

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

2025 – 2026 Governing Board Members



Lisa Bennett | *Chair*

Lisa Bennett has been attending First Parish with her family since 2014 and has been a member since shortly thereafter. She is a member of the First Parish Choir and taught RE classes for several years. In addition, she was a “Face of the Campaign” for the Annual Pledge Campaign providing input to the APC committee and a testimonial. Lisa has been an educator for over 30 years working in a variety of schools as a teacher, teacher trainer, school leader, mentor, and advocate for students with disabilities. Through these roles she also has experience in project management and DEI. Lisa lives in Acton with her husband, Phil, daughter, Elena, and cat, Theo.



Jennifer Izzo | *Vice Chair*

Jennifer Izzo has attended First Parish for approximately 15 years. She taught RE classes for several years and attended Ferry Beach several times. She has served on a variety of committees, including the Nominating Committee and Sounding Board. She was an active member of Advocates for Women's Empowerment. She ran 2 fundraising auctions for the church. She also organized several workshops for the church community, including a Wellness Program for Women, yoga classes for FP moms and a Mother-Son Cooking class. In 2017, she arranged for 2 buses to take First Parish members and friends to Washington DC to join the Women's March. Outside of church, Jennifer and her husband, Pete, are parents to 3 boys. She is an in-house attorney at a medical device manufacturer.



Gib Metcalf | *Member*

Gib Metcalf has been an active UU for some twenty years and a member of First Parish in Concord since 2013. Gib and his wife, Rebecca Winborn, raised twin sons in Acton, and lived in Washington DC before moving to Concord in 2012. Gib is active in the adult choir and has been a member of the Finance Committee as well as a mentor (twice) and co-leader (once) of Coming of Age. Gib is a Professor of Economics Emeritus at Tufts University and a Visiting Professor at the MIT Sloan School. His main research focus is energy and climate policy.



Bruce Blumberg | *Member*

Bruce has been a member of First Parish since 2010. He and his wife Jane moved to Concord in 2001 with their children Phil and Gwen. Bruce has served on the Nominating Committee, was co-chair for the 375th celebration, and has been active with the Transcendental Council, the Environmental Leadership Team and most recently the Immigrant Justice Task Force, with short term gigs doing stage crew/carpentry for Chicken Man and Grub's Place. Bruce retired this Spring from Universal Robots where he focused on perception and AI for robots after having a long career in high tech that began at Apple Computer in the early 1980's.



Neil Brock | *Member*

Neil Brock has been a UU his entire life and a member of First Parish in Concord since 2010. Neil and his wife, Laura Brock, have lived in Acton for 25 years and raised two children there. At FPC Neil has been involved in the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, the Ministerial Internship Committee, Pledge Drive, Partakers, and multiple men's groups. Neil is semi-retired from Draper Laboratory and currently associated with ARLIS at the University of Maryland and the Complex Systems Laboratory at WPI. His research focus is on social systems and innovation.



Kristin Moore | *Member*

Kristin Moore moved to Concord with husband Eric and daughter Ava in 2002 and joined First Parish a few years later. Professionally she is a software development program manager, currently employed at The MathWorks. Among her prior jobs, she worked at the nonprofit Gaining Ground in Concord for five years as the office and development manager. She was an active volunteer in Religious Education while their daughter Ava grew up through the program. After Ava's Coming of Age, Kristin served as a mentor and eventually led the Coming of Age program for four years. She has served as Moderator for five FP Annual Meetings. She helps organize the longstanding tradition of a Children's Holiday Craft Workshop in December. Most recently, she chaired the Ministerial Search Committee and shepherded the process that resulted in calling Rev. Jennifer Johnson to First Parish. She enjoys singing in the choir and contributing in other musical ways.



Jim Reynolds | *Member*

Jim Reynolds has attended First Parish since 1997. Both his children were raised in this church. Jim has been heavily involved in Social Action, Religious Education, and the church's Music Program. As part of our SAC program, he led a strong relationship with Common Cathedral for several years. Combining both SAC and RE interests, he led two youth service trips to El Salvador. He has also taught at all RE levels, including OWL and mentoring Coming of Age. Jim is an enthusiastic participant in Rise Up Singing, Choir, and Contemporary Vocal Ensemble since that time. Jim is Executive Director and majority owner at Sameem Care, an outpatient substance abuse and behavioral health practice based in Newton.



Bozena Smith | *Member*

Bozena has attended First Parish and sung in the choir for over 30 years. She and her husband Irl volunteered in Religious Education while their daughters Maia and Eva grew up in the program. She has chaired the Women's Retreats Committee, led the Women's Goddess Covenant Circle, taught the Rise Up and Call Her Name women's spirituality curriculum, been a member of the Ferry Beach and Labyrinth Committees, served as a Pledge Campaign steward, traveled to our Partner Church in Transylvania, performed in FP musical stage productions, and enjoyed many other opportunities at FP for personal growth, community service, and good fellowship. She especially values family time, being in nature, and photographing everyday wonders.

Virginia Taylor | *Member*



Virginia Taylor came to New England and to First Parish after moving from Atlanta in the early 2000's with her husband Bill and their two young daughters. For several years she was active in the RE program. More recently, she has come to appreciate the intergenerational community that First Parish offers to us all. Virginia served as coordinator of the First Tuesday Group for 5 years. For the last 8 years, she has been part of the Pastoral Care Team as a pastoral care lay minister. She also served on the Pastoral Care Council, a pledge team, and an advisory ministerial search committee. A favorite current activity at First Parish is leading memoir writing workshops. Outside church she coaches high school and college students in reading and writing skills. As their daughters are now launched, Virginia and her husband live in Acton.



Kimma Brainerd | *Clerk*

Kimma arrived at First Parish with her family in 2011. She plays flute and Irish whistle with the Choir, Rise Up Singing, and summer services. She has taught R.E. over many years for various age groups. She served on the Membership Committee, led the Children's Craft Workshop and acted as a Coming of Age mentor. She protested at the Women's March in D.C. with other parishioners. She lives in a log cabin just down the road from church with her curly-topped 15-year old son, an affectionate pup, and a dozen chickens. Kimma is an ADHD coach empowering people of all ages to understand and befriend their neurodivergence so they can thrive in all aspects of life.



Leah Russell | *Treasurer*

Leah Russell has been coming to First Parish since 2015. She has served on the RE Council, the Interim Minister Search Committee, and the Covenant Committee. Leah has also helped organize events for the Mom's Connection Group. Additionally, she has enjoyed going to Ferry Beach with her son, Finch, and participating in the at-home Women's Retreat. Born and raised in the Winchester Unitarian Church, she deeply values her UU roots and hopes to continue to do meaningful work to contribute to First Parish and its community. She works for a made-to-order footwear company dedicated to the mission of improving the lives of Guatemalan cobblers through equitable pay. She also runs a 501(c)(3) nonprofit for families of children adopted from Kazakhstan.