

SECTION I

NOMINATIONS

BALLOT - AUGLAIZE VALLEY REGION
- LAKESHORE REGION
- SANDUSKY VALLEY REGION

1-4 BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NOMINEES

BALLOT
58th Annual Meeting
Northwest Ohio Association, UCC
April 24, 2021

Cabinet/Executive Position

NWOA Moderator

(1 to be elected – 2 year term)

____ Doug Ricci 23

NWOA Vice Moderator

(1 to be elected – 2 year term)

____ Rev. James Brehler 23

NWOA Treasurer

(1 to be elected – 2 year term)

____ Dian Ewald 23

Church and Ministry Team

____ Rev. Becky Sunday - AV 24

____ Rev. Jennifer Jackson – L 24

____ Pastor Mike Ebersole - SV 24

____ Rev. Darla Metz – SV 24

Witness and Proclamation Team

____ Rev. Doug Williamson - L 24

____ Rev. Paul Stark - SV 24

____ Rev. Scott Johnson - AV 24

____ Open Position - AV 22

____ Open Position - L 22

Faith Formation Team

____ Pastor Margaret Mills – L 24

____ Rev. Jeanette Tangeman – AV 24

____ Stacy Hocker - SV 24

____ Open Position - L 23

____ Open Position - L 22

Nominating Committee

____ Susan Bishop – L 24

____ Rev. Louis (Rick) Dorsch - SV 24

____ Jane Myers - AV 22

Stewardship and Caring Team

____ Open Position - L 24

____ Donna Dorsch - SV 24

____ Bob Rettig – AV 24

____ Open Position – L 22

Lay School Board

____ Rev. Darla Metz - SV 24

Regional Representative

____ Peggy George - SV 24

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF 2021 NOMINEES

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

NWOA CABINET

NWOA MODERATOR

Doug Ricci - Married to Becky for 47 years, with 2 grown children, Lia and Cara, and 1 grandson, Milo. Member of St Paul UCC in Oak Harbor serving on the church council for 6 years. Doug was a member of NWOA's Stewardship and Caring Team and also the Church and Ministry Team. He was linking person to the Cabinet for 8 years. Doug is a 6 year US Navy veteran and is retired from Davis-Besse Nuclear Generating Station.

NWOA VICE MODERTOR

Rev. James Brehler is the Pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in Defiance. Jim was active in multiple roles in the former WRA/EOA, including Vice-moderator, while serving First Congregational United Church of Christ in Jefferson, Ohio for five years before being called to St. John UCC in Defiance in 2015. Jim also has more than 26 years of experience working in the defense and automotive industries and served as a lay person on various committees in the Michigan Conference during that time. Jim has been an active member of the NWOA Church and Ministry Committee for the past five years and Chair of the Discernment Working Group for two of those years. In addition to his church related duties, Jim is also serving as President of the Board of the United Way of Defiance County, as Membership Chair of the Defiance Lions Club, and as an On Call Chaplain for Mercy Hospital-Defiance. He has been married to his wife Laurel for 35 years and they have a daughter Mariel who lives in Harper Woods, Michigan with her husband while working on her PhD in English Composition and Rhetoric at Wayne State University in Detroit.

NWOA TREASURER

Dian Ewald - I am a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Tiffin, Ohio. My faith journey with Trinity UCC began 47 years ago when I married my husband and joined Trinity UCC. He is third-generation member and was baptized and confirmed in Trinity UCC. We are blessed with four children who were all confirmed at Trinity UCC (two of whom were later married in Trinity UCC). We have seven grandchildren. We are pleased to announce that our granddaughter will be married in Trinity UCC this summer. I am retired with a background in banking where I held several positions from Teller to Loan Assistant to Loan Operations as well as assuming executive responsibilities as needed along the way. In our church I have served on many committees to include, Altar Guild, Church and Ministry, Search Committee, Shepherd's Committee, Stewardship, Church Council and co-chaired Trinity UCC's Heritage Festival weekend of Craft, Café and Bake Sale up until recently. If there is one thing taking an active interest in these opportunities has taught me, it is this. "You gain a better understanding and develop more respect for your church (or career) by having taken interest in and by serving on committees to achieve a healthier awareness of how 'things need to work'."

