

OFFICER NOMINATION TESTIMONIES

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2026



Dear Grace Family,

At our congregational meeting on October 25, 2026, our Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominees for elders and deacons. We are much indebted to the diligent work of Chairman Mike Flinn 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 look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in Him,



Zach Rogers
Senior Pastor



A WORD FROM THE 2026 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Fellow Members of Grace Presbyterian Church,

The nominations committee had the honor and privilege to serve the church this year in the nomination of officers. The committee is made up of a cross-section of our church that reflects our uniqueness as the local body of Christ. Through much prayer, deliberation, and many hours together, we sought the Lord's wisdom to identify officers who will continue to lead our church under the Lordship of Christ and continue the growth of His kingdom.

The Nominations Committee sought four already-ordained elders to be nominated to fill four Session three-year terms (2027-2029) and four already-ordained deacons to be nominated to fill four Diaconate three-year terms (2027-2029). A special circumstance arose to identify an already-ordained deacon to complete a partial Diaconate term (2027). Finally, two men are being presented to be newly ordained church officers as elders. The Session has approved these men to come before you now for election in our congregational meeting on October 25.

As much as we might desire it, the Scriptures do not provide a step-by-step process for developing effective leaders. Instead, 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 describe the qualities and characteristics 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 possess 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.

2026 Grace Presbyterian Church Nominations Committee

Mike Flinn – *Chairman*
Lee Gerrietts
Terry Spuler
Steve Hatfield

Bridget Streeter
Carrie Roos
David Tuttle
Dr. Tim Smile

ELDER SESSION NOMINEES

(Class of 2029 - Three-Year Term)



Woody Hartwell — Member since 1995; Grace Connections

Current Ministries: Session Elder, Personnel Committee, Sunday School Teacher

Past Ministries: Various Pastoral Search Committees, Communication Leader of Various Campaigns, Long-Range Planning, Trustee, Clerk of the Session, Shepherding Team

Testimony: I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home. At age eight, I made a profession of faith during an altar call at our small church in the Chicago area. Even at that young age, I understood that I was a sinner in need of a Savior and that Jesus Christ was that Savior. Later that year, I was baptized. Looking back, I'm grateful for God's grace and faithfulness as He has walked with me throughout my life.

Getting to Know You: I have been blessed to be married to Gina for 42 years. We have three terrific children and one daughter in law, Phil & Rachel, Peter, and Maggie, and three grandchildren Rebecca, Jonathon, and Lydia. I enjoy working for MH Equipment for the past 25 years. I stay active bike riding, pickleball, basketball and traveling. And I enjoy reading a wide range of topics but especially history.



Dustin Schumacher — Member since 2014; Compass

Current Ministries: Session, Trustee, Compass Class President, Boys Brigade, Hospitality - Greeter

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. Since then, the Lord has faithfully put Godly mentors in my life to build me up to be the husband, father, and mentor I'm called to be.

Getting to Know You: My wife Cassie and I have been married for over 15 years, and we have three awesome kids: Grace, Isaac, and Aaron. We love to serve this church, which has so richly blessed us during our time here.

ELDER SESSION NOMINEES (cont'd)



Paul Stark – Member since 1990; The Fellowship

Current Ministries: Lead Elder in The Fellowship Sunday School class.

Past Ministries: Elder on Session, Missions Committee, Family Ministry Committee, Student Ministry volunteer, Safety & Security Team, Adult Sunday School class leader, Toddlers and Four-year-old Sunday School class volunteer, Ad hoc committees, Mentor Parent.

Testimony: I was raised going to church and participating in church activities, but I did not truly understand the message of the Gospel. In high school, a Christian teacher began challenging my beliefs, and in college, friends continued to share biblical truths with me. During my sophomore year, I was invited to hear a Christian speaker who presented the Gospel clearly. Everything finally came together, and I prayed with him to receive Jesus as my Savior. I began attending a Bible-teaching church, where the pastor met regularly with me and my friends for Bible study and Scripture memory. Later, in graduate school, I became involved with Cru, where I met my wife, Ann.

Getting to Know You: I'm from Indiana and came to Peoria in 1987 after graduating from Purdue to work as an engineer at Caterpillar. Grace welcomed me into the College & Career fellowship, and Ann and I were married later that year. Soon after, we helped start the LIFE Sunday School class, which became a HUGE blessing to us. Most of my free time is spent with family and in church activities. Ann and I have three adult children: Elizabeth, Caroline (husband Larry), and Stephanie. I have a wide range of interests and enjoy using both my mind and hands to create, build, and fix just about anything—I love bringing ideas to life. Ann and I also enjoy spending time with friends, making new friends, and mentoring younger people.



