

**The Pension Boards**  
United Church of Christ, Inc.

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March 2023

**Brian R. Bodager**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting of Members**  
**The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc.**

The 2023 Annual Meeting of Members of The Pension Boards–United Church of Christ, Inc. will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, commencing at 2:00 p.m. EDT, at The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1020, New York, New York 10115, and at any adjournment thereof for the election of Trustees and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Dear Fellow Pension Boards Members:

Grace to you and peace.

As your President and Chief Executive Officer, I am pleased to share that our plans for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members (**Annual Meeting**) are well underway.

You will be able to participate in the Annual Meeting via the Internet. On the day of the meeting, please log in to your Pension Boards account for instructions for joining the Zoom meeting. After the business portion of the Annual Meeting is concluded, I and other members of management of your Pension Boards will be presenting on some of our exciting initiatives to enhance our value to you.

This letter provides an overview of the member voting process.

The purpose of the proxy ballot is for you to instruct Mr. Robert J. Wild, the Corporate Secretary of the Pension Boards, as your proxy to vote on your behalf for the Nominees to the Board of Trustees (**Nominees**). Please review the Nominees' backgrounds and qualifications below. We are grateful for their willingness to serve as your Trustees.

**We want to ensure that you have a voice in the governance of your Pension Boards. Your vote is counted in determining whether there is a quorum of members necessary to conduct the Annual Meeting. If we are not able to achieve a quorum of our members voting on the Internet or by returning the proxy ballot by mail, the Pension Boards will be required to reschedule the Annual Meeting and incur additional time and expense to obtain sufficient member votes to proceed with the Annual Meeting.**

You may cast your proxy ballot online at [http://bit.ly/PB\\_VOTE\\_2023](http://bit.ly/PB_VOTE_2023).

**Voting will close at 5:00 p.m. EDT, on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. To avoid potential postal delivery delays, we strongly encourage you to vote online using the link above. Please use only one method of voting.**

The 2022 Pension Boards Annual Report and Financial Statements are available online at [http://bit.ly/PB\\_AR\\_FINLS](http://bit.ly/PB_AR_FINLS). If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Annual Report, please email [annualreport@pbucc.org](mailto:annualreport@pbucc.org) or call Member Services at 1.800.642.6543.

If you have questions or suggestions for discussion at the Annual Meeting, please send them to me at [bbodagerAM@pbucc.org](mailto:bbodagerAM@pbucc.org) or by fax at 212.729.2759.

Additional information is posted on the Pension Boards website, [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org). If you have any questions on the voting process, please contact **Priscilla Esfandiary** at 212.729.2712 or by email at [pesfandiary@pbucc.org](mailto:pesfandiary@pbucc.org).

I hope you can join your Board of Trustees and me via the Internet on May 11, 2023

Blessings,



Brian R. Bodager  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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## NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION BOARDS-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.

### *Election for a Four-Year Term Ending at the 2027 Annual Meeting*



**Rev. Elena Larssen** is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), an affiliated ministry of the United Church of Christ and an affiliate of the Pension Boards. Rev. Larssen is the Generosity Officer for the Mid-Atlantic Region on behalf of the National Ministries of the UCC. Before being appointed UCBMA Chair, she served as Vice Chair of UCBMA beginning in 2010. She is also a founding member of the Steering Committee for the Next Generation Leadership Initiative.

Rev. Larssen has served as Associate Conference Minister in the Minnesota Conference; Senior Minister, First Congregational Church Long Beach, CA; Associate Minister, First Congregational Church of LaGrange, IL and First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, CA; and Campus Minister and Adjunct Faculty of Memorial Chapel, United Campus Christian Ministry at Stanford University.

Rev. Larssen has served on several boards, including the Downtown Associated Youth Services and Urban Community Outreach, a church-based center for the unhoused (both in Long Beach, CA). She is a founding member of the UCC's Antoinette Brown Society and Working Group. She has served on the Committee on Ministry Ethics Committees for the Northern California-Nevada and Southern California-Nevada Conferences. She was Founding Co-chair of the 2030 Clergy Network, a network to strengthen, sustain, and mobilize UCC-ordained ministers in their 20s and 30s.

Rev. Larssen is a doctoral candidate at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, where she holds a Master of Divinity. She is a graduate of the University of California in Santa Cruz, CA (BA in Literature).

Rev. Larssen is married to Rev. Mark Pettis, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Minister of the UCC. They have an elementary school-aged son and a basset hound.

### *Re-Election for a Four-Year Term Ending at the 2027 Annual Meeting*



**Rev. Dr. Rodney Franklin** is an ordained United Church of Christ minister and staff chaplain at the University of Alabama Birmingham Hospital.

He has served churches in ministerial positions in Savannah, Georgia; Cleveland, Ohio; and Birmingham, Alabama. Rev. Franklin organized an inter-church fellowship among congregations in Birmingham's Smithfield neighborhood.

Rev. Franklin has served the UCC in many regional and national leadership capacities, including on the Boards of the Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries.

Rev. Franklin is a graduate of Talladega College (BA), Candler School of Theology at Emory University (M.Div.), and United Theological Seminary (D.Min.)

Rev. Franklin is Chair of the Board of Trustees; Chair of the Executive, Personnel, and Governance Committees; and an *ex officio* voting member of all other Committees of Trustees of the Pension Boards. He is also a Director of the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance.



**Mr. Benjamin J. Rader** is Vice President and Associate General Counsel of Goldman Sachs and co-founder and chair of Goldman Sachs' pro bono program. He also serves as General Counsel of The Goldman Sachs Foundation and The Goldman Sachs Charitable Gift Fund, and lead legal counsel and corporate secretary of the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund.

