

OFFICER NOMINATION TESTIMONIES

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2024



 GRACE

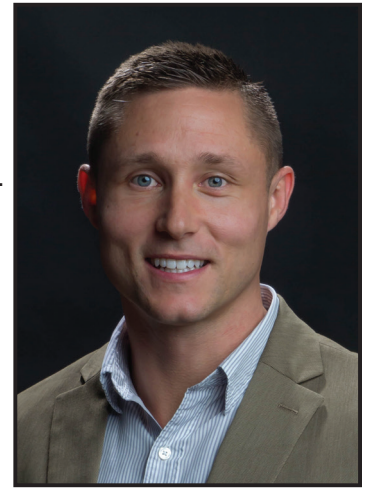
Dear Grace Family,

At our congregational meeting on October 27, 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".

Zach Rogers
Senior Pastor

A WORD FROM THE 2024 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Fellow Members of Grace Presbyterian,

James 1:5 tells God's people to pray for wisdom. 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 in the future.

The Nominations Committee sought four already-ordained elders to be nominated to fill four Session three-year terms (2025-2027) and four already-ordained deacons to be nominated to fill four Diaconate three-year terms (2025-2027). In addition, three men are being presented to be newly ordained church officers. The Session has approved these men to come before you now for election in our congregational meeting on October 27.

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 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.

2024 Grace Presbyterian Church Nominations Committee

Dan Hunt, *Chairman*
Steve Hatfield
Jason Lesch
Jessica Martin

Scott Stevens
Ben Streeter
Derek Tanis
David Tuttle

ELDER SESSION NOMINEES (Class of 2027 - Three-Year Term)



Lee Gerrietts – Member since 2012; Foundations Sunday School

Current Ministries: Sunday School teacher; attended General Assembly; assists with facilities and maintenance

Past Ministries: Nominations Committee; Sunday School teacher; Discipleship groups; CMF Leadership Team

Testimony: The Lord graciously gave me a Christian heritage with my family immensely involved in their local churches, and by His providence, I do not remember a time when His claim on my life was absent. In His kindness, the Lord has shown me more and more my dependence upon the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, not just for my justification but for my continued faith and sanctification. Each day, the Spirit has shown how great my sin is in ways I haven't seen before, and I'm thankful for Christ's death and resurrection, knowing He is interceding for me before our Heavenly Father. I know that my Redeemer lives, and I find comfort in knowing that He who began a good work in me will bring it to completion.

Getting to Know You: My wife Amy, my high school sweetheart, and I have been married since 2006. We have two children, Andrew (12) and Caleb (10). We have attended Grace Presbyterian Church since 2007, and for most of our time here, have attended Foundations Sunday School class. While not raised Presbyterian or Reformed, I have grown to love and appreciate Presbyterian theology and polity, as I believe it faithfully summarizes the teaching of Scripture. I enjoy listening to and reading about church history and theology. I'm an Architect by profession and enjoy helping many churches with their facility and design needs. I'm deeply humbled to serve Grace Presbyterian Church as an Elder.



Brian Livingston – Member since 1993; Young Adult Sunday School

Current Ministries: Sunday School teacher; Small group leader; Campus Outreach Board; Serving on Session

Past Ministries: Elder; Sunday School teacher; Small group leader; Campus Outreach Board; served on Session

Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home and we did the normal going to Sunday School & church, reading Bible stories, learning to pray, etc. It was a good Lutheran church that taught the gospel and halfway through confirmation the Lord tapped me on the shoulder and reminded me that I had never taken action on my knowledge, so I did right then and accepted His gift of salvation. He's been carrying me ever since then as He grew me through high school trials, college fellowship groups, and slowly leading me into an embracing of the reformed doctrine. At this point in my life, my prayer is to finish the race strong - by His strength.

Getting to Know You: I've been hopelessly in love with my wife, Jan, for 40-some years (we lose count). I have two sons, both following the Lord, two godly daughters-in-law, and three grandkids. I'm an extrovert and love sitting around discussing things of the Lord until everybody else has already left. I'm still working on loving God with all my heart, soul, and strength, and loving my neighbor as myself, but I'm not there yet. I enjoy outdoor stuff like hiking and camping and also like fast cars. I submit myself to your service.

ELDER SESSION NOMINEES (cont'd)



David Schudel – Member since 2002; Rooted Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Elder; Sunday School teacher; Greeter; Christian Center board member and coach; Boys' program director for Camp Cedarbrook

Past Ministries: Children's ministry storyteller; Small group leader, Sunday School teacher

Testimony: I was raised Roman Catholic and thought of myself as a moral person, although with an "I hope so" attitude towards salvation. My future wife challenged me to figure out what I really believe. This was the first time I truly started to dive into the Word. I was going to a Methodist Church, Baptist Bible study, and was saved at Palm Sunday Mass when I submitted to the truth that Jesus, crucified and risen, was the only way and my only hope.

Getting to Know You: My wife Amy and I enjoy raising our six children, many of which we homeschool through Classical Conversations. We also enjoy traveling and Amy tags along on as many of my business trips as possible. I like to spend time cooking, woodworking, reading, building Legos and organizing my lightsaber collection.



