

UUAA Board Candidate Statement: Rick Witten

My wife, Bobbi, and I joined UUAA 20 years ago and were married here by Ken Phifer in 1999. We've seen UUAA (and ourselves) go through many changes. By serving on our board I intend to contribute my perspectives, ideas and energy during this important time of transition.

I've been involved with our Men's programs since 1999, attending retreats and other events, and helping to plan and execute them. The growth, organization and success of our Men's Fellowship is a model both internally and for the wider UU community.

My primary involvement at UUAA has been in our youth programs, as teacher, mentor and two terms on the RE Committee immediately after Reverend Phifer's retirement. I've served on teacher teams about 10 times, including 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades and Coming of Age. I'm a big fan and proponent of our CoA program. In addition to many stints as a mentor, I assisted with the transition of CoA from an extra-curricular 8th grade program to the 9th grade course. This year, while serving again as a mentor, I am for the first time the parent of a CoA participant!

Music is front and center at UUAA, and I feel fortunate for the experience of being a member of our Chalice Singers under Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout. I'm also proud to have helped restart the Chalice Sparks program in 2012 and have marveled at their growth under Brianne Boyd's direction.

I would consider it a great honor to serve UUAA as a board member.