

LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION OHIO NORTHEAST, UCC

Biographical Information for Nominees

MARTIN BUCK is a member of The First Church in Oberlin, UCC, serving as Treasurer since 2008, a member of the Board of Directors for the Heartland Conference UCC, and was a delegate to General Synods 31 & 32. His interests in equality led him to become a member of the former Open and/ Affirming Coalition for the WRA, serve on the Oberlin Human Relations Commission for 9 years and continue to lobby for LGBTQ+ rights both at the state and local level. Martin was a founding member of the Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA) and served on its board for over 15 years providing grassroots support to the people of Guatemala. He is also a member of the First Church Green Team formed to advocate sustainability and environmental justice, a member of the Oberlin Resource Conservation and Recovery Commission which works to move the City of Oberlin to zero waste by the year 2050, and board member/Treasurer of Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly (POWER) a grassroots organization helping homeowners weatherize and repair their homes to make them comfortable, affordable, and healthy. Martin is retired computer support specialist and a veteran of the U.S. Navy and now spends his time as a full-time student at the University of Toledo— Go Rockets! — after earning his Associate's at Lorain County Community College (LCCC) after 45 years of on again-off again school. He enjoys weaving, beekeeping, gardening, reading, stamp collecting and traveling. He was widowed in 2018 after the loss of his beloved wife Colette.

DAVID HILL has served as the Pastor of The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ since November of 2003. He is a past Moderator of the Western Reserve Association as well as past member of the WRA Department of Church and Education and the Committee on Ministry. He was a member of the Habakkuk Group that reimagined the UCC Manual on Ministry. David is a graduate of Yale Divinity School (M.Div) and Colgate University (B.A., History). 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.

ALLEN R. KAHLER, has been the pastor of Bethel United Church of Christ since May 2017, his first fulltime, settled call to ministry in a UCC congregation. He has been in pastoral ministry since 1989 when he was licensed by the Church of the Brethren. His ministry focus has been on the people of the congregations he has served. As he served a middle judicatory position in the COB for 7 years, he experienced a call to pastoral ministry in a local congregation. He loves community action and support. He has built houses with Habitat for Humanity and has worked with mediation and reconciliation teams to bring churches and communities together. He looks forward to serving the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast United Church of Christ.

DIANE SHIREY has served First Congregational Church of Akron, Emmanuel UCC in Valley City, the Church in Silver Lake and Trinity UCC in Canton. Diane is a graduate of the University of Akron and Methodist Theological School in Ohio and taught Junior High School before entering the ministry. She served as Moderator of the Eastern Ohio Association from 1998 to 2004 and has been a hospice volunteer and Chaplain on Call for Akron Children's Hospital.

BECKY WEIHE has been a member of The Bath Church UCC for the past 21 years, serving in a variety of roles including 2 terms on both the Christian Education and Trustee Boards. She served in a variety of other capacities including as a member of a pastoral search committee, a member of the Sunday school teaching team for 14 years, and the Volunteer Coordinator for the church's Family Promise homeless ministry for the past 4 years to the present. Professionally, she worked for IBM Corp. in Sales and Sales Operations, retiring after 37 years. In her retirement, she completed the Leadership Akron NEXT program, is a substitute public school teacher and is a tutor for an Akron after-school program. She works to promote social justice and advocates for these issues in her community.