

2022 Board of Trustees Nominees

This year, there are four positions to be filled on the board; three positions have 3-year terms and one position has a 2-year term. You may learn about the five candidates who have generously stepped forward to serve on our board through the candidate statements below.



Carl Janson

Carl has been a member for six years. He has been married for 53 years. He was a CPA. In his time at Unity, he was on the 2015-2020 Insight committee. Later, he co-led the Ministerial Search committee. He has been on the Board of Trustees for four years and treasurer for three of those years. In that capacity he has headed up the Budget Team.

He has served as a Sunday services facilitator for three years. Currently, he is on the Earth Care team and the Youth and Family Ministry team. If elected, he would like to continue to help guide us through these Coronavirus times which presents financial challenges and continues to put emotional strains on all our membership. He envisions a future where Unity of Walnut Creek continues to grow both in numbers of active participants and in the deeper spiritual life for all of us.



Chris Gomes

Chris Gomes has been a student of New Thought for 35 years; the last 21 of those have been here at Unity of Walnut Creek. During this time, she has attended many Unity classes and workshops; she also served on the Presenters Team for 6 years. She was a Tech Team member, working the switch on Sunday mornings for about 6 years. She served on the planning team for the 2020 Vision.

Chris was a member of the Board of Trustees, holding the office of President for 3.5 years, and Secretary for a year. More recently, she was part of the Labyrinth Team, involved in both planning and building. Chris will be facilitating a book study group this fall. And she is ready to serve as board member again.



Liz Bermudez

Liz Bermudez started attending Unity in 2007 and became a member in 2009. Even though regular attendance proved challenging, Liz continued to live and teach Unity principles to her young son and adult daughter. In March 2020, a call from Unity of Walnut Creek brought her back.

She answered the call to service and became a co-facilitator of the "So You Want to Talk About Race?" study group at Unity. Liz then began serving on the UWC board in May 2021 and currently serves as Board Secretary. She is a senior paralegal at a large international corporate law firm with experience in corporate governance and complex real estate transactions. Liz is grateful for that call in March 2020 and all the blessings and opportunities it has brought.



Marilyn Mattson

Marilyn Mattson, BFA, CMT, is former fashion designer, artist/musician, artistic producer, development director, program director, event planner, music director, and grant writer. She is also the co-author of [Every Woman Has Something to Say](#) and [Nutrition Action Plan for Public Schools](#).

Her expertise lies in fundraising, grant writing, newsletter editing, volunteer coordinating, and promotion. She worked as a development director and program director for 4 non-profits in the Bay Area. They include Centro Latino, San Francisco; Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Alameda County, Oakland; The Family Stress Center, Concord; and Unity of Walnut Creek

As Program/Events Director for Unity of Walnut Creek, she produced The Mozart Effect Piano Concert/lecture by author Don Campbell and classical pianist John Boyajy, at The Rheem Theater, Moraga, CA, 1999. Currently she is planning to conduct a weekly Memoir Writing Workshop on Zoom, after holding a 6-month memoir writing course for 8 women from Unity, Walnut Creek.

As a State Licensed Massage Therapist, she has worked for 15 years serving corporate clients and numerous wellness agencies in the greater Bay Area. Additionally, she sees private massage clients in her studio, and she makes house calls.



J. Richard Flander

Richard has been attending Unity since 1979. He enjoys volunteering and has served in numerous areas including being a member of the Unity Choir, and as a Platform Assistant. He served as President of the board in 2007 and helped create the Love in Action program to pay for the building upgrades which were completed around 2012. He served as the Treasurer (where he and John Rexroat revamped the accounting system and automated our payroll and federal tax payments).

He retired in 2018. Participating in Unity activities, classes and Zoom meetings has enhanced his personal and spiritual growth by bringing him closer to the Unity principles. He has attended several Unity classes including Keys to the Kingdom (where he significantly increased his donations). Most recently, he participated in the book study classes on "White Fragility" and "So You Want to Talk about Race." Earlier this year, he and Zula Macchell Reeves created and presented a Zoom class on "Raising Racial Consciousness."

This year he has been an Advisor to the Board and became a Trustee to fill in for a resignation in July. He is currently the Bylaw Committee Chairperson. He wants Unity to grow and expand our message and teachings. Serving this community is a joy for him. We have a great message to give. We need to get this message out to the world. He wants to help achieve this.