

Why I wish to serve on the FUUBC

My name is Tonya Wenger. After falling in love with the principles of Unitarian Universalism and participating in UU life in other church communities for 2 years, I have been a part of FUUBC for almost 6 years so far. Throughout my life, I have had a passion for social justice and have tried to bring that spirit here to this congregation..Among other things, I have helped to establish and coordinate a visiting program for the immigrant families at the Berks detention center, while I still help to coordinate the monthly vigils there and represent our congregation and UUPLAN on the Shut Down Berks Coalition. UU trainings like Beloved Conversations and the Immigration and Race e-course have deepened my understanding of anti-racism. I have also spoken on the immigration work and anti-racism efforts we do on panels at the UUA General Assembly, UUPLAN annual meeting and also a panel for regional meeting of Quakers.

Other contributions at FUUBC have included serving on the FUUBC social justice coordinating committee and helping in the RE program with teaching or mentoring.

I have also really enjoyed serving on the board of directors here for the past year and a half and have aimed to bring my understanding of social justice to that work. During that time, I have been a leader on the safety team. .More recently, I have switched to helping on a subcommittee for the shared governance process that we have initiated as a board. I joined the board to fill a vacant slot and have yet to have the opportunity for a full term. If I am chosen to stay on the board, I would love to continue the work we have started, especially because I believe that continuity is crucial during this expected time of transition.

Serving on the board is certainly hard work, but necessary work, and it is an honor to be in this position. Whether for the social justice efforts or the overall congregational work I help with, I aspire to continue to work collaboratively with other board members and other church participants, as well as our community partners. I love the people and the spirit of this congregation, and I'm grateful to have an opportunity to tell you all that.

Tonya