CHURCH AND MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Becky Sunday is the Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Wapakoneta, Ohio. She has been privileged to serve previously on the NWOA Church and Ministry Team, as well as prior terms on the Conference Board of Directors and as a delegate to General Synod. She currently serves on the Nominating and Human Resources Committees for both NWOA and Heartland Conference. Becky has been active as both a participant and leader of mission groups to El Salvador, Back Bay Mission, and Crossroad Child and Family Services. She lives in Buckland, Ohio with her husband, Rev. Adrian Sunday. Their greatest joys are their grown sons and three beautiful grandchildren.

Rev. Jennifer Jackson is the Pastor of Haskins Community Church, which is a dual denomination church (UCC and American Baptist) in Haskins, Ohio. She has served there for fifteen years, and has held various NWOA leadership positions including Chairperson of the Lakeshore Regional Planning Committee and Chairperson of the Faith Formation Team. Jenny has enjoyed several trips to Back Bay Mission with her immediate family and members from her congregation. She lives in Genoa, Ohio with her husband Mark, their son, Ben, their daughter, Katie (when she is on break from OSU) and their Labs Max and Henry.

Pastor Mike Ebersole has been pastor of College Hill UCC and St. John's Baseline UCC since September 2018. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton, and he graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, with a Master of Divinity. In addition to his duties as pastor, he is currently engaged in CPE training. Mike was baptized and confirmed at First UCC, Shelby, Ohio, and is currently a member of St. Paul's UCC, Wapakoneta, Ohio. His hobbies are playing golf, shooting, and watching movies (particularly sci fi). Mike is single, and is currently serving on the Church and Ministry Committee as the Member in Discernment representative.

Rev. Darla Metz - I have been blessed to be the full-time pastor of Republic United Church of Christ for 10 years and part-time pastor of St. Jacob's United Church of Christ for 4 years. I have served on the NWOA Church and Ministry Team for 6 years and am currently serving on the Association Lay School Board, Tiffin Ohio Family Counseling Services Board, and am a Facilitator for an Excellence in Ministry group. I have been married to my husband Tim for 25 years and have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Pastor Margaret Mills served as Associate Association Minister for Faith Formation, Youth, Stewardship, Church and Ministry, Church in the World and other programmatic teams in EOA/WRA (now Living Water Association) for 35 years. Pastor Margaret is a Commissioned Minister for Faith Formation and Youth and Licensed to serve as pastor at St. John's UCC in Elmore where she has served for 7 years. She currently serves as a leader in the Excellence in Ministry program and is on the Board of Trustees of Defiance College. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award at 2001 General Synod, the Robert Johnston Award at the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators, and the Schaufler Legacy Award from the Defiance College in 2010. Pastor Margaret has a son Zak, a daughter Lindsey, son-in-law Chris and 2 grandchildren, Lily and Zak.

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman - I am a retired ordained UCC pastor now a member of St. Paul's UCC, St. Marys, OH where I worship and also serve as the creator and head of a weekly community meal. *Breaking Bread* serves about 100 free, (church) home cooked meals weekly to those in need of food or socialization. We also provide nutrition and community resource access to those who desire. I serve as a long term volunteer, spending some months each year at our UCC Back Bay Mission serving the elderly, disabled, low income and homeless population of Biloxi, MS. I also lead a group of local

volunteers for a week at Back Bay Mission yearly. I take calls and continue to lead worship for vacationing or ill pastors and have created and led several spiritual retreats.

Stacy Hocker is a member at First United Church of Christ in Galion. Is part of the Finance Committee as the chair, is the youth advisor, is a Sunday school teacher and sings in the church choir. Stacey is married and has two college students.

STEWARDSHIP AND CARING MINISTRY TEAM

Donna Dorsch is retired, a member of Trinity UCC Tiffin and wife of retired minister Rick Dorsch. They have 2 grown sons and 5 grandchildren. She loves gardening, crafting and creating special moments for her family.

Robert (Bob) Rettig was baptized, confirmed, and has been a lifelong member of St John's U.C.C., Holgate. He has served the church as Sunday School teacher, superintendent, Deacon, Elder, secretary of the Consistory, as well as chairman. He is currently the church treasurer, an office he has held for nine years. A graduate of Defiance College, he taught high school for several years, managed a USEPA grant for a local Soil and Water Conservation District and was manager for the Henry County Litter Prevention and Recycling Program for several years. A lifelong farmer, he has driven school bus for nearly 30 years. He is proud to have served his country as a Staff Sergeant in the Air National Guard. In the Fall of 2021, Betty and he will celebrate fifty years of marriage. They are the parents of two daughters and have four grandchildren. As an active Freemason, he has served as the presiding officer of one of the state organizations and is currently in his 15th year serving as treasurer. Locally, he has presided over most of the Masonic organizations and continues to serve as secretary or treasurer of most of them. His faith and support of the church has been greatly complemented by his masonic involvement over the years.

