

Beverly Lieberman – Co-Chair



Beverly is President of Halbrecht Lieberman Associates, Inc., an internationally recognized executive search firm founded in 1957. She also coaches senior executives in the areas of performance improvement and career development.

Ms. Lieberman has a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Michigan and graduated from the prestigious MIT Sloan School Executive Management Program. She is a frequent speaker at professional conferences and serves on several boards.

“I am enthusiastic about participating on the UUCOV search committee because recruiting senior professionals aligns with my skills and strengths. Having served on the recent interim search committee, I have experience with how to “promote” UUCOV’s assets to ministerial candidates as well as how to evaluate and assess candidates. I am committed to UUCOV as a member and want the very best outcome for our congregation.”

Judith Parker – Co-Chair

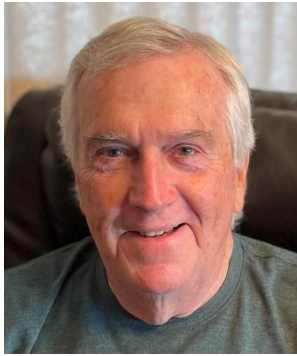


Judith is a former Peace Corps volunteer and served as an NYU teaching fellow. Judith has worked as a trainer, marketer, writer, computer programmer, and web content editor and designer. She also worked as a freelance consultant for both small businesses and Fortune 500 companies.

Judith has designed curriculum, developed budgets, and worked with both large and small groups. She enjoys helping people of diverse opinions to remain focused on common goals. Judith hopes to find a minister who can challenge and help our congregation find meaning and purpose.

“UU’s are a very diverse group. I will work to choose a candidate that best represents the Congregation. I have no bias about the gender, race, or sexual orientation of our next minister. I want to ensure that we find balance in all the different ways UU’s seek meaning. I hope to give back to my beloved community through working on this committee.”

Matt McHugh - Treasurer



Matt is a retired investment firm Senior Vice President. He has managed branch offices throughout New England. Matt is a licensed Real Estate Broker in Florida and Rhode Island. He has an M.B.A. from Rutgers and a B.S. from the United States Merchant Marine Academy. During the Vietnam conflict, he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve. After retiring from Wall Street, he was elected to his town council, and then to the Rhode Island House of Representatives. Matt and his wife, Kim, have been members of the congregation since 2013. They share their time between Venice and a summer cottage in Rhode Island. Matt volunteers as a literacy tutor at the North Port Library.

“I take very seriously the task of finding a settled Minister with a sense of humor and a positive attitude who will help us grow as well as tend to our pastoral needs. I will draw on my experiences in the business world to help the committee in the search process.”

Ellen Higdon



Ellen has a B.A. in Communications, as well as additional training in effective communication. She has a Master's degree in Social Work, and years of experience doing therapy with groups, couples, adults, and children. Ellen's last career was as an Elementary School Teacher where she worked well with children as well as their parents. She is an avid reader and loves working out at the gym, swimming, and walking.

“My sharpened intuition skills and ability to communicate effectively with a minimum of conflict will make me a great committee member. I offer my skills to help determine what the congregation wants and needs in a new minister.”

Marcia G. Smith



Marcia has a B.S. in Education and is a licensed massage therapist. Her work and volunteer experiences have included teaching, coordinating a team of teachers, managing a small bookstore, designing and managing databases, designing and editing newsletters, and practicing massage therapy. She enjoys projects requiring creativity, initiative, and clear communication. As the middle of five siblings, Marcia likes to find common ground.

“Moving from Pennsylvania, and fairly new to Unitarian Universalism, my wife and I have loved the welcoming spirit here. UUCOV has challenges and opportunities ahead. The sister of two ministers, I grew up intensely involved in my church of origin. I hope to pay forward the welcome we have received here.”

Steve Simon



Steve Simon has Masters Degrees in Teaching and Psychology. He worked as a community organizer and political campaign organizer before going into mental health care. Later Steve became an executive recruiter, specializing in health care positions. Steve also ran a speakers bureau for senior centers and retirement communities. He has served on various boards, including Mental Health America of Wisconsin, a property owner's association, and Venice Area Audubon Society.

“My wife Jan and I were married at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. Coming to Venice, we have enjoyed the services and the genuine friendliness here. Joining UUCOV has been one of our best decisions. My hope for UUCOV is to find a minister who will help us attract new active members in the 30 - 65 age groups, strengthen our fiscal stability and pastoral care, and continue to promote social bonds, volunteerism, and social justice.”

John Van Camp



John grew up on a farm outside of Detroit. After attending Oakland University, John went to India in the Peace Corps, followed by 3 ½ years in Vietnam as a civilian contractor. Upon returning to Detroit, he received a Master's degree in social work and began working for a small non-profit community mental health center. Over a 45 year career he led the organization's growth to become a multifaceted corporation providing: low income and veteran housing, physical and mental health care, financial coaching, job training and placement, mortgage lending, small business startups, adult literacy, and early childhood education. Much of this growth was achieved through mergers, acquisitions and strategic partnerships all designed to help lift vulnerable populations out of poverty.

"As a community organizer I look to find and build community wherever I live. There is no better place for me than UUCOV to be engaged. I look forward to finding a settled minister to help foster and grow our UUCOV community."