

## Why I Wish to Serve on FUUBC Board of Directors

I come to Berks as a devoted, life-long Unitarian Universalist, having experienced two different UU churches previous to this one in my lifetime, each having had its own unique governing structure and transitions. As a therapist with over two decades in the field, I bring a sensitivity around social justice issues pertaining to race, gender, socio-economic and disability issues, among others. I also offer the unique perspective that comes with parenting and advocating for two boys with progressive, rare and degenerative illness.

The strengths that I see myself offering during this three-year term include those of direct communication and relationship-building within the board and larger church structure. I'm able to define roles and expectations, vision and listen carefully and thoughtfully to the direction the church aspires to develop in. I am able to clarify, discern and delineate ideas around mission and responsibilities. I am able to pull big picture ideas out of the minutia, and bring fresh perspective.

I have thought very carefully and intentionally about this decision to pursue this nomination. It is very important to me to like my church, and to believe that it has integrity. I feel whole-heartedly that I am responsible for helping to co-create this culture. During this three-year-term (of the transition to the shared governance model), I believe our work will be to create a healthy, inclusive transition, providing informative communication within and beyond the board. We will need to create a climate of trust and support. My vision of the work to be done is about creating greater satisfaction within our community through streamlined communication between committees (councils), increased clarity, less frustration, and greater autonomy for staff and committees. Beyond this, I believe our work is to provide the stoking furnace of hearts and minds, offering the launching ground for inspiration beyond and within our beloved church's walls.

Thank you,

Lauren M. Fritz