

### **Erin (Anderson) McCracken - chairperson**

Erin first joined FELC in the fall of 2011 after moving to Austin from New York City. She's been a part of the ELCA her whole life, attending Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Omaha growing up, and Advent Lutheran Church in NYC after college. It was at Advent Lutheran where Erin learned about RIC congregations and was thankful to be part of a church community that was home to many of her friends who may not have been welcome at other churches. When looking for a church in Austin, Erin sought out a similarly welcoming community. Soon after visiting FELC, she knew it would become her church home. Early on, Erin was involved in the young adult group, trained as a Stephen Minister, served on Church Council, and assisted with stewardship. More recently Erin served as treasurer of the congregation and is currently a member of the FELCDC board of directors. Erin always enjoy serving as a lector and singing in the congregation. In 2015 Erin married my husband Blakeley, who is a member of a Christian Science church (ask her anything). While collectively being part of two church communities has its challenges, this reality has added depth and meaning to her spiritual growth, faith, and understanding of God. Blakeley and Erin parent two young children, Sam and Elliott. Right now, Erin stays home with the kids but have previously worked as a producer, assistant, office manager, and fundraiser. Each of these vocations has offered her the opportunity to help, organize, communicate, understand, and empathize. She is excited to apply these skills to her work on the FELC Call Committee.

### **Tim Atkinson**

After Roberts Hall dorm visits from First English pastor, Merle Franke in 1963, engineering undergraduate Gardner "Tim" Atkinson began attending worship at FELC sporadically. His attendance became regular when Bob Brueck began Sunday's far-reaching adult formation class called University Forum. In 1967, while attending a summer program at Argonne National Laboratory, Tim met, dated, fell in love with, and became engaged to Henrietta Hinz. Tim transferred his membership from Faith (San Antonio) to First English, and the pair were married in Downers Grove, Illinois, on December 23, 1967. They moved to a duplex on Croslin Avenue, then on the outskirts of Austin. Making Austin their home, Tim continued his M.S.M.E. and Ph.D. studies, and Henri began her studies in Elementary Education.

Daughter Emily came along in 1971, and son Jacob arrived in 1974. Agreeing that it was better to take their children to Sunday School than it was to send them, Tim and Henri's attendance grew regular, as did their mutual commitment to First English.

Tim has served First English as Treasurer, Church Council member, High School Sunday School teacher, youth group chaperone, Property Committee member, and FEL Child Development Center board of directors member. Being called in 1983 as Scoutmaster for First English's Boy Scout Troop 28, was the beginning of a parallel path in learning about loving each other, the earth, and our creator.

Having retired from active practice in 2022, in August Tim celebrated 50 years as a licensed professional engineer. As part of the FELC Call Committee, he said, "I'm excited to be a part in helping First English become even more of a vibrant, welcoming, loving, caring, serving, and nurturing community, a safe haven, providing spiritual education and growth for young and old, with arms open to all."

### **Randy Baden**

Randy Baden was raised in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Kansas, Illinois, and Texas. Attended Texas Lutheran College in 1972 where he met Nancy Albers and was introduced to a new Lutheran tradition. Nancy and Randy married at FELC in April 1976. FELC has been his church home ever since. Along with a career in welding fabrication and recreational vehicle accessory installation, I have been a long-time volunteer with many organizations. His passion has been First Robotics and Boy Scouts.

At FELC Randy lead the annual Chicken BBQ (over 40 years) and the Fall Fest in late October or early November. Randy serves as an usher and Hospitality Host following Sunday morning worship. Randy has served on Church Council twice, including as President during our last pastoral call. Serving on the Vicar Committee for a total of about 22 years was his favorite First English ministry. Randy prays his service on the Call Committee will be a Godly task.

### **Allen Jensen**

Allen is a life-long member of First English, and an engineer by profession. Engineering is problem solving and he will apply these skills to the important task of choosing our next forever pastor. Allen has been at FELC long enough to have known three of our five pastors. Allen is impressed by the group of folks that our Council has assembled for our Call Committee. He looks forward to continuing to work with them to bring candidates that align with our church's vision and mission.

### **Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez**

Lillian is originally from Puerto Rico. She has been in Texas for 15 years and has a background in music. She was a student at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, and is a classically trained soprano and a music educator. She was the High School Glee Club director of a noteworthy private school in the suburbs of San Juan. She also opened her own private academy "Musikville", where she also offered "Kindermusik" classes as well as lessons in basic music theory.

She gained admission to the vocal studios of Prof. Enid González and Bass "extraordinaire" Justino Díaz. Her numerous artistic experiences include performances at the Carnegie Hall, Vienna's legendary "Musikverein Saal", and has participated in numerous concerts and operas. Some of these include participation in Die Zauberflöte, Hänsel und Gretel, and Otello. She played "The Mother" role in Amahl and the Night Visitors, and was a member of a New Age Music band "Tarah". Lillian has also performed Broadway musical classics, such as Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, and State Fair.

Lillian has an undergrad degree in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. She is currently a Global Program Manager at Apple in Austin. She's had a 13-year career and has had several roles within the organization, including project management, people management, and logistics. Her key focus areas throughout her operations career have been building and leading operational processes, people, and change management. Lillian is also a member of various diversity network associations; Women@Apple, Black@Apple, Pride@Apple, LatinX@Ops, Accessibility@Apple, and the Apple Asian Association. She is a leader in the Inclusion & Diversity space and is a passionate, active voice in gender equality, inclusion & diversity, and intersectionality discussions.

**Nikki Northcutt**

Nikki Northcutt joins the Call Committee of FELC after 20 years as a congregation member. She has served as an assisting worship minister, lector, alto, soprano, and tenor. She brings experience in education, public communication, collaboration, and organization, having taught English in traditional secondary schools for 15 years. This past year, she's been at UT High School, where she teaches online, writes curriculum, and helps lead the English department. Outside of her school life, Nikki enjoys karaoke, reading, fitness, volleyball, and spending time with her husband, Ajit, her 16-year-old son, Theo, and her three cats, Peaches, Herb, and Sprinkles. She is joyful to work with the Call Committee in this exciting time of reflection and leadership at First English.

**Barbara Schutz**

Barbara joined First English with her husband Bob Schutz in 1971. Barbara says "what an incredible blessing to have shared God's love and all the challenges of life with this family of faith for 52 years!" Those years have brought to Barbara so much enrichment and growth as she's served on our Church Council and the FELCDC Board of Directors. Barbara worked with the Transition Team that supported the church during the call of Michael Coffey, and across the years has worked with the Learning Ministry Team, FELC and synod youth ministry, Stephen Ministry, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Campus Ministry, Senior Saints support, the Racial Justice Task Force, Altar Care, and our Prayer Circle (for ~25 years and counting!). Her vocation as a Spiritual Director/Companion (also for 25+ years) has trained her to hold all of life in a prayerful way that allows her to sense the movement and action of our Lord in times of discernment. She's deeply honored to be invited to serve on our current Call Committee. It will be a challenge and a wonderful opportunity to ponder together who and what God is calling First English to be in this rapidly changing world.