psychodrama, having studied psychodrama as an intern at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital.

## Carolynn Fowler-Smith

My sister and I were looking for a church home and after visiting several other churches we visited ASC one Sunday. I joined All Souls Church, under David Eaton’s Ministry, in 1978 after visiting two Sundays. I signed the membership book and immediately started volunteering in the RE program. I stayed there for twelve years, teaching every Sunday by myself except for special services. I took a 2-year sabbatical from teaching after Eaton’s death, but came back for another six years.



After that I served on the BOT as assistant secretary for a year, twice on the CRE Committee, twice on the Committee of Ministry, Goal Committee, Silver Souls, Nominating Committee, Church Council Steering Committee and Caring Committee. I usher and table the EASIS volunteer table in Pierce Hall. I have been to New Orleans twice for the rebuild, North Carolina twice for the Moral March and voter registration. I work with the REEB project as much as I can.

I am a native Washingtonian, currently living in Hyattsville MD for 32 years. I retired in 2010 from the US Postal Service as a Financial Systems Specialist. I currently facilitate restorative justice, community conferences and school circles for DC, Howard County and Prince George’s County. I also serve on an Advisory Council for Seabury Resources for Aging in Northeast DC.

I was married at ASC in 1986. David Eaton officiated the wedding. My son and my grandchildren children also attended the church regularly for a while.

## Meredith Higgins-Hargrave



Meredith became a Unitarian in 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Mentor, Ohio. After moving to Washington, DC, she joined All Souls Church, Unitarian on April 19, 1970. She was President of the Board twice, from 1972 – 1973 and 1998 – 2003. Meredith assisted Rev. Shana Lynngood in creating, training, and supporting more than 25 covenant groups. She spearheaded the creation of the RE endowment, galvanizing support from friends and family for the students in learning and social justice activities. Meredith also served on the UUA National Presidents' Council for seven years and attended 15 UU General Assembly conferences. Meredith's professional journey took her from serving as a school teacher, to healthcare administrator, and, ultimately, a strategic consultant for the UUA's Joseph Priestly District. Among the numerous ways the All Souls community has enriched her life, the church is also where she met her husband, Thomas B. Hargrave, and where they raised their

daughter, Anna Hargrave.

## Paula Cole Jones

Paula Cole Jones brings over twenty years of national, regional, and local experience as a management consultant specializing in building leadership capacity with Unitarian Universalists. She is a lifelong member of All Souls Church, Wash, DC. Paula served on four Ministerial Search Committees (MSC) including co-chairing her first MSC in 1999 at a critical time the church. Additionally, her leadership roles at All Souls Church include serving on the Board of Trustees, Ministerial Search Committee, founding of ADORE, introducing and organizing Jubilee Workshops, initiating the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Task Force and the adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, introducing Jubilee Kids, co-chairing the 2018 Transformation Team, and organizing the work groups that helped All Souls to heal through the recent crisis. In 1999, Paula began working professionally and as a volunteer in many roles in the wider UUA. Her national and regional work includes consultant to Congregational Services



during Rev. Bill Sinkford's time as President of the UUA, member of the Diversity of Ministry Initiative group, former president of DRUUMM, Beyond Categorical Thinking trainer, and former board member of the Skinner House Books. For two years she worked with the UUA's Congregational Life Staff as Primary Contact with congregations addressing a wide range of leadership needs. Paula is co-author of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and leader of a national grassroots initiative for its adoption. Currently she serves on the UUA Article II Study Commission.

## Jen Keller



I first came to All Souls Church in 1988 after moving to D.C. to work at Peace Corps, having been a Volunteer overseas in Costa Rica. I grew up in Iowa and went to a small UU fellowship there; I was amazed by All Souls and fell in love. I joined ASC right away, met my husband-to-be David Jackson that year, and got involved with the young adult social group. I joined the All Souls Choir, served on the Board of Trustees for four years, sang with Jubilee Singers, and got married at All Souls.

Our daughter Jillian came along in 1999 and went through the Religious Education (RE) program, so I taught RE, served on the RE committee and chaired it a couple of times. We took ASC youth to General Assembly, to voting rights and marriage equality marches, and to New Orleans to help with the recovery from Hurricane Katrina and only lost kids a couple of times.

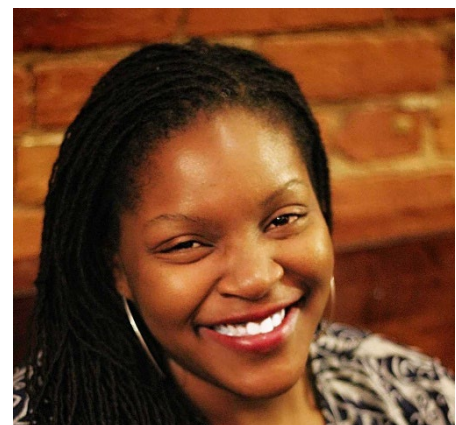
Over the years I was in an ASC women's covenant group, served on the membership, stewardship, and buildings and grounds committees, participated in Peoples' Voices services, and taught adult education classes. Now I volunteer as the ASC geo-group coordinator for the Takoma area, am an ASC Little Free Pantry steward, and participate in an ASC parenting of teens discussion group and a White Folks Against Racism group.

Professionally I retired from the US Environmental Protection Agency right when the pandemic started. I now consult part-time for the World Resources Institute on climate change and transportation, and do some college counseling on the side.

Currently you can find me on Sundays singing alto 2 in the All Souls Choir. I have been lucky to be able to play banjo (mostly virtually now) with the ASC bluegrass band, and just finished working with the quilting group that made the quilt dedicated to the Reverend David Eaton during the pandemic, which will be dedicated on April 3.

