



Janet Couture Nortrom, 2018

A much-loved member of First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee for 47 years, Janet has served on most of our boards and has been vice president of the board of trustees. She has taught religious education classes almost every year, and worked on both the Sesquicentennial Committee and the 175th Anniversary Committee for the church. Twice she has served as a Pastoral Care Associate. In fact, Janet has served in so many ways, both locally and nationally, that we can't even list them all!

She was a member of the Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations board, was president of the Central Midwest district board, was founding member of the district Woman and Religion committee, and was Board member of the international UU Women's Federation for five years. Currently she serves on the UUWF board of the Margaret Fuller Justice Panel.

And in Milwaukee and her Shorewood neighborhood? After 25 years of teaching reading, math, communication and science to Adult Basic students for Milwaukee Area Technical College, she now teaches in their special program, catering especially to women prisoners and women who have been trafficked.

She has been active in the causes of immigration, Black Lives Matter, League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women. As president of the Shorewood Woman's Club, she was honored by the Shorewood Board of Trustees with the Most Valuable Citizen award. In December 2011, she received the coveted Frank Zeidler Award for Social Justice, literacy, and environmental work from the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. Not only did Janet join the January 21, 2016 Woman's March, she organized a follow-up night of discussion, "Where do we go from here?".

Asked about her life of dedication, Janet said, "Many years ago my wonderful husband Marlowe said, 'Janet, follow your bliss.' And I have."

We are honored to nominate you for the Clara Barton Sisterhood – for your outstanding service in so many of our church's governance and operations for almost five decades, for your dedication to Unitarian Universalist organizations at the state and national level, for your work in the wider community on behalf of women and others with need, and so much more. We are graced by your cheerful enthusiasm and your unwavering commitment!