

### **Report of the UULMNJ Nominating Committee**

We, the nominating committee of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (a 501 c3 corporation) and the New Jersey Public Policy Network (a 501 c4 corporation), hereby nominate the following individuals for service as indicated below:

**Amy Tiederman** (member of the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County) for a term on the Board of New Jersey Public Policy Network;

**Lessie Culmer-Nier** (member of The Unitarian Church in Summit) for a term on the Board of the New Jersey Public Policy Network;

**William Slezak** (member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County) for a term on the Board of Unitarian Universalist Ministry of New Jersey;

**Reverend Tracy Sprowls** (settled minister at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield) for a term on the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry of New Jersey; and

**Reverend Alison B. Miller** (Senior Minister of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship) for a term on the Board of Unitarian Universalist Ministry of New Jersey and for a term on the Board of the New Jersey Public Policy Network (on which she is currently completing her first term).

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Rothfelder, Chair  
Lynne Quinto  
Diane Finn  
Kim Andersen  
Rev. Tracy Sprowls

April 16, 2015

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### **BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES**

#### **Amy Tiedemann**

Amy Tiedemann is a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County (FUUFHC) where she is currently Chair of the Social Justice Committee and formerly member of the Board of Trustees. She has acted as the Legislative Ministry liaison for the congregation since UULMNJ was established. Amy has also worked closely with the Executive Director to identify funding opportunities and write grant proposals to support UULMNJ's work.

Amy has a PhD in Sociology and presently works as a Grant Facilitator for the Rutgers University School of Social Work where she assists faculty apply for funding for their research projects. She also maintains a private grant consulting business, Grants Apply,

which supports grant seeking non-profit and community based organizations. She lives in Flemington with her husband and 13 year old son. Her daughter has left the nest, lives in Baltimore, and works as a Psychological Associate for a children's research institute. Amy enjoys music, dancing, yoga, and being in nature.

### **Lessie Culmer-Nier**

Lessie Culmer-Nier has been a member of The Unitarian Church in Summit for 30 years. She has served several terms on the Board of Trustees, twice holding the office of treasurer, and once the corporate secretary. She is a long-term member of the Finance Committee, is part of the current capital campaign team, has chaired the Religious Education Committee, and has been an RE teacher many times. Last year she was a member of Summit's search committee for an interim minister and she currently chairs the interim ministry transition team.

Lessie was a librarian at Drew University until her recent retirement. She has tutored for several years in Irvington's Chancellor Avenue School, a school the Summit congregation "adopted" through initiatives of its Social Action Committee. She and her husband Keith Nier have two daughters who have become active UU young adults in Ithaca and Washington, D.C.

### **William Slezak**

William Slezak is a member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County. He and his wife Rickey are currently on several week trip in Europe. He serves as the Treasurer on that church's Board of Trustees, has been a member and leader in that Congregation for many years, and was the founder and leader of the Chalice Lighter fund-raising program of the Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York, which has raised money for a variety of Congregations' projects. Due to Mr. Slezak's travels, a more detailed resume is not available at this time.

### **Rev. Tracy Sprowls**

Reverend Sprowls became the settled minister at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield on August 1, 2009. She has served Unitarian Universalist congregations for 20 years as an ordained minister and as a volunteer. She was the Minister of Religious Education at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ, from 2005 until 2009. She served as Associate Minister for the Community Church of New York from 2003 until 2005, and as Parish Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Montgomery, Alabama from 1999 to 2003. She holds a Master of Divinity from the New York Theological Seminary (NYTS), with a concentration in Urban Ministry, and a Doctor of Ministry program at NYTS, with a focus on congregational excellence.

Rev. Tracy is active in the UUA, the District, and interfaith groups. Currently, she is the convener for the NJ Minister's Cluster and is on the Nominating Committee for the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey. She has served as a Trustee on the Board of the UU

District of Metro NY, Secretary of the UU Trauma Response Ministry, Secretary of the District LREDA, Secretary of the District UUMA Chapter, President of the Ministerial Sisterhood (UU) and Chair of the Margaret Fuller Awards Committee for the UU Women's Federation. She maintains a membership in the Greenfield Group (a notable minister's study group). She is also on the Board of The Sienna Project whose mission is to build schools in the rural Mayan villages of Guatemala. She and her son helped build one such school in February, 2009.

Tracy has served as a trustee on the Mid-South Board of Trustees and was the president of the Board of the Alabama Prison Project. She has had leadership training in Montgomery and New Jersey. Tracy gave an impromptu talk at the minister's convocation in Birmingham (2002) on Chief Justice Roy Moore and his attacks against the GLBTQ communities. She won an award for her continuing support of the GLBTQ community from Equality Alabama in the same year.

Family is important to Tracy and helps to keep her grounded. She is committed to having quality time with her family as well as a rewarding ministry. Her son, Izaak, is in college. Tracy lives in Plainfield, NJ with her husband, David, whom she has been married to since 2004. He brings two grown daughters to their union, Allison and Elizabeth. Both of David's daughters live in Montgomery, Alabama. Tracy's family has two cats named Wylie and Bella. In her free time Tracy likes to knit and do Yoga.

### **Rev. Alison Miller**

The Reverend Alison B. Miller has served as the Senior Minister of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship since the fall of 2005. She received her A.B. from Bryn Mawr College in 1996 and her Masters of Divinity from Harvard in 2003.

Alison is very engaged in interfaith organizing, community service and justice efforts, and anti-racism and diversity work. She is the current President of the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ's Public Policy Network and a member of the first Board of Trustees for the newly merged United Way of Northern NJ, a community impact organization focused on Income, Education, and Healthcare. Alison is also a former chair of the Morris Area Clergy Council and has been a leader in interfaith coalitions to advocate for immigrant rights, marriage equality, and anti-gun violence legislation. She was Chair of the founding Board of "Pathways to Work," a Worker's Center started to address the economic justice needs of recent immigrants and citizens alike.

In addition, she serves as Chair of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship, a global online spiritual community. Alison is also known for her dedicated work on behalf of youth, campus and young adult ministries through a variety of past positions and efforts

Alison lives with her husband, David Snedden, who is a middle school science teacher and also a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. They have a three-year-old son, Asher, as well as a menagerie of pets.