

## Search Team Members Bios

**Cassandra Allison** is a stay-at-home mom who enjoys yoga, running, and gardening. She has lived in Stony Brook since 2013 along with her husband and two children. Previously, she worked as an aerospace engineer, designing thermal control systems for small spacecraft. She earned an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering and a B.A. in Astrophysics and Physics.

She has been a member of UUFSB since 2017. In addition to the UUFSB Minister Search Committee, she is currently on the Religious Education (RE) Committee and one of the teachers for the elementary-aged children. She is also on the Gardening Committee and sing with the Unicorn Singers choir.

**Mayté Alzugaray** is originally from Cuba. She has lived in the US for the last 18 years and is a member of the UUFSB since 2021. Mayté has a PhD in Mathematical Analysis and has taught mathematics in four different countries. She has been a professor on Long Island for the last 18 years. Mayté is the mother of two. She is passionate about Cuban Salsa, which she has been teaching at the UUFSB during the last year.

**Claudia Jacobs Dunmire** has been a member of the Fellowship for 25-ish years along with her now three grown kids and husband. She has served UUFSB through music and fundraising events and spent her adult life supporting and protesting various social justice causes. She is honored and anxiously excited to serve our beloved UUFSB congregation as a member of the Ministerial Search Committee.

Claudia was born and raised Jewish Lite in Northport, LI and spent her early professional life living and working in NYC as a musician and in various positions with performing arts companies and organizations. Shortly after returning to Long Island, she began her career as a Post-Partum and Birth Doula, Childbirth Educator and Certifying Birth Trainer. She spends her free time sailing, biking, camping, stretching, and reading.

**Mike Hoffman** is a licensed clinical social worker. He worked in the mental health field and has a part time private practice. He and his wife are the parents of two sons, and they have two grandsons. Mike has been a member of the Stony Brook UU Fellowship for over 20 years and has held roles on the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministries of the Congregation, and the Pandemic Response Team. He has participated in several aspects of our music - as sound technician, a musician and member of the Grounds and Sounds Cafe Team.

He is looking forward to working with the other Search Committee members to select our next Minister, who will lead our congregation towards its share future.

**Jaymie Meliker** is a Professor of Public Health at Stony Brook University. He is originally from Baltimore, but has also lived in Oberlin, OH, Austin, TX, and Ann Arbor, MI. He is a father of two (ages 10, 16) and along with his partner has been a member of UUFSB since 2012. He has been active teaching in the religious education program.

**Elise Nichols Powell** grew up in New Rochelle, NY, attended Boston University for a Bachelor of Science degree, and later received a Master's Degree at the College of New Rochelle. She taught all the K-6 grades from 1962 until 1997 and then retired. During those years, she was active in community organizations such as NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Tri-County

Black Counselors, The National Urban League, National Association of Black Educators (NABSE), and The Links, Inc. Currently, she has revived her interest in, and is taking courses in French. She is also on the Board of the Brookhaven League of Women Voters, the Asst. Secretary of the Brookhaven Branch NAACP, and a member of the Sheriff's Office Community Advisory Committee. She cared for her husband until he passed away of dementia-related pneumonia in 2020. She has also remained physically active with membership at a gym.

"These events and my personal spiritual life journey as a Unitarian Universalist have grounded me. I appreciate the combined effect of being a woman of color in this country and a continually expanding spiritual individual. These choices and experiences have prepared me for my present and for my future."

**Colleen Rudman** is a retired Technical Writer who spent decades producing internal and external technical documentation, working predominantly with development and research groups on Long Island and in Manhattan. She has been a member of UUFSB since 1988. Besides serving for many years on the Communications Committee (inc. serving as a webmaster and newsletter team member), Colleen has co-chaired our Goods & Services Auction since 2015 and served on the Board of Trustees, as a Worship Associate, and on numerous committees. She is a dedicated yogini, reader, cyclist, gym enthusiast, and movie lover. She lives with her husband of 38 years, Stan, and is blessed with two daughters, three stepchildren, and seven step-grandchildren.