Randy Stuckey – Member since 1980; Grace Connections

Current Ministries: Teaching in 1st and 2nd grade Sunday school, trumpet playing when needed, Monday Morning Men's Fellowship

Past Ministries: Children's choir in the 90's, participated in trumpet playing music groups

Testimony: I grew up in a church and I remember Sunday School teachers quoting John 3:16 in class, however I did not trust Christ for my own salvation until my 2nd year in college. I was disciplined by a campus group at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Getting to Know You: I grew up on a small farm 90 miles east of Peoria near highway 24. I met my wife Peg in college. We have 3 children. Rachel (Lincoln, NE), Kara (Central Asia), Joshua (Cincinnati, OH). I taught Junior High Band for 15 years, programmed for State Farm for 9 years, and joined the mission TEAM to teach at Black Forest Academy (a school for missionary kids in Germany) for 19 years. We have been back at Grace since 2020. I have tropical fish tanks in my basement, enjoy reading, and carrying Peg's violin case.

DIACONATE NOMINEES - REMAINING 1 YEAR (CLASS OF 2027)



Jeff Smith — Member since 1996; Cornerstone

Current Ministries: Buildings & Grounds Committee, Safety & Security Team Co- Coordinator, Christmas Choir

Past Ministries: Buildings & Grounds Committee, Safety & Security Team Co- Coordinator, Christmas Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Grace Singers, Diaconate, Trustee, Watchman on the Wall, Evangelism Explosion

Testimony: I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior soon after high school when I began dating Lori, who would eventually become my wife. As a child, I casually attended different denominations but was never serious about my faith. When I met Lori, I sensed something different and special in her life. It was then that I realized that the difference was a personal and daily relationship with Christ, and that I too could have that personal relationship. I accepted Christ as my Savior. Since then, my faith in Him and my knowledge of Him have grown, and I have seen the hand of God everywhere in my life. I have allowed Jesus to not only be the Savior of my life but also the Lord of my life - learning to trust Him in everything, being more dedicated to serving and pleasing Him, and allowing Him to transform me closer each day to what He wants me to be.

Getting to Know You: I have been married to Lori for 32 years. Lori and I have three wonderful adult children, Michaela, Larissa and Noah. I have been a member of Grace Presbyterian for 30 years and enjoy serving the Lord and the church family through working on the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Safety & Security Team and Christmas Choir.

DIACONATE NOMINEES (Class of 2029 - Three-Year Term)



TJ Crowell — Member since 2001; Families for Christ

Current Ministries: Finance Committee, Deacon, Usher

Past Ministries: Families for Christ President, 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. I 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. I am glad to know that I have eternal life because the Bible says in Acts 16:31 "believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." It gives me peace and security to know that I have forgiveness, I have friendship with God, and I have help when I am tempted.

Getting to Know You: I have been married to Danielle for 25 years and have 3 children. Grace is married to Ben Beckley and working as a nurse. Caroline and JJ are students at Cedarville University.

DIACONATE NOMINEES (cont'd)



Tom Currie — Member since 2004; Foundations 2

Current Ministries: Boys Brigade leader, Foundations 2 Sunday School class leader, Deacon, Compassion and Concern Committee, Community Bible Study

Past Ministries: Boys Brigade leader - been helping out with this for about 20 years now. Diaconate, Chairman of the Compassion and Concern Committee, Radical Mentoring, Various other volunteer efforts.

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home, accepted Christ and was baptized in 6th grade. My faith really grew in my later years of high school when my grandfather passed as he was a big influence for my dad and my faith. In college I started to attend Oasis college ministry at Grace and really grew my faith during that time as it became more personal to my walk and focus on God. I started attending Grace in 2004 and became a member shortly after that. I have continued to grow my faith participating in various opportunities at Grace. It has helped me take the lead in various roles and help prepare me to teach others. I am currently doing a 1 year reading through the Bible with my wife Laura to help us grow.



