

OFFICER NOMINATION TESTIMONIES

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2023





Dear Grace Family,

At our congregational meeting on October 22, our Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominees for elders and deacons. We are much indebted to the superb work of Chairman Dan Hunt and his committee to present these nominees to us. These men have been approved by the Session for election by the Congregation.

This booklet contains the slate of nominees for your consideration. The Lord has richly blessed us with Christ-like leaders, and we pray he will continue to do so for years to come.

As in the past, at our meeting we will present next year's church budget for your information. I will also share some thoughts about the future of our church.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in Him,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zach Rogers". The script is fluid and cursive.

Zach Rogers
Senior Pastor

A WORD FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Fellow Members of Grace Presbyterian,

The Bible tells God's people to pray for wisdom. There has been no time in recent memory where the need to pray for wisdom has been more evident. Fortunately, the Lord says He will give us wisdom freely if we call upon Him. Your Nominations Committee has asked the Lord to give us wisdom in addressing the important task of identifying those men who will lead our church for the next number of years. The Nominations Committee sought four already-ordained elders to be nominated to fill four three-year Session terms and four already-ordained deacons to be nominated to four three-year Diaconate terms. In addition, we have identified two nominees to be newly ordained to the office of Elder. The Session has approved these men to come before you now for election in our congregational meeting on October 22.

As much as we might desire it, the scriptures do not provide a step-by-step process for developing effective leaders. Instead, they describe the qualities and characteristics that we should look for in individuals that can be refined to effectively serve God and His church. It has been a long and rigorous process by which the committee has identified the men listed in this booklet who we believe have those qualities and characteristics, and are willing to make the personal and family sacrifices necessary to serve in their respective roles.

Please pray for these men and their families that they might be the appointed instruments through which God will achieve His purposes for our Church.

Thank you for allowing each of us to serve you and the Lord on the Nominations Committee this year. Our sole desire has been to serve the church and the Lord as He would lead us.

2023 Grace Presbyterian Church Nominations Committee

Dan Hunt, *Chairman*
Raquel Dagit
Jorie Dahlin
Lee Gerrietts

Craig Harlan
Jeff Holt
Jeff Ringenberg
Derek Tanis

ELDER SESSION NOMINEES (Class of 2026 - Three-Year Term)



Joel Feucht — Member since 1990; Solid Rock Sunday School

Current Ministries: Sunday School teacher, Session Elder

Past Ministries: Sunday School teacher, Pastoral Search Committee Chairman, various committees

Testimony: I came to Christ in 1986, after an intense search for the truth. On the evening of September 11, God saved me by bringing understanding that the only possible bridge between my sinful self and a holy God was the intercession of Jesus Christ. My verse is Romans 10:17: “So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Joel is married to Dawn and they have four children and three grandsons.



Mike Flinn — Member since 1993; East Peoria Community Group

Current Ministries: Community Group leader, Men’s Ministry Advisory Committee, GFC, VBS, Discipleship Group leader

Past Ministries: Session Elder (three terms), Men’s Ministry Strategy, Life-on-Life leader, Radical Mentoring leader, Music, Sunday School teacher

Testimony: I grew up in a (very healthy) culturally Christian home but never heard the gospel. I came to Christ in 1974 at Grace while in high school after one of Dr. Dunn’s sermons and altar call.

ELDER SESSION NOMINEES (cont'd)



Woody Hartwell — Member since 1995; Grace Connection Sunday School

Current Ministries: Personnel Committee, Sunday School teacher

Past Ministries: Shepherding Elder, Pastoral Search Committee, Clerk of the Session, Long-Range Planning, Communication Chair (various campaigns), Comprehensive Calling, Council Utilization/Shepherding

Testimony: I have been married to Gina for 39 years and am blessed to have three adult children, one married, and three grandchildren. We began attending Grace about 30 years ago. I am the Sunday school teacher for Grace Connection and have been an elder for over 25 years. My most recent service to Grace Pres. has been with our Personnel Committee and Pastoral Search Committee. I work at MH Equipment as part of the executive team leading sales and marketing efforts.



Dustin Schumacher — Member since 2015; Compass Sunday School

Current Ministries: Sunday School class president, Hospitality - Greeter, Tree Climbers

Past Ministries: Hospitality - Taste of Grace, Community Group leader, Intercessory Prayer Team

Testimony: I grew up in a divided home with one believing parent and one that did not follow the Lord. It wasn't until my sophomore year of college that I came to trust in Christ after the death of a friend and having conversations with the pastor at my mom's church.

**Also being voted on as a Trustee*

DIACONATE NOMINEES

(Class of 2026 - Three-Year Term)



Matt Escher — Member since 2013; Living Stones Sunday School

Current Ministries: Sunday School leader, Diaconate, Small Group leader

Past Ministries: Young Adult Ministry, Jr. High leader

Testimony: I came to know the Lord Jesus savingly in my younger adult years after college through His ministry to me in books, the Word preached on radio, and especially through the godly lives and ministry of dear disciple-making friends that I met in the workplace who came out of Campus Outreach. I have been married to my wife, Rachel, for seven years and we have three children: Tobin (6), Tinley (3), and Bennett (1).



T. J. Crowell — Member since 2001; Families for Christ Sunday School

Current Ministries: Finance Committee, Diaconate, Families for Christ leader

Past Ministries: Small group Bible study

Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home and came to Christ at a young age. I believe Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin and trust in Jesus alone for eternal life. My salvation is a free gift from God and nothing that I earned. I am committed to following Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

DIACONATE NOMINEES (cont'd)



David Tuttle — Member since 2004

Current Ministries: Monday Morning Men's Work Group; Diaconate, Medical Response volunteer, Community Bible Study Core leader

Past Ministries: Small Group Life-on-Life Bible study, Diaconate

Testimony: I understood my need for Christ when a friend shared the Gospel and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior in Junior High.

**Also being voted on as a Trustee*



Paul Zwart — Member since 1995; Cornerstone Sunday School and Cornerstone Men's Small Group Bible study

Current Ministries: Cornerstone Sunday School teacher, Diaconate, Buildings and Grounds (chairman), Snow Removal Team

Past Ministries: Sr. High Sunday School and Small Group leader, Diaconate, Career/Young Adult leadership team & Sunday School teacher, English language Sunday School teacher while living in Japan.

Testimony: I was born into a Christian home and from a very young age had the opportunity to hear the Bible stories and learn about Jesus. As a small child I put my faith in Christ for my salvation. In junior high and high school, my pastor challenged and encouraged me to grow deeper in my relationship with Christ and in service to others, and since high school, I have actively served in a variety of ministries.

NEW ELDER ORDINANDS



Amit Christian — Member since 2021; Indian Outreach Group leader

Current Ministries: Global Missions Subcommittee

Testimony: I gave my life to Jesus and accepted Him as the Lord and Savior of my life at the youth camp in Ahmedabad, India, while in high school. God has been wonderfully faithful to both my wife and me all these years.



Randy Stuckey — Member since 1981; Grace Connections Sunday School, Dunlap-area small group

Current Ministries: Grace Orchestra, Monday Morning Men

Past Ministries: Grace Primary Choir, Grace Winds, Pastoral Search Committee, Missionary teacher at Black Forest Academy

Testimony: I became a Christian in 1972, and was discipled through a Navigator campus ministry in college and a Navigator community group near Chicago.



Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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