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION TEAM

Rev. Doug Williamson currently serves as the half-time pastor of First United Church of Christ Congregational in Marblehead (aka "Church at the Lake"). Doug is ordained in the United Methodist Church and served as the Interim Pastor of St. Paul's UCC in Saint Marys for 13 months prior to coming to Marblehead. He has been a faculty member at Boston University School of Theology, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Augusta Preparatory Day School (Georgia), and currently teaches, as needed, online courses in Leadership and Management in the Master's Degree program in Coaching Education at Ohio University. Doug also has coached college and high school soccer for 43 years and currently serves as a Senior National Staff Coach for United Soccer Coaches. He is married to Karen, who is a native of Hilliard, Ohio, and together they serve as "staff" to two wonderful rescue cats, Serendipity and Zoe.

Rev. Paul Sittason Stark is the Director of Religious Life & Civic Engagement (Chaplain) at Heidelberg University, Tiffin. Paul is currently the interim pastor at St. John's UCC, Tiffin.

Rev. Scott Johnson is currently the Minister at Spencerville UCC in Spencerville, Ohio. He was an Associate Minister at St. John's Evangelical in Kenton and served as the Senior Pastor there from 1990-2010 before stepping down from the pulpit to do work in the mission and NGO world bringing satellite internet into remote locations such as clinics, hospitals, missions, and aid/relief organizations. During the three years he did this, he traveled and worked in Ethiopia, Rwanda, the United Arab Emirates, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Gabon, and Haiti, where he helped to develop telemedicine and tele-education services via satellite connectivity. He is very involved in supporting missions in Haiti where he has taken

four mission teams to the Be Like Brit orphanage and built homes for disadvantaged families living in the area of the orphanage. Scott has served as a Hospice Chaplain in the past and has served on different boards and ministries over the years: Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, Hardin County Ministerial Association, Celebrate Freedom, New Hope Ministry Park (homeless shelter). Scott has been a delegate to General Synod when he served his first church in Indiana, received his MDiv from Eden Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor's of Science degree from The University of Mount Union.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Susan Bishop - I am a member of Zion UCC, Fireside. I am active in my local church and am a past Moderator of the Association. I am happily retired and enjoy spending time with my grandchildren. I am married to Mark Bishop, have 3 grown sons and 7 grandchildren.

Rev. Louis (Rick) Dorsch - I'm a retired minister. I served as pastor of Trinity UCC in McCuthenville, Immanuel UCC in Zanesville, Ohio, St. Paul's UCC in Evansville, Indiana and Trinity UCC in Tiffin. After retirement I served as interim Chaplain at Parkvue in Sandusky and as interim at St. John UCC - Baseline and College Hill UCC, Bloomville.

Jane Myers - I became a member of Wapakoneta St. Paul UCC in 1986 and have been active in the church since that time. For over 25 years I have worked as a helper with after school faith formation teams, served on Church Council, have been active in many groups within the church community. I am currently involved in Mission Committee and the food ministries which are an important part of St. Paul UCC's community outreach. I am a graduate of Syracuse University. In 1983 I received my Master of Health Services Administration from Xavier University with a concentration in gerontology and long-term care. Retired since 2000, I enjoy travel, gardening, reading and am looking forward to my long-delayed first mission trip, to Back Bay Mission in summer 2022.

LAY SCHOOL BOARD

Rev. Darla Metz (See page 2)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Peggy George - I recently retired from Heidelberg University after almost 40 years. Retirement during a world-wide pandemic has not been what I imagined. To keep myself busy, I recently began a part-time job as church secretary at Bloomville UCC. It gets me out of the house 3 days a week. I adopted two cats to keep me company and they have been a joy, and it gives me someone to talk to. I have not interpreted cat meows yet! I keep saying, "I know, I know; but really I don't know." I am currently taking the New Testament class through the NWOA Lay School. I completed the Old Testament class last year. I am looking forward to visiting my children and grandchildren again. I have a son who lives in St. Mary's OH; a daughter who lives in Mokena IL; and a daughter who lives in Kenosha WI. Seven grandchildren round out the family tree.