Mike Uno – Member since 1973; Solid Rock Sunday School

Current Ministries: Cru staff member and coach; ESL ministry director; serving on Session

Past Ministries: Cru staff for 52 years (incl. military ministry director on 3 bases, campus director, overseas director); ESL ministry director

Testimony: Growing up on a truck farm in Spokane, Wa., as a young child I was expected to work on the farm with little time for anything else but school. My parents were not believers, but did allow us (me and my 2 sisters) to attend a rural church close to our farm. Our primary motive to attend church was to get out of work. Looking back on my church experience, I realized that they did preach the gospel, even though I did not understand it at the time. I didn't think about church again until university, when some christian students shared the gospel with me (I did recognize the words from my childhood church experience) so I readily received Christ as my Lord and Savior, and began to experience my new life in Christ, which ultimately led my to join Cru full-time.

Getting to Know You: I am an American-born Japanese with wife, Kathy, three grown children and nine mostly grown grandchildren. I am still a rural person at heart, so we decided to live in Hanna City, a rural community west of Peoria. My main hobby is fishing, which has been easily satisfied with neighbors who gladly allow me to fish in their private ponds.

DIACONATE NOMINEES (Class of 2027 - Three-Year Term)



Matt Crow – Member since 2001; Families for Christ Sunday School

Current Ministries: Diaconate; Safety Team; Compassion and Concern committee; Mentor to young men

Past Ministries: Radical Mentoring; VBS table teacher; Children’s Ministry volunteer

Testimony: I became a Sunday type church goer in middle school. I gave my life to Christ when I was 13 at a youth conference. At that time, I gained a better understanding as to the sin in my life and the Lord truly began transforming my attitude and heart. My faith and relationship with God blossomed in college and when I started going to Grace in the early 2000s. I’ve had and have several really good mentors for which I am eternally grateful who have challenged me and helped me to continue to grow in my faith and continue to do so.

Getting to Know You: I’ve been married to my beautiful and wonderful wife, Jami-Noel, for 23 years. My son Benny is a senior at Dunlap High School, and daughter Ella is a Sophomore at Peoria Christian. I have a passion for welcoming newcomers and mentoring young men in our church. I enjoy playing golf, fishing, and home improvement projects.



Matthew Kuntz – Member since 2008; Foundations Sunday School

Current Ministries: Media Ministry (stage manager)

Past Ministries: Nursery; Golf cart shuttle; Radical Mentoring; VBS

Testimony: I was born and raised in a Christian home but pursued the ways of the world most of my life. I was saved in 2014, when I participated in a Radical Mentoring group led by Mike Flinn. It was during that time that I recognized my ways were nothing more than filthy rags. I made the decision to trust and follow Him and life has never been the same! 2 Cor. 5:17

Getting to Know You: I came to Grace in 2004, and He has blessed me since then with my incredible wife Pam (married 2008) and two incredible boys Griffin (2011) and Greyson (2015). We live and work in Bloomington-Normal but Grace is worth the drive.



Jim Otten – Member since 1973; Grace Connections Sunday School

Current Ministries: Buildings and Grounds Committee; Sanctuary choir; ESL

Past Ministries: Diaconate; Adult and Children’s Sunday School teacher

Testimony: I was exposed to the claims of Jesus Christ as a student at Bradley University in 1972. Students in Campus Crusade for Christ challenged me to go on a bus trip to Explo '72 in Dallas, TX, with a group from Grace Presbyterian Church. Though not a believer at the time, I decided to go, though not at all comfortable with the situation. That is until, while in Dallas, the truth of the Gospel message (“...that you may know that you have eternal life”) finally sank in. On returning to Peoria, I began attending Campus Crusade Bible studies at Bradley where I met my wife. We both started attending Grace Presbyterian as students because of Dr. Dunn’s Bible teaching. More than 50 years later, I continue to be awestruck at God’s amazing grace and my unworthiness.

Getting to Know You: I was born in Peoria, graduated from Spalding Institute in 1969, and studied electrical engineering at Bradley. I married the love of my life, Diane Jennings, shortly after starting at Caterpillar in 1974. We attended Grace until 1986, when Caterpillar sent me with my family to Japan. We lived in Japan nine years on what was supposed to be a three-to-five year assignment. Having served in a very small church in Kobe, Japan, we were a bit anxious when we returned. How would our family adjust to a large church (like Grace)? Our children were warmly welcomed back into youth groups, and loved church right away. Grace became our church home again and has been ever since.

DIACONATE NOMINEES (cont'd)



Ben Streeter – Member since 2014; Compass Sunday School

Current Ministries: Diaconate; Compassion and Concern Committee; Senior High leader; Handbell Choir

Past Ministries: Missions trips; VBS staff; Hospitality team; Boys' Brigade; Children's Ministry; Monday Morning Men; Whole Life Stewardship team.

Testimony: I was born and raised in a Christian home and regularly attended church with my parents and siblings. During college, after a period of irregular church attendance, I became convicted of a number of specific sins, realized I couldn't serve two masters (Matt 6:24), and surrendered to Christ. As I've continued to grow in my faith, God has opened doors and unfolded His gracious, awesome plan for my life through trials and triumphs. I praise God that I am Christ's and He is mine!

Getting to Know You: I am a child of the King, Bridget's husband, and dad of Eamon, Jermaine, Josiah, Rose, and Asher. I grew up in New Hampshire and moved to Peoria in 2012, when I began my engineering career at Caterpillar. I love serving our church, spreading the Gospel, building relationships, coaching baseball at the Christian Center, spending time outdoors, and volunteering for FIRST Robotics.

NEW ELDER ORDINAND



Daniel Ryken – Member since 2021; Compass Sunday School

Current Ministries: Safety Team; Small group study at MidWeek Grace

Past Ministries: Deacon