From 1999 until 2005, Mr. Rader practiced law at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in the New York City, Frankfurt, Germany, and Washington, D.C. offices. His practice focused on corporate governance and securities law, as well as antitrust and international litigation.

Mr. Rader has deep roots in the United Church of Christ. His father, the Rev. William Rader, was a UCC pastor for 44 years in the Penn Central Conference. Mr. Rader and his family were members of St. John's UCC in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania from 1970-1993 and the Shared Ministry UCC in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from 1994-2004. He met his spouse while on a UCC-sponsored youth trip to Germany. As a primary caregiver to his father, Mr. Rader worshipped with his father at the Church of the Apostles UCC in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He has served the wider UCC as a member of the Board for World Ministries (predecessor of the Wider Church Ministries) and as a Trustee of Lancaster Theological Seminary, one of the seminaries of the UCC.

Mr. Rader is a graduate of Wesleyan University (BA), the New York University School of Law (JD), and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany (LLM in International and European Law).

Mr. Rader serves on the Pension Boards Executive, Governance and Personnel Committees; Audit, Budget and Enterprise Risk Management Committees; and the Investment Committee.



**Rev. Dr. Iese Tu'uao** is Senior Pastor of the Samoan Church of Hawai'i LMS/United Church of Christ.

Rev. Tu'uao was ordained in 1992 in the Central Association of the Southern California-Nevada Conference of the UCC as the first Samoan to be ordained in the UCC. Rev. Tu'uao served as an aging specialist for the Los Angeles City Area Agency on Aging (1977-1980) and as an eligibility social worker for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (1980-1998).

Rev. Tu'uao's previous ministry experience includes service in parish and Conference settings: Senior Pastor of Malamalama Congregational Church UCC (1988-2006); Associate Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference (2006-2011). He also served as Acting Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference from July 2017-January 2018.

Rev Tu'uao has served as President of the UCC's Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries and has been a member of the UCC Executive Council and UCC/Disciples of Christ Common Global Ministries Board. He served as Chair/President of the Hawai'i Conference from 2014-2018; was a member of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation (2014-2018); was on the Church and Ministry Committee of the Oahu Association (2014-2016); and served as Moderator of the National Council of Samoan Churches, UCC (2006-2018).

Rev. Tu'uao is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, CA (BA in Social Ecology) and Fuller Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.).

He serves as a member of the Pension Boards Benefits and Corporate Social Responsibility Committees.

## ***Re-Election for a One-Year Term Ending at the 2024 Annual Meeting***



**Mr. George L. Ochs** is an investment management professional with over 35 years of experience in the areas of portfolio management and institutional real estate investments.

Beginning in 1988, Mr. Ochs served as a real estate development professional with Prudential Financial advancing to a senior vice president, where he managed the redevelopment of the Prudential Center in Boston. From 1995 through 2014, he served as a real estate portfolio manager and a client services and business development Managing Director with JPMorgan Investment Management. During his tenure with J.P. Morgan, Mr. Ochs was based in London for three years, where he established a European and Middle East Global Real Assets investment advisory and business development team.

From 2015 through 2016, Mr. Ochs was a member of the Executive Management team and served as Chief Marketing Officer of Western National Group.

From 2017 through 2019, Mr. Ochs was a Senior Vice President and head of investor relations of CityView, a Los Angeles-based urban multi-family investment and development firm.

Since 2019, Mr. Ochs has been advising a number of institutional real estate investment firms.

In 2012, Mr. Ochs established an alumni scholarship program for needy graduating students of his high school. To date, over 80 scholarships have been awarded, totaling over \$200,000.

Mr. Ochs is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Platteville (Engineering) and the University of Colorado at Denver (Executive MBA).

Mr. Ochs serves as a member of the Pension Boards Executive, Governance, and Personnel Committees; Audit, Budget, and Enterprise Risk Management Committees; and is Chair of the Investment Committee.



**Rev. Joel E. Strauch, CFA**, is retired and continues to serve on the boards of several organizations.

Rev. Strauch was ordained to the ministry in the United Church of Christ in 1973 and served as Senior Minister of Highland Avenue Congregational Church in Orange, New Jersey from 1974-1975.

From 1977-1990, Rev. Strauch held several positions at J.P. Morgan Investment Management, including Investment Research Officer, Vice President of Balanced Accounts, Senior Vice President in Futures and Options, Fixed Income, and Portfolio Manager. In 1991, he joined Munich American Reinsurance Company as Vice President and Treasurer. From 1994-1996, he was Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager at Munich Re Capital Management. From 1996-1999, he held several positions at Salomon Smith Barney Asset Management and as a Director of Travelers Asset Management International, and Institutional Sales and Client Service. In 2000, he joined Pacific Investment Management Company, L.L.C. (PIMCO), as Director of PIMCO Specialty Markets L.L.C. (2000-2005), and in 2006, became Senior Vice President with responsibility for developing and servicing new and existing account relationships with U.S. domestic insurance companies for the Financial Institutions Group – Account Management, Insurance Channel. Rev. Strauch retired from PIMCO in 2014.

Rev. Strauch serves on several boards, including the Boards of Managers for American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA) Wealth Management & Trust LLC, and AAFMAA Mortgage Services LLC; Chair of the EMCERT Advisory Board to the Emergency Department of the University of Virginia Health System; and Chaplain General of the National Huguenot Society.

Rev. Strauch is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (B.S.F.S.), Union Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and the Columbia University Graduate School of Business (MBA).

Rev. Strauch serves as Chair of the Pension Boards Corporate Social Responsibility Committee and as a member of the Investment Committee.