

GreenTree Cooperative Grocery
214 N Franklin St
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-772-3221
Website: greentree.coop



Statement of Board Candidacy

Name: Daniel Patterson

Residence: Three miles north of Blanchard, Isabella County, Rolland Township

Years active: 15 years

Contact Information: 989.561.2999; daniel.patterson@cmich.edu

1. What skills and experiences would make you a valuable director for GreenTree?

I began serving on the GreenTree Board of Directors as an interim replacement in October 2016. Before that, along with several other Board Members, I underwent the Cooperative Board Leadership training, which is designed to prepare Directors to serve more capably. From both settings, I have acquired a knowledge of how a cooperative grocery operates and of the various roles played by the Board of Directors and the General Manager.

I have been an English professor, scholar, and writer for more than thirty years. This means I can conduct research, think critically, and communicate.

I have experience working with groups of people. Several of my books required me to seek out and persuade qualified scholars to write chapters, meet a deadline, respond to my requests for revisions, and stay happy and cooperative all the while we met our publication deadline. In the past four years, I successfully led an effort to establish a new scholarship fund within the CMU Faculty Association. We started from scratch, solicited support from members of the Faculty Association, raised the first \$25,000 (the minimum needed to make the fund active) in the first year. Now in its third year, the fund has grown to just under \$70,000, which will yield two or three \$1,000 scholarships this coming fall.

2. Why are you running?

Because my relationship with the GreenTree has matured from mere customer and store-Owner to Director, I wish to remain on the Board to continue contributing to the collective work of moving us forward toward expansion and a more vibrant membership in the Mt. Pleasant community. The GreenTree is much more than a

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“grocery.” It is a crucial element in the overall quality of life in Mt. Pleasant and the surrounding area. Following expansion, its influence in the community will be even greater. As I approach retirement in May, I will have more time to devote to the work and believe I can help.

3. Looking five to 10 years into the future, where do you see GreenTree and by what path would you take to get there?

In my vision, five years from now, the new store is still downtown and three years old. The interior space is four times the current size, with seating for diners in the deli area. Each department (deli, produce, bulk, etc.) will be appropriately developed to offer new and greater variety. There will be seating in the outdoor green space as well. Parking will be easy and ample.

Following numerous discussions, I now believe the best path forward is to build our own store and not be dependent upon a developer (from whom GreenTree would lease space) who may or may not share our vision of the kind of living space we imagine. Our goal with expansion should be to create a destination, a cooperative grocery people will travel from Traverse City, Ann Arbor, and Wauwatosa to experience.

4. Where do you think GreenTree as an organization (not the store) is least developed where it ought to be, and what would you do to address that?

I've learned much while serving on the Board by watching the careful interplay between the General Manager and the Directors and among the Directors themselves. Each entity has its responsibilities and means of achieving its goals. A spirit of mutual respect pervades all discussions, and great care to avoid areas of overreach is evident. That is, the organization is healthy. To sustain this health, we should continue efforts to educate customers and store-Owners about the inner workings of the store, Board Meetings, and GreenTree's presence in the Mt. Pleasant community. The larger store will make it possible to present graphic images of different sorts of store involvement and more space to make Owner Appreciation Day more conducive to conversation. Images of pages from GreenTree's website posted in the store could raise awareness as well.