



A Word about Our Community Leaders

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift, *Executive Director*



Rev. Deb Swift is the Executive Director and co-founder of Firebird Spirit, a spiritual movement creating a global Community of Hope through digital worship and sacred media. An ordained minister for more than 35 years, Deb served congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA) before retiring from parish ministry in 2024 to become the spiritual catalyst of Firebird Spirit, an independent nonprofit she co-founded in 2018.

A visionary leader, Deb works at the intersection of faith, media, and cultural change—helping people and congregations reimagine what church and the Beloved Community can be in a digital and global age. Her Masters degrees in Education and Divinity have prepared her for the work of transforming systems with creativity and compassion, weaving together pastoral wisdom, innovative storytelling, and Spirit-centered imagination to offer worship that is deeply rooted and freshly imagined.

She also draws on her lifelong work as an educator, musician, and coach, bringing these gifts into her ministry of spiritual formation and leadership development. For Deb, this is not simply work but a life's calling. Her journey has been shaped by deep personal encounters with Spirit, and she remains devoted to cultivating spaces where people—whether grounded in a tradition or exploring beyond one—can experience belonging, justice, hope, and transformation.

She is proud to be the matriarch of a trans-racial, LGBTQIA+ family as she continues her career as an ASCAP member singer-songwriter. She is the author of *The Church Has Left the Building: A Case Study of One Church's Story of Transformation, Redefinition & New Life* as well as over 200 songs.

Kevin J Fuller, *Director of Operations and Technology*

With over 35 years of experience in administration and computer technology support, Kevin Fuller brings a deep commitment to helping organizations use technology effectively and efficiently. He has spent more than 15 years supporting all levels of church management, combining technical expertise with an understanding of ministry operations. For over a decade, Kevin has also worked with remote volunteers and employees to troubleshoot and resolve technology challenges, ensuring smooth communication and collaboration across teams. In addition, his five years of experience in video production and editing have supported numerous church projects, enhancing their ability to share meaningful messages through media.



Here's a Little Bit About our Ever-Expanding Messenger Team ...

Rev. Ray Bagnuolo – PC(USA) – Parish minister/hospital chaplain, connection with LGBTQIA+ communities and 12-step programs

Elder Steve Bryson – PC(USA) – Retired educational consultant and geologist with decades of experience in local parish work as both an ordained Deacon and Elder

Rev. M J Ebenhack – PC(USA) – Former pastor, campus minister, chaplain, and nonprofit leader currently engaged in multifaith school-based religious education via Zoom with a Christian-Muslim school in Uganda

Rev. Bill Hockey – PC(USA) – Retired minister now serving within 12-step programs and ministries involving grief work and bereavement. Singer-songwriter in his spare time.

Rev. Ray Jones – PC(USA) – Interim Unified Agency and Director, Theology, Formation and Evangelism for the PC(USA) denomination

Elder Sonya Kennedy – PC(USA) – Ordained Deacon and Elder who founded and led two community ministries including one of the 1,001 New Worshiping Communities of the PC(USA)

Rev. Marcia Reiff – PC(USA) – Member of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and Pastor of two rural churches (one with the UCC) in upstate New York

Rev. Deborah Roof – UCC – Retired pastor and author of Words, Wonder, and the Divine in You, a reflective exploration of how ordinary language can open portals to the sacred

Darlene Saeva – Baha'i Fellowship – Long-time student of the Bible as it relates to Baha'i belief with a lifetime commitment to reconciliation and peacemaking both locally and globally

Rev. Summer Sattora – PC(USA) – Parish minister in upstate New York with a background in dramatic arts and a passion for mission, disaster relief and inclusion of all people

Elder Barbara Sixbey – PC(USA) – One of the originators of the Acts of Faith Model of Ministry and well-respected for her casual preaching and deep reflection of scripture

Elder Karen Thomas – PC(USA) – Life-time Presbyterian (fifth generation) with a background in systems theory and management styles. Long-time student of Scripture and President of Firebird Spirit

In addition, our **thirty Firebird Volunteers** who lead worship hail from: Arizona, Florida, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, and Utah while our **Musical Volunteers** live in: Austria, California, Florida, Georgia, and New York City.