

SECTION I

NOMINATIONS

BALLOT

1-4 BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NOMINEES

BALLOT
59th Annual Meeting
Northwest Ohio Association, UCC
April 30, 2022

Cabinet/Executive Position

NWOA Secretary

(1 to be elected – 2 year term)

_____ Pastor Jay Scott 24

General Synod Delegates

(Class of 2025 – attending 2023 & 2025)

_____ Rev. James Brehler

_____ Pastor Tom Kagy

_____ Anthony Brookhart

_____ Blake Depinet

_____ Rev. Kathryn Helleman

_____ Brad Rine

_____ Amanda Harvey

Church and Ministry Team

_____ Terry Rettig - AV 25

_____ Rev. Rhonda Hainer - AV 25

_____ Rev. Mark Bishop - L 25

_____ Rev. Wendy Schindler-Chasney-L 25

_____ Pastor John Paputza – L 25

Witness and Proclamation Team

_____ Rev. Fred Coulter - AV 25

_____ Rev. Andrea Mericle - L 25

_____ Rev. Dawn Balduf - L 24

_____ Rev. John Mummert - SV 25

Faith Formation Team

_____ Open Position – AV 25

_____ Rev. Mark Bishop – L 25

_____ Rev. Mary Meadows – L 23

_____ Pastor Amy Kinney - SV 25

_____ Pastor Elyse Cramer - SV 23

Nominating Committee

_____ Jane Myers – AV 25

_____ Mary Ann Ewing – AV 23

_____ Rev. Kathryn Helleman - L 25

Stewardship and Caring Team

_____ Ron Geiser - AV 25

_____ Rev. Doug Williamson - L 25

_____ Ruth Novak – L 24

_____ Fran Brodman – SV 25

_____ Pastor James Robinson – SV 25

Note: AV- Auglaize Valley Region, L – Lakeshore Region, SV – Sandusky Valley Region

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF 2022 NOMINEES

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

NWOA CABINET

NWOA SECRETARY

Pastor Jay Scott is the licensed pastor at Emanuel UCC at Upper Sandusky, (aka “The Mud Church!”) where he has served since August 2014. His upbringing is in the United Methodist Church, and he pastored a Methodist church prior to Emanuel. Jay has a professional background in broadcasting, marketing/public relations, and American Red Cross management and disaster relief. Jay is also a farmer, and lives on the family farm with his wife, Kathy, who is secretary at two Lutheran churches. They have two daughters, and three granddaughters.

CHURCH AND MINISTRY TEAM

Terry Rettig I am a retired Human Resources Safety Manager and a Member of St. John’s United Church of Christ, Holgate, Ohio. I am a very active member of St. John’s having served in a number of positions and organizations including: Sunday School Teacher, Christian Education Board, Deacon, Consistory, Finance Team, Choir and Bell Choir.

Rev. Rhonda Hainer answered her call to ministry in her first year of college. She received her M.Div. degree in 1984 from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. and was ordained in the United Methodist Church and served small, mid-sized and large congregations in Wisconsin and in Iowa for 20 plus years. She left parish ministry to respond to God’s next call to teach as an Adjunct Instructor at the Scott Community College in Davenport, IA, teaching courses in World Religions, Philosophy, and the Humanities. She then took the lesson of nurture and fellowship to Indianapolis where she was the Manager of staff and volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House, located in the Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN. Following a move to St. Marys, OH for a job relocation for her husband David, who has recently retired from Crown as an IT project manager, Rhonda and David began attending St. Paul’s UCC and was invited to begin serving as the Supply Pastor in June, 2019. On October 2019 she was unanimously elected by the congregation of St. Paul’s UCC, St. Marys, to serve as their Settled Pastor, and was officially installed on March 15, 2020. Rhonda and her husband David enjoy living on Grand Lake St. Marys with their dog Evanston.

Rev. Mark Bishop, a 1979 Eden Seminary graduate, has served two churches in NWOA, St. Stephen Sandusky, and Zion UCC Bellevue (Fireside). Following a rash of suicides, Fireside church helped to found Bellevue Area Counseling Services where Mark became the Executive Director for 8 years. He turned his hobby of computers into a vocation helping the Bellevue City School District move into the electronic age as their Technology Coordinator for 22 years before retiring. During those years, Mark remained a member of Zion Fireside, serving as choir director, and through many teaching efforts with scripture or the MBTI. Mark is now finishing serving as the interim pastor at Trinity UCC Tiffin. He is married to Susan, and they have three sons and 7 grandchildren.

Rev. Wendy Schindler-Chasney has served St. John's UCC in Milan, OH for 28+ years. She has served on various committees in the wider Association, Conference and National church settings. Her husband, Wayne, serves Monroeville UCC and they have two young adult daughters. They reside in the parsonage in Milan.

Pastor John Paputza born in Sandusky, Ohio. Graduated from Sandusky High School in 1964. Served four years in the United States Marine Corps, and served a tour of duty in Viet-Nam. My wife Joyce and I have been married for 54 years. We have three children, Julie, John, and Carrie. We have 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. We live in Castalia, Ohio, and I have served as a licensed pastor at the Congregational U.C.C. in Castalia for over 40 years. I am retired from the United States Postal Service which I served for 34 years.

