

LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION OHIO NORTHEAST, UCC

Biographical Information for 2025 Nominees

Rev. Rusty Andrews Having been called to Ministry at the age of 14, I followed that call through another Denomination where I graduated from Seminary and was called to Associate and Youth Ministry. After serving there, I realized they were very fundamental, and knowing I was a part of the Queer Community, I left that Denomination to pursue my calling where I was loved and accepted for me. I came to the United Church of Christ, having found exactly that at the First UCC of Springfield, Ohio in 2019. My Spouse, Danny, and I took on Service Roles there. Having Spoken with the Association Minister of S.O.N.K.A. I was accepted into the M.I.D. program and asked to enter the UCC's Layschool for continuing Education. Having then graduated from Layschool and completed My M.I.D. process, I was given the date for my Ecclesiastical Council in front of my peers of S.O.N.K.A. I was accepted unanimously and proceeded into my Call process. I was officially ordained by the Denomination that welcomed and affirmed me for who I was and loved on June 11, 2022. I currently serve as Settled Pastor and teacher for the Congregation of First United Church of Christ, Eastlake, Ohio, and on the Heartland Conference ONA Support Network

Rev. Beau Dansizen I am the current Minister for Children and Families at Avon Lake UCC. I have served both in the Presbyterian church (PC(USA)) and the United Church of Christ in various roles, including Director of Youth Ministries, Director of Christian Education, and Director of Contemporary Worship. I did my undergraduate work at Kent State University, first in Musical Theater and then Computer Science. I felt the call to ordained ministry in 2011 and began attending the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 2013. In May of 2017 I finished my Master of Divinity degree. My primary focus in ministry has been in the area of mission and missional churches, and I love being part of a church that is so mission focused at Avon Lake UCC. I am currently finishing up a Doctor of Ministry Degree from University of Dubuque Theological Seminary with a focus on how the church responds to crisis.

Rev. Daniel Doty was baptized and confirmed in the UCC. Dan attended Bowling Green State University (OH) where he earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education. He taught music in the public schools of Ohio for four years before answering his call to ministry. Dan earned his MDiv degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL.) Dan served UMC churches in Illinois and Ohio. Upon receiving Privilege of Call in the UCC, Dan served as Senior Minister of Trinity UCC (Wadsworth, OH) and The Bath Church (Akron, OH). He served as Interim Minister of the Westerville Community UCC (Westerville, OH.) Currently Dan serves as the Senior Minister at First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. Dan lives in Wadsworth with his wife Amy and is the proud father of two daughters Kristian and Kaetlyn, a newlywed son Sean and daughter-in-law Sara. Dan is actively involved in Kirchengemeinschaft and currently serves as the co-chair of the EKD Forum for the national setting. He is the author of a two-article series "Last Supper, Lord's Supper" published in *Sacramental Life* (OSL Publications.)

Keri Foster (she/her) has worked in the National Setting for 15+ years in various capacities. Currently she is the Special Projects and Program Manager in the Marketing and Communications team. Keri is a lifelong member of the UCC; her father Joe is a retired UCC minister, her sister Kristi was an ordained UCC minister and college chaplain, and her maternal aunt Lois Happe is also a retired UCC minister. She likes to joke that she joined the "family business." Keri lives in Lorain, OH. She has two adult children, Devin and Abigail, and a cat named Oliver. Keri loves to travel with her friends and family, most recently on cruises to the Caribbean. Other hobbies include reading, music (concerts, listening to, and singing), and cross-stitching. She is a member of Avon Lake UCC.

Marcy Gansler serves as the Mission Education and Communications Program Manager for Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, where she has been part of the communications team since 2001. She oversees overseas communications that connect global partners with local churches through storytelling, advocacy, digital strategy, and mission engagement. Her work includes managing web content, news, worship and educational resources, weekly prayers, social media, multimedia projects, and campaign initiatives that raise awareness of global justice issues. Marcy lives in Twinsburg, Ohio, with her husband—a nationally recognized veteran advocate—their teenage son, and two silly little dogs. She is a member of South Haven United Church of Christ in Bedford, Ohio, and is passionate about music, grammar, and global advocacy, especially the pursuit of human rights in places like Palestine and around the world.

Rev. David Hill has served as the Pastor of The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ since November of 2003. He is a member of the Committee on Ministry (class of 2026). David is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and Colgate University. Although a native of northern California he has spent the bulk of his adult life in Ohio and previously served as Pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Jefferson. He and his wife, Vicki, have two adult children and two grandchildren. David enjoys swimming and playing the banjo (although not simultaneously).

David Oliver Kling is a 2008 graduate of Wright State University earning Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Philosophy and Religious Studies and is a 2012 graduate of Methodist Theological School in Ohio having earned a Master of Divinity degree specializing in Black Church and African Diaspora Studies. Pastor Oliver is the 2012 recipient of the Interpretation Journal Award in Theology and Biblical Studies upon graduation. By the end of 2013 Pastor Oliver finished a residency in chaplaincy at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia and then moved to the Massillon area to serve as a hospice chaplain. He is also an adjunct professor at a local college teaching medical ethics. Pastor Oliver is all but project/thesis for a Doctor of Ministry degree specializing in leadership for transformational change, and he is passionate about many things including such academic topics as history, philosophy, and open and relational theology on one hand and on the other he is a fan of all things nerdy (science fiction & fantasy). Pastor Oliver is committed to social justice, radical acceptance, and authenticity. He lives in Massillon with his spouse Jacki and their amazing daughter Vivianne.

