

## **Board of Trustees Candidate Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Carrie Kotcho\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve on the Board of Trustees.

**Number of years at UUCA** 24 **Number of years a member of UUCA** 23 \_\_\_\_\_

### **What has been/is your involvement with UUCA?**

I served as the church's board member at Annapolis Area Ministries (aka The Light House Shelter) for ~12 years. While there I helped rewrite the bylaws and transitioned the board of trustees to a policy governance board. I also worked to diversify board membership and advocated for values based investing of Light House funds. I worked on the board during the fundraising, planning, and construction of the new shelter on Hudson St. which opened in 2010.

I organized and managed UUCA volunteer chefs to prepare 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday dinners and coordinated other Light House related outreach for ~20 years. I designed the church's first website.

I am very grateful to have been a part of the Partner Church program and travel to Transylvania on a work project in 2006. I made lifelong friends on that trip and gained a much deeper understanding of our Unitarian heritage.

I've enjoyed playing music/drums with a variety of UUCA music groups and participated in the pre-search "requirements" sessions for recruiting a new music Director after Betsy Jo's retirement.

I taught RE classes for 8 years and have chaperoned a number of RE trips and activities over the years.

I've volunteered with UULM for several years (starting with Marriage Equality) and hope to continue to work with this group for many years.

### **Outside activities, if relevant:**

### **Work experience, if relevant:**

I'm the Deputy Director for Audience Engagement at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. I have a Masters in Teaching from GWU and my undergrad is in film and television production. I'm currently working on the American Women's History Initiative to develop a new paid internship program that will bring

students from underrepresented backgrounds to the Smithsonian to help build a more vibrant and diverse workforce.

**Reasons for your willingness to be a member of the Board of Trustees:**

I've always admired and been in awe of what our Boards have been able to accomplish over the years. Through economic downturns, challenging social/cultural issues, internal dissent, and even tragedies our Boards have kept focus from year to year on things like sustainability, racial and social justice, responsible governance, stewardship, marriage equality and building the beloved community. I feel like I am at a time in my life where I am ready to step up and do my part to help keep the congregation dreaming big, and finding ways to bring those dreams into reality.

**What skills, experiences and/or passions do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

I am an educator, communicator, and a big history nerd. I am passionate about social justice and dismantling racism in our church and in the larger society. I write lots of proposals and raise funds for the museum as well as manage large projects and teams of people. I'm glad to use any of my skills to help our church.