

Jon Kerner



My wife, Linda Bleadingheiser, and I started attending services at River Road in 1993, becoming members in 2000. While Linda played many RRUUC leadership roles over the years, I became more involved after I semi-retired from my cancer control work in Canada, joining the Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) in 2016, leading the racial justice concept mapping congregational survey in 2017, serving as co-chair of the RJTF in 2018, becoming co-convener of the RJTF in 2019 while also serving as a member of the Educating4Change Pathway.

In my research career, I served as Director of Cancer Control at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Associate Director for Population Science at Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center. After 20 years, I became Deputy Director for Research Dissemination and Diffusion at the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Control & Population Science. I finished my professional career as Senior Scientific Advisor for Cancer Prevention and Knowledge Translation at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Tom Purcell



I was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. I graduated from Florida Atlantic University (BS, Biology) in 1966. After serving three years in the Army, I completed an MS in Biology at Old Dominion University, and worked in environmental science positions in Puerto Rico, North Carolina and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Liz and I were married in 1982. I completed a Ph.D. (environmental science) at the University of Maryland, College Park while working for the U.S. EPA. We moved to Bethesda in 1984. I worked for several trade associations in the Washington, DC area on environmental issues until retiring in 2010. We have two daughters, Cassie and Emily. We joined RRUUC in 1995. Since becoming a member of the Congregation, I have taught RE, and participated in pastoral care, the environmental task force, and the anti-gun violence group.

Kimberly Weichel



Kimberly Weichel is a social entrepreneur, non-profit leader, author and cultural bridge builder with extensive global experience. For over 30 years, Kim has worked in the fields of international development, education and peacebuilding with many international agencies, including the UN. As a passionate champion for women's leadership, she was until recently CEO of an international women's peacebuilding and leadership organization. Kim is author of several books, including *Beyond Borders: One Woman's Journey of Courage, Passion and Inspiration* and *Our Voices Matter: Wisdom, Hope and Action for Our Time*. Kim and her husband Carl co-teach courses at American University, and they are both active at RRUUC - Kim is on the Board of Trustees, she sings in the choir, has been a youth mentor, lay leader, volunteer with the Silent Auction and the Bazaar, and she is part of the music outreach program performing at local retirement homes.