

Annual Congregational Meeting (in person and via Zoom) Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

May 19th, 2024

Quorum confirmation : 20% of 187 members = 38 members required

Meeting Agenda:

- Call to order Alex Gilman
- Chalice lighting and opening words Drew Betz
- Proposed meeting procedural changes Alex Gilman
- Approval of minutes from May 2023 Congregational Meeting Alex Gilman
- Annual Report Alex Gilman
- Board of Trustees Election:
 - Claire Lending
 - Gayle Tilles
 - Jan Cavitt
- Nominating Committee Election* Annie Sorich
 - New: Steffany Raynes
 - Continuing: Annie Sorich, David Curley, Rod Haynes
- Presentation of Proposed Budget John Stewart
- Instructions for online voting for Zoom Participants Alex Gilman
- Closing Words Alex Gilman

*Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following three candidates to be elected to the BUF Board of Trustees:

Claire Lending has been an active participant at BUF since 2016. She participates in a book group, a chalice circle and the Black Lives Matter Ministry Action team. Claire also helps plan BUF Womens' Retreats, is a greeter and helps with youth Religious Education. Before BUF, Claire was an active volunteer in a fellowship in Auburn, Alabama. Claire has served in many leadership positions both as a Unitarian Universalist and in her academic career.

Gayle Tilles comes to BUF after 17 years as co-founder and administrator of a private high school in California. She moved to Bellingham in 2022, having recently been widowed, and joined the church seeking a supportive community. She is committed to giving back to that community that made her feel so welcome. Gayle serves on the HR committee and most recently took on leadership of our search for a new RE program manager.

Jan Cavitt joined BUF over a decade ago, and now considers this loving community her family. Jan loves her Chalice Circle, book group, and greeting visitors. From a 1980s Women's Woodwork training program in the UK to our very own BUF Artist's Exhibition last year, Jan is an expert organizer and recruiter, and also has experience in grant writing and technical writing. A thoughtful communicator, when Jan sits in meetings, she will not only listen to all voices in the room, she'll also hear the things that are not said.

Nominating Committee Candidate:

Steffany Raynes is a retired former educator: a high school English and Psychology teacher and then a high school counselor. She enjoys doing watercolor art, camping, hiking, doing Interplay, and being an active grandparent to two grandkids here in Bellingham with her wife Lin Skavdahl. Since moving to Bellingham seven years ago, Steffany has been actively involved here at BUF as a Chalice Circle facilitator and participant, canvasser, member of the Pastoral Care Committee. Currently Steffany is part of the Celebrant Team, co-leads the monthly Taize service.

Ongoing Members of the Nominating Committee:

Annie Sorich

David Curley

Rod Haynes