Vicki McGaw currently serves as the Interim Minister at Federated Church of Chagrin Falls where she is having a great time helping the congregation prepare for its next pastor. During more than a decade as the pastor of Middleburg Heights Community United Church of Christ, Vicki led the congregation to become Open and Affirming, to join Greater Cleveland Congregations, and created WorkShip Sundays, days when the church worships in service to the community rather than in the sanctuary. A graduate of Eden Theological Seminary and Michigan State University, she has also been an entrepreneur for nearly 30 years, serving as the Vice President of McGaw Technology, Inc., an aerospace research and development company headed her husband who holds a PhD in aerospace engineering. She and Mike are the parents of two children, Megan who passed away in 2018 after a short battle with an aggressive cancer, and Christopher who serves as a diplomatic security special agent for the State Department. Vicki enjoys traveling, cooking, reading and listening to all kinds of music. She has an unfortunate addiction to Coke Zero, enjoys a good glass of wine, and loves change.

David Miner I began my faith journey at Zion UCC, North Canton. I moved to Trinity UCC Canton because it spoke to my progressive theological faith. As an elder, my involvement early on was to be on consistory many years with being president 4 times. I enjoy teaching adult Sunday school, singing in the choir, playing hand bells and fixing the church bus. My passion has been participating in youth and adults mission trips, especially to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. I also believe in focusing on social justice issues and PRC issues. I believe that the church should speak truth to power. Being on 4 different pastoral search committees has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences in my life. Trinity is O&A and is poised to be a leading voice in the UCC with the addition of Valerie Garrick as our new Senior Pastor.

Kathy Osler My husband and I have been active members of Strasburg St. John UCC for forty years. I have served in multiple capacities over our years at St. John. Some of my various roles: member of the Board of Christian Education; adult representative to a community-wide multi-church youth group; employed as our Director of Youth & Christian Education; member of Church Council for four different three-year terms (serving as the president for five of those twelve years); treasurer of our Tiger Paw Packs program (a backpack program providing weekend food for Strasburg students) since its inception eleven years ago; and long-time member of our Finance Committee. My husband and I have two married sons, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Prior to becoming a full-time mother, I began my working years as a teacher. That was followed by various part-time jobs. I retired twelve years ago as a bank teller at a small local bank. I look forward to serving with the Living Water Association and getting to know new names and faces as I serve in my new role.

Amber Pottmeyer has been a lifelong member of the First UCC in New Philadelphia and began working there as a secretary ten years ago. In that time her responsibilities grew to encompass nearly every aspect of the church and her title changed to Pastoral Assistant to reflect that. She holds a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education and Flute Performance from Capital University and also has a music lesson studio where she teaches flute, clarinet and saxophone.

Barbara Knill Rook is a 25+-year member of Olmsted Community Church in Olmsted Falls, OH. Her commitment to the church includes two previous terms as Moderator. She currently serves as Chair of the Missions Committee and is active in children's Faith Formation as a periodic Sunday School teacher. Most recently, as a member of the newly formed Advocacy Committee, she spearheaded OCC's path to becoming a Just Peace Church, which the congregation approved on Just Peace Sunday (September 14, 2025). Barbara retired from full-time corporate work in 2020 but continues to be a freelance business writer, editor, and proofreader. She lives in Olmsted Falls with her spouse, Mark, is a parent to two adult children and proud Grandma to her 6-year-old granddaughter.

Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler is pastor at Mt. Zion UCC in Cleveland. He attended Howard University and earned a BA in Political Science, continuing his education at the Howard University School of Divinity, earning his MDiv. Rev. Sadler has served UCC, congregations in Washington, D.C., New Orleans, and Chicago. Considered a leading expert in the field of African American church growth, Rev. Sadler is widely sought after to provide seminars, workshops and lectures in seminaries, local congregations and also at denominational gatherings. Rev. Sadler is a prolific writer who has published numerous articles and contributed to several books, including *Walk in the Light: Insight and Reflections on Living the Christian Life* (Creative Arts Ministries, 1998). Rev. Sadler serves on numerous civic, corporate and denominational boards and as President of the Howard University Alumni Club of Cleveland. Rev. Sadler is married to Kim Martin Sadler and they have two adult children. Rev. Sadler's numerous hobbies include painting acrylic abstracts, physical fitness, collecting African American art and restoring classic automobiles.

Lisa Yeagley (she /her) is the Youth Coordinator at Christ United Church of Christ in Orrville. She has been at her position there for eleven years. In addition to her church responsibilities, she is also the Heartland Conference representative on the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators (GLAUCE) Coordinating Committee, and a participant in the Institute for Youth Ministries Care Cohort through Princeton Theological Seminary. Lisa is married to Nick, and has two teenage daughters, Alaina and Madalyn. In her free time, she enjoys watching her children's events, playing pickleball, and reading. She looks forward to bringing her experience, energy, and perspective to the work of supporting congregations and fostering connection across the association.