



Linda Bleadingheiser (1 year term) found RRUUC more than 20 years ago while looking for a spiritual home somewhere between the Methodist church in which she was raised, and the Ethical Culture Society in which her husband was raised. After registering her son in religious education, Linda began volunteering with the Kitchen Committee and the Annual Bazaar. When asked, she agreed to lead the Search Committee for the RRUUC Administrator, to co-chair the Membership Committee, and to serve on the Board of Trustees. Linda found that these volunteer duties were familiar in some ways and expanded her skills in other ways – a good balance between giving and gaining. If elected to RRUUC’s Board of Trustees, she hopes to contribute her appreciation for differing viewpoints, her caring for people, as well as her skills in communication, organization, financial analysis, problem solving, and project management.



Beth Dewey (3 year term) and her husband, Robert, and daughter, Jenn, began attending RRUUC in 1995, and Beth and Robert signed the membership book shortly thereafter. After just a few visits, Beth said, “These are my people.” Quickly becoming engaged with the congregation, Beth taught RE for more than 20 years, most of those years teaching OWL. After volunteering in various departments of the annual Bazaar, Beth settled into men’s clothing as co-chair and has remained there for over 20 years. She also sings in the choir’s alto section most Sundays.

For the past 25 years, Beth has worked for various companies leading complex, cross-functional changes that improve efficiency and increase quality. In most cases, these changes involve assessing accounting and HR practices as well as business operations. She has managed several small teams and their operational budgets during her career.

Now Beth hopes to bring her skills to RRUUC’s Board of Trustees because she wants to contribute to the governance and policy of the congregation that plays such a central role in her life.



Diana J. Gilpatrick (3 year term) is a second generation UU; her Mom was ordained as a UU minister in her 50s. Diana and her husband joined RRUUC in 1996 shortly before adopting their first son. Both of their sons attended Religious Education (RE) at RRUUC and are now adults. Currently, Diana is finishing up her 7th year on the Retreat Committee, including 4 or 5 years as co-chair. Prior to that, Diana chaired the Bazaar for 3 years (she was an area leader for more than 20 years), and co-chaired Leadership & Nominations. Other RRUUC activities include singing alto in the choir for 20 years, serving as Annual Meeting secretary last year, and weeding with the Grounds Crew for several years. In previous decades she assisted the Capital Campaign and taught several RE classes. Diana's most significant volunteer role outside of RRUUC was as board member and newsletter editor for Families for Private Adoption (a nonprofit). Her interests include yoga, meditation, swimming, water aerobics, photography, reading, nature walks (especially identifying plants and fungus), weed warriors, gardening, genealogy, vegging out on Netflix, quilting, and travel.

Diana grew up on the Sweet Briar College campus (where her Dad taught political science) and in Lynchburg, VA (where her Mom taught religion and philosophy at a seminary and several colleges). Diana's family spent her Dad's sabbatical year living in Hyderabad, India, and traveling throughout India, as well as in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. She received a B.A. from Bucknell University in PA and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in D.C. Diana's early exposure to extreme poverty and opulence, racial, caste, religious, and sex discrimination, propelled her into civil rights work, including serving on the board of feminist organizations and faculty Title IX committees at both schools. Diana spent her career at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Office of General Counsel, where she spent several years as a trial attorney (litigating systemic (class) cases against a number of industries and unions) and the bulk of her career as an attorney advisor.



Stefan Finney LoBuglio (1 year term) and his wife Carolyn signed as members of RRUUC in 2008, formally beginning a new chapter in their spiritual journeys. Lifelong Catholics, they were drawn to a welcoming faith community rooted in justice, reason, and service. At River Road, Stefan taught religious education, served on a ministerial support committee, and volunteered in past bazaars. As a one-year board member, Stefan will support our staff, ministers, and membership as we chart our path through the challenges of growing our faith while remaining true and proud of our progressive history.

After earning an engineering degree, Stefan worked in solar energy and automotive safety. For the past 30 years, he has brought his engineering and leadership skills to the field of correctional reform at the local, state, and federal levels. He oversaw the MoCo Pre-release Center for eleven years in Rockville which has earned an international reputation as a model correctional facility. He has served on gubernatorial correctional reform committees in MA and MD, and has worked at the national level supporting innovative reentry programs throughout the US. He currently consults on correctional reform projects in the US and internationally. Additionally, Stefan supports a state program for children with behavioral health conditions and is a long-term substitute teacher for MCPS at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents. As a volunteer, he serves on the County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee where he leads the juvenile justice subcommittee, is entering his tenth year as a chief electoral judge in the Carderock Springs polling district, and mentors the robotics team at Walt Whitman High School. He earned his BSME from Duke University, a Master's degree in Public Policy from the JFK School at Harvard University, and his Ed.D degree from Harvard's Graduate School of Education.



Rose Sokol (3 year term) became a Unitarian Universalist when she and her two children (Enso and Roan) joined RRUUC as members in 2018. They attended for one year prior and quickly found River Road to be the spiritual home they didn't know was missing. Rose has served for most of that time in Religious Education in the RE Play group, and previously served on the RE Committee. She has one child in Youth Group and another in Elementary RE. She joined Educating4Change, an RRUUC Racial Justice Pathway in 2020, and has served as co-chair of the committee since 2022.

Rose received her PhD in social psychology from Clark University, and has worked in the publishing arm of the American Psychological Association since 2012. Under her leadership, the books, journals, and videos team focus on creating publishing standards for psychology, and improving equity, diversity, and inclusion in the discipline and publishing industry broadly. She is a former board member of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society (and former president) and its sister organization the Feminist Evolutionary Perspectives Society (and former co-chair). She is in her final year as a board member of the Society of Psychologists in Leadership. Rose lives in Takoma Park MD with her fiancé, mother, four boys, a dog, a cat, and many houseplants.