2026 Ballot for Annual Meeting - Draft

Terms for positions begin with election at the 2025 annual meeting and conclude with 2027 annual meeting, pending submission and satisfactory review of self-disclosure form.

6/4/2026

Names in Bold = Nominated for new term

Term #: 0 - Filling an unexpired term; 1 - first 2-year term; 2 - second 2-year term; 3 - third 2-year term

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has the usual powers and duties of the Board of Directors of a corporation organized under the non-profit corporation law of the State of Minnesota. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Conference between Annual Meetings.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2028	**1**	**Rev. Tony Romaine, moderator**	**First United Church, Little Falls**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Danielle Bartz, vice moderator**	**First Congregational UCC, Winona**
2028	**1**	**Kim Shaffer, Treasurer**	**First Congregational UCC, Mankato**
2028	**1**	**Shelly Lindenfelser, secretary**	**United Faith Community, Buffalo**
2027	1	Dick Dietz, at large	United Church, Mapleton
2027	2	Rev. Clare Gromoll, at large	St. Croix United Church, Bayport
2027	1	Emma North, at large	St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul
2028	**1**	**Spencer Kwam, at large**	**Granite Falls UCC**
2028	**1**	**, at large**	
2027	1	Rev. Jocelyn Bakkemo, Liaison to Committee on Ministry	Creekside UCC, Minneapolis
2028	**2**	**Rev. Herbert Rotunda, Liaison to Personnel**	**First Congregational UCC, Appleton**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Jennifer Jaimez, Liaison to Development**	**Lynhurst UCC, Minneapolis**
2028	**1**	**, Liaison to the Committee to Dismantle White Supremacy**	

ExOffico with vote ,Conference Minister

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee promotes and preserves the financial integrity of the Conference. Its duties include: recommending financial policies to the Board of Directors, preparing and monitoring the Conference budget, making and monitoring investments, monitoring risk and obtaining insurance, managing funds and property, and providing consultation on fundraising.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2027	0		
2027	1	Alan Eidsness	Morningside Hills UCC, Edina
2027	1	Steve Magistad	St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul
2027	3	Rev. Frank Bennett, chair	Morningside Hills UCC, Edina
2028	**1**	**Jim Puffer**	**Robbinsdale Parkway UCC, Robbinsdale**
2028	**1**		
2028	**2**	**Kevin LeVoir**	**First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais**
2028	**2**	**Rev. Michael Fritz**	**Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake**

Board liaison: Kim Shaffer, Treasurer

Staff liaison: Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry recommends to the Conference Acting as an Association: standing for churches, the ordaining and commissioning of ministers, and receiving ministers of other denominations by Privilege of Call. It seeks to maintain relationships with persons authorized for ministry and Local Churches holding standing in the Conference. It transfers ministerial standing to or from another Association of the United Church of Christ, authorizes persons to licensed ministry, and confers Dual Standing on ministers of other denominations serving in a UCC setting. It establishes and maintains relationships with Members in Discernment preparing for ordained ministry, and with ministers of other denominations who are seeking Privilege of Call in the UCC. It recommends to the Conference Board of Directors an in-care relationship with new churches or an exploring-church relationship with existing congregations who are considering full standing in the UCC.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2027	1	Noah Moore	The Associated Church, Owatonna
2027	1	Rev. Cindy Maddox	First UCC, Northfield
2027	1	Rev. Penny Entringer	New Journey, Hutchison
2027	1	Rev. Michelle Weber	First Congregational UCC, Moorhead
2027	1	Rev. Bonnie Forsman	Creekside UCC, Minneapolis
2027	1	Rev. Elizabeth O'Sullivan	First UCC, Northfield
2027	2	Robert Galkiewicz	St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul
2027	2	Cindy Lemke	First Congregational UCC, New York Mills
2027	2	Janet Bartz	The Congregational Church UCC, Rochester
2028	**1**	**Rev. Dr. Jan Cather Weaver**	**First Congregational Church of Minnesota, Minneapolis**
2028	**1**	**Jody Williamson**	**The Congregational Church UCC, Rochester**
2028	**1**	**Betsy Rudke**	**St Croix United, Bayport**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Grace Anderson**	**Macalester Plymouth, St. Paul**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Marilyn Benson**	**Saint Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Bryan Simon**	**New Journey, Hutchison**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Jeanine Dorfman**	**Lyndale UCC, Minneapolis**
2028	**2**	**Bill Marshall**	**First Congregational UCC, Princeton**
2028	**2**	**Rev. Chelle Lyons Hanson**	**First Congregational UCC, Moorhead**
2028	**2**	**Rev. Matt Orendorff**	**The Federated Church, Morris**
2028	**3**	**Rev. Mary Koon**	**Robbinsdale Parkway UCC, Robbinsdale**
2028	**3**	**Rev. Rick King**	**Garden Community Church, St. Paul**
2028	**3**	**Rev. Shannon Smith**	**The Congregational Church UCC, Rochester**

Board iaison: Rev. Jocelyn Bakkemo, Liaison to Committee on Ministry
Staff liaison: Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister

Development Committee

The Development Committee promotes the financial development of the Conference through presenting annually a fund development plan to the Board of Directors, assessing donor prospects, and ensuring execution of a fund development plan.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2027	2	Jim Bock	First Congregational UCC, Fairmont
2027	3	Rev. Rick Wagner	Creekside UCC, Minneapolis
2028	**1**	**Suzanne Hansen**	**Clark Grace UCC, South St. Paul**
2028	**2**	**Craig Freeman**	**St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul**
2028	**2**	**Rev. Paul Bauch, chair**	**Peace UCC, Rochester**

Board liaison: Rev. Jennifer Jaimez, Liaison to Development
Staff liaison: Rev. Wendy VanderHart, Generosity Officer

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is responsible for human resource matters through recommending personnel policies to the Board of Directors, assisting in development of position descriptions, recommending staff compensation to the Finance Committee, and ensuring that performance reviews are conducted.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2027	0		
2027	1	Beth Magistad	St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul
2027	1	Mary Russell, co-chair	Hazel Park UCC, St. Paul
2028	**1**		
2028	**1**	**Rev. Sarah Brouwer**	**St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul**
2028	**1**		
2028	**2**	**Vonda Pearson, co-chair**	**St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul**

Board liaison: Rev. Herbert Rotunda, Liaison to Personnel
Staff liaison: Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister

Committee to Dismantle White Supremacy

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2028	**1**	**Jennifer Bach**	**Clark-Grace UCC, South St. Paul**
2028	**2**	**Nancy Zaworski**	**The Congregational Church UCC of Rochester**
2028	**2**	**Ole Olson**	**United Faith Community, Buffalo**
2028	**2**	**Rev. Seth Patterson**	**Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis**
2027	1	Rev. Cathy Kolway	Meetinghouse Church, Edina
2027	1	Rev. Jane McBride, chair	First Congregational Church of MN, Minneapolis
2027	1	Rev. Sana DelCorazon	Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Board: , Liaison to the Committee to Dismantle White Supremacy
Staff: Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister

Annual Meeting Planning Work Group

The Annual Meeting Planning Work Group oversees all matters related to planning all Annual Meetings of the Conference.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2027	1	Rev. Dr. Carolyn Pressler	UCC New Brighton
2027	1	Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe	Living Table UCC, Minneapolis
2027	1	Roger Andring	First UCC, Winona
2027	2	Rev. Vanessa Bradby	New Spirit UCC, Savage
2028	**1**	**Ash Bull**	**United Faith Community, Buffalo**
2028	**1**	**Rev. Torri Vande Zande, chair**	**Union Congregational Church UCC, Hackensack**
2028	**2**	**Jean Ostrom**	**New Journey UCC, Hutchinson**
2028	**3**	**Rev. Enno Limvere**	**First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais**

Staff: Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister

Nominating Working Group

The Nominating Work Group makes nominations for positions to be elected by the Conference Annual Meeting and nominations for positions to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Term Expires	Term #	Name, Role	Congregation, City
2027	1	Rev. Mary Kay Sauter	Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis
2027	2	Rev. Jeff Palmer	United Faith Community, Buffalo
2028	**1**		
2028	**2**	**Brenda Clarno**	**Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park**
2028	**3**	**Rev. Eliot Howard, chair**	**Edina Morningside and Linden Hills UCC, Edina**

Staff: Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister

General Synond Delegates

The Minnesota Conference chooses 19 delegates and 19 alternate delegates for each General Synod from among its authorized ministers and members of its Local Churches. Lay persons must comprise at least fifty percent of the delegates and the delegation must reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The delegation must be representative of people of diverse races, ethnicities, genders, gender expressions and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of each delegation shall be under 30 years of age, and where possible, be represented equally by high school age youth and young adults).

Class of 2027 - serving for General Synod 2023 & 2025

Delegates:	Noah Moore	The Associated Church, Owatonna
	Rev. Justin Griffiths	New Brighton UCC, New Brighton
	Rev. Matt Orendorff	The Federated Church, Morris
	Bree McKee-Miller	Creekside United Church of Christ, Minneapolis
	Rev. Victoria Wilgocki	St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul
	Rev. Jerry Locula	Peace UCC, Rochester
	Rev. Elizabeth O'Sullivan	Medford and Austin churches
	Mckenna Belisario	Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park

Class of 2031 - serving for General Synods 2025 & 2028

Delegates:	Madison Plemens-Schunk	First Congregational UCC Mankato
	Fred Rogers	First UCC, Northfield
	Rev. Jess Chancey	Creekside United Church of Christ, Minneapolis
	Phillip Snoxell	Saint Anthony Park UCC
	Rev. Nikki Frontz	Morningside Hills UCC, Edina
	Julie Lofdahl	New Journey UCC, Hutchinson
	Kristal Rick	St James UCC, Barnesville
	Jessie Wuollet	Community UCC, Biwabik

Delegation includes:

Rev. Tony Romaine, moderator

, Conference Minister