The UUFD Ministerial Search Task Force is composed of five individuals — Anne Benda, Amy Ressler, Cyndi Lawton, Dick Pouzar, and Linda Ressler. We represent UUFD in our leadership experience and involvement with the Fellowship.

Anne Benda

I am a retired nurse with 40 years of dedicated service in healthcare, and I am happily married with two grown children. I was raised in the Catholic faith, which shaped but never defined my spiritual foundation, and for the past three years I have found a meaningful home in Unitarian Universalism. I am grateful to be part of this community and look forward to deepening my connection to its values and people.

Cyndi Lawton

Cyndi Lawton (she/her) has been a member of UUFD since late 2019, after a long journey of self-discovery that began with her childhood in the ELCA Lutheran tradition and ultimately led her to Unitarian Universalism, where she could explore her own spirituality as an eclectic Pagan. She currently serves as chair of the Religious Exploration Committee and the (unofficial) Fun & Mayhem Committee, while also coordinating the weekly newsletter and managing the UUFD Facebook page. Outside of church, Cyndi recently celebrated her son's high school graduation, manages a local thrift store, is pursuing an online paralegal certification, and recently purchased her first home.

Dick Pouzar

A 25-year IT corporate career in Chicago ended with the adventure of growing hardwood trees and caring for unwanted animals for 35 years in NW Illinois. I retired again, this time to Dubuque. Raised in Catholic beliefs which evolved into a personal secular humanism, UUFD drew me through curiosity, tolerance, and the amazing members in its Fellowship.

Amy Ressler

Amy Ressler is a theatre educator, director, storyteller, and community arts leader with more than 30 years of experience in education and the performing arts. A member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque for more than 25 years, she currently serves as secretary of the board and previously served as the Fellowship's Director of Religious Education. Amy is also deeply involved in local theatre and arts education initiatives and is honored to serve on the Ministerial Search Task Force as the congregation seeks its next chapter of shared ministry and community.

Linda Ressler

Linda Ressler has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque for many years and currently serves as Director of Religious Exploration, where she works with children, youth, families, and volunteers to foster a vibrant and welcoming faith community. Professionally, she is an attorney with Iowa Legal Aid, dedicated to helping individuals and families navigate legal challenges and access justice. Linda brings to the Ministerial Search Team a deep commitment to Unitarian Universalist values, a passion for lifelong learning, and a belief in the power of compassionate community to support spiritual growth and meaningful connection