John Parker — Member since 2001; Families for Christ

Current Ministries: Violin with worship team, Tree Climbers Leader, ESL-based small group. Children's Volunteer

Past Ministries: Boys Brigade, Families for Christ Sunday School teacher

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home, had a family heavily involved in church, and accepted Christ at an early age. I enjoyed a lot of friendship and support through my middle and high school youth group. As I entered high school I was challenged by a youth leader with the question "How does being a Christian impact your life choices?", and I began to see Christianity not just as an intellectual decision, but as a life-impacting relationship that should cause my life to be lived differently and according to God's calling and not just my desires. Since then it has been exciting and challenging to see all the things God has had in store for me and my family.

Getting to Know You: I'm a husband to an amazing wife, proud dad to 3 wonderful men (and one wonderful daughter in law) and grandfather to a 5 year old grandson and 1 year old granddaughter who are a lot of fun to try and keep up with. I enjoy breaking down technical problems and leading teams as an Engineering Manager at Caterpillar and playing violin and Irish fiddle, whichever is needed, by whoever I'm playing with.



David Tuttle — Member since 2004; 2 year old nursery

Current Ministries: Monday Morning Men's Work Group, Deacon, 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. I have really grown in my faith & trust in the Lord since coming to Grace and learning so much more about Him from the solid Bible preaching & teaching here.

Getting to Know You: I have felt a strong call to serving others since I was a kid. I grew up watching Emergency! and began a hobby of using scanners & radios. I joined the local volunteer fire dept as soon as I turned 18 and I found a job in 9-1-1 public safety communications at 19. I'm retired from directing 9-1-1 but I still serve as a volunteer fire chief, EMT, and 9-1-1 board member. I've been married to Susan since 1986 and am very thankful to have our family nearby: 3 children each married with kids of their own. Love being Granddad to our five - ages 2-12.

NEW ELDER ORDINANDS



Emil Bandy – Member since 2020; Foundations 2

Current Ministries: Boys Brigade, Sunday school teacher, Choir

Past Ministries: In previous churches - Hospitality, Security Team, and Choir

Testimony: Growing up in Church first in Athens IL, then in Morton IL - I really don't remember a time where I wouldn't claim Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I was baptized when I was six years old, and I had the opportunity to grow up in a family who loved serving in various ways amongst the body of Christ. The Lord has continually shown his love for me both in helping me grow in grace through the years of my life so far, in forgiving my many sins - and in blessing me in far more ways than I can count. I'm excited about the future and how the gospel can continue to transform my life, the lives of my family, and those here around us in Peoria IL.

Getting to Know You: Grew up in Central IL. Married to Jesi since 2014 - father to two boys and two girls. Liam (10), Addison (9), Talia (6), and Zion (2). I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family - bicycling, running, hiking, and hunting. I get to develop software for a living and if I'm not outdoors, you'll often find me studying God's Word with a cup of coffee, reading about theology or a good mystery novel or movie.



Nate Holt – Member since 2016; Foundations 1

Current Ministries: Campus Director for Campus Outreach at Bradley University, Enrolled in seminary working towards a Master's degree in Pastoral Leadership.

Past Ministries: Campus Outreach, College Sunday school class leader. Also preached a few times in a couple different churches in our presbytery in the past year.

Testimony: I was raised in a family with parents who loved me well and that taught the gospel to me from a very young age. I was aware of my need for Jesus to save me from my sins at the age of 6 and professed faith in Christ. My spiritual growth though was slow and even non-existent at times between the age of 6 and 17. During my senior year of high school, I got involved in a Bible study and began to realize that to follow Christ meant for Him to be the Lord of my life. Upon graduating high school, I attended Eastern Illinois University, where I met Zach Rogers and got involved with Campus Outreach. The four years that I spent in college being discipled by Zach and being involved in the ministry were the most formative years in my walk with Christ. I learned how to read, study and apply my Bible, how to pray, how to build relationships and share the gospel with non-Christians, the importance of the local church, and how to fight and confess my sin, among other things. It is my passion to continue to grow in these things, as well as to help others develop in them as well.

Getting to Know You: I am married to my wife Elizabeth, and we will celebrate 10 years of marriage in November of this year. We have 4 children, Mia (8), Millie (7), Maggie (5), and Peter (3). We think that our future is in ministry, whether that be with Campus Outreach or in pastoral ministry we are unsure. We love hosting others in our home and serving in the church. We are eager and excited to see what God's plan is for our church, our ministry, and for us in the next 5-10 years.



Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)

8607 State Route 91, Peoria, IL 61615 • 309.693.3641 • www.gracepres.org