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Rev. Mark Bishop – see page 1

Rev. Mary Meadows is the Minister of Faith Formation at Sylvania United Church of Christ in Sylvania, Ohio. She has served previously as a solo pastor in a small church in Illinois and the Minister with Children and their Families at a large church in Raleigh, NC. She has also served as a youth minister and Director of Confirmation. She has lead children and youth programs with the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Ordained in the American Baptist Church tradition, Mary is seeking to transfer her ordination to the UCC through the NW Ohio Association. Mary is also an attorney in the area of Social Security disability.

Pastor Amy Kinney is a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fostoria where she serves as Pastor. Amy also works as the Director of Enrollment for Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay OH. She and her husband, Rusty are celebrating 34 years of marriage, they have three sons, two daughters-in-law, with two grandchildren and one on the way. Amy has served at St. John's Fostoria since May 2021 and previously served Union United Church of Christ in Bascom. Amy will be graduating this year from Winebrenner and is planning to seek ordination within the next couple of years. She also serves as Board President of First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Fostoria, where she also volunteers.

Pastor Elyse Cramer is a Member in Discernment with the NWOA and serves as Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ, McCutchenville.

STEWARDSHIP AND CARING MINISTRY TEAM

Ron Geiser A member of Bluffton Emmanuel UCC where he has been deacon, elder and president of the consistory. Also plays in the chimes choir. A member of Bluffton First Mennonite Church for 50 years, he was president of the congregation and sang in the church choir. He joined Emmanuel through a late-in-life marriage. He completed UCC Lay School of Religion last year and has been a substitute speaker at 4 UCC churches. Twice widowed, he is retired and works part-time at a local funeral home.

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.

Ruth Novak is a member at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, Sandusky.

Mrs. Fran Brodman I am a member of Trinity UCC, Upper Sandusky serving on the consistory, C.E. Board, help teach preschool S.S. class, help in the nursery, on the fellowship committee, sing in the choir. I also work full time at discount Drug Mart. Been married 42 years, 17 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. I serve on the Stewardship and Generosity team.

Pastor James Robinson is the Pastor of the First United Church of Christ and the First Presbyterian Church in Shelby. James serves as Chaplain for the Lexington Police Department, Vice President of the No Bottom Wet Behind Diaper Bank, Secretary of the Shelby Academic Boosters Club, and is a trustee for the Shelby Oakland Cemetery Association. James has three children Aiden, Carson, and Grayson.

WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION TEAM

Rev. Fred Coulter I am currently a member at St. John UCC in Defiance, serving on the Spiritual Council and Consistory. As a professor at Defiance College, I've had many opportunities to grow professional and personally. Through the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity, I co-led student groups to Cambodia for nine years with another faculty member (she went a total of 13 times!). In Cambodia, our student scholars worked with community partners to empower them with knowledge skills through various subjects, including mental health, education, and diagnosing malaria using microscopes. I have served as the Schaeffler Chair for Christian Education for the past three years. In that role, I represent the college at church-wide events, lead a weekly meditation gathering, and work with the Krieger Visiting School for Religious Studies. I am looking forward to being a member of the Witness and Proclamation Ministry Team, as it says on the NWOA website, "to witness and develop interfaith relationships by providing educational opportunities and open discussions with a diversity of religious and spiritual understanding."

Rev. Andrea Mericle is the Chaplain at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, OH. She holds her church membership at St. Stephen United Church of Christ, in Sandusky. Prior to accepting her call to Parkvue, Andrea served as the pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Lisbon, NY for 5 years; served as a Chaplain Resident at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, WI for a year; and served as the pastor at Peace United Church of Christ in Elkader, IA for almost 9 years. Andrea received her M.Div. from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2006, and was ordained the same year. Andrea is a previous member, and chair, of the Church and Ministry Committee, Black River-St. Lawrence Association, NY Conference, as well as a previous member of the Church and Ministry Committee, Northeast Iowa Association. Andrea is the happy feline fur parent of Hope.

Rev. Dawn Balduf was ordained in Oct 2021 at St. John's UCC, Genoa, which is her home church that she's served for over 40 years. She is currently a full-time hospital chaplain at Mercy Health St. Charles Hospital in Oregon, OH. She also has been providing pulpit supply as her schedule allows. Dawn holds an MA in Family Ministry from Winebrenner Theological Seminary. Dawn has been married to her high school sweetheart for almost 48 years. She and her husband Dan have two adult children, Jason and Mandi who are both married to wonderful women. The pride and joy of Dawn and Dan's lives is granddaughter Addison (16). They also have two angel granddaughters. Dawn's hobbies include scrapbooking (more therapy than hobby!) and travel.

Rev. John Mummert I am the pastor at Salem United Church of Christ in Kenton. I have been in the ministry of the Church of the Brethren and the United Church of Christ since 1973. I am a graduate of Colorado State University and Bethany Theological Seminary. In my spare time, I watch grandchildren and am a substitute teacher. I have served on three different committees/teams of NWOA. I am married and we have 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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 the 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.

Mary Ann Ewing I am a member at Buckland UCC. I am happily married for 53 yrs. and we have 2 grown sons and 4 grandsons. I am on the Church and Ministry Team for NWOA, and Disaster Relief team for the Heartland Conference. I am in the church choir, Co-Chair of the Women's Fellowship, involved in the County Recycle project, and we are supporters of Back Bay Mission.

Rev. Kathryn Helleman is an ordained member of the United Church of Christ, currently serving full time at Winebrenner Theological Seminary as Assistant Professor of Church Ministries and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program. She lives in Millbury, OH and worships at Sylvania UCC.