## Joelle LaGuerre

Hello, my name is Joelle LaGuerre. I'm excited to be a new member of All Souls, having attended Roots & Wings in the spring of 2021. Since then, I have joined the Adult Spiritual Development Committee and have also supported the "Imagining Our Future" project as a committee member and workshop facilitator. I also serve as co-host of the Capitol Hill Geo Group. I'm a facilitator by trade, so to speak, as I have worked professionally in workplace learning and development (human resources) for almost 20 years. I am currently self-employed, free-lancing as a facilitator, consultant, and coach. My work is an expression of my passion for meaningful growth and development - personal, professional,



and organizational. I am also passionate about community-building and volunteerism. I am new, not just to All Souls, but also to Unitarian Universalism. Upon being introduced to the UU faith in 2019, I immediately marveled at how aligned the beliefs and principles are to my own values -- I knew I'd found a spiritual home; and, shortly after, I was delighted to find a community in All Souls. On a personal note, I am single, an adoring auntie to 2 nieces and 2 nephews, and a lover of all things basketball (a fanatic, one might say). I also love to sing and cook.

## Erika Landberg



I have been a member of All Souls since the late 80s and have served on the Board of Trustees three times, two years as President. I also served as Moderator and Church Council Chair for several years. Other connections to All Souls have included singing in the All Souls Choir, chairing the Music and Adult Spiritual Development committees, and co-facilitating Roots and Wings classes. I am a former teacher and served on the DC School Board for 8 years. My husband and I have two sons; son Steve is a member of All Souls. My Board service has fostered a growing interest in church governance in general, and specifically how, in a large diverse urban church like All Souls, we balance our spiritual need for vibrant ministry and our need for good governance. This is part of our challenge as we seek new settled ministry at our Church. I would be honored to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee.

(Note: Erika is a current member of the Board of Trustees, but she will finish her term before the Search Committee begins its work, and has recused herself from all discussions about the creation of the Search Committee.)

## Pamela Spratlen

My name is Pamela L. Spratlen, and it is an honor to have been tapped as a candidate for the All Souls Church UU's ministerial search committee. As we all know, this a moment of tremendous change, challenge, and opportunity for our community. If selected, my goals would be to work with the committee, the board, the executive team, and our church community to call a leader or leaders who will help us reach our goals, both inside All Souls and in the broader UU and DC communities. I would keep in mind that we strive to build the Beloved Community and sustainably develop the church as a place of spiritual growth and social conscience as we welcome all people of good will in every generation and identity space.

By way of background, I was born in Columbus, OH and grew up on the U.S. West Coast in Washington and California. I attended public schools and the Unitarian Fellowship of Bellingham, WA. I



majored in religious studies in college and after graduate school in public policy, began my career in government service in 1981. I worked in the California legislature until a dream came true when I moved to the DC area to join the U.S. Foreign Service in 1990. I had professional assignments in Washington, Guatemala, and Paris. I served for 10 years in leadership positions in the Russian-speaking world, including twice as U.S. ambassador (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan). I retired in July 2019 and live in Alexandria, VA.

With respect to life at All Souls, I signed the book in 1993. I have enjoyed Black Souls, served as an usher and worship associate, joined Jubilee singers, taught RE long ago and now serve as a member of the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LDNC). Thank you for your consideration and support.

## T Vatnick



T Vatnick (they/them) has been a member of All Souls since March 2016. A few months later they attended the Coming of Age service and realized that hanging out with our congregation's young people was where they wanted to be. They spent the next two years as a high school youth group facilitator and in that time got trained as an OWL instructor, and have been teaching junior high and high school OWL for about five years. Ensuring that the voices of the All Souls youth will be heard in the search process is important to them. Outside of All Souls, T leads the SURJ DC Trans & Queer Working Group and is the captain of the Superheros soccer team, where everyone is welcome regardless of physical fitness or soccer ability. They work as a data analyst for the Metro (their favorite bus route is the 42, which now goes to the Kennedy Center!) and live at the corner of Petworth and Columbia Heights with their partner Stephanie and their golden doodle ZoZo.

## Craig Dylan Wyatt

Craig Dylan Wyatt, (ze/zim or he/him) MSW, Master of Social Work specializing in macro-level indirect practice. Senior Administrator, Nature Program, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for the past 22 years working on the climate crisis and the crisis of biodiversity collapse.

20 year member of All Souls with various leadership roles: Chair of the Welcome and Membership Committee; Co-chair of the Beckner Advancement Fund; Co-Chair of the Social Justice Ministry; Chair of the Weekend on the Bay Spiritual Retreat Committee; UUA General Assembly Delegate; UUSJ Board Member; Adult Spiritual Education Instructor for class on Escalating Economic Inequality; Representative tabling for All Souls and Unitarian Universalism at many Capital Pride, Youth Pride, Trans Pride & Black Pride events, including being an co-organizer of the annual Capital Pride Interfaith Service; Co-host for the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> events honoring those anniversaries of the March on Washington; among many others. I've been an active member as a greeter,



member of three different covenant groups, frequent volunteer for special events and social justice events at All Souls, and around the Washington DC area, and much more.

As a macro-level social worker, my goal is to have a well-rounded perspective of our large community. I have worked as a board trustee, RE teacher, and with the AV and music ministry of other churches of which I've been a part. I genuinely love and care for each member of the All Souls community, those who are with us now, those that have left us, and those that are yet to come. I was an alternate member of the Ministerial Search Committee for the calling of Rev. Susan Newman Moore, until the last 2 weeks of the process when one committee member left, and I was chosen to replace that member. So, I mostly played a supporting role in that process, but received a bird's eye view of the process that would serve me well in this current search. Thank you for considering me to be on the Ministerial Search Committee, I would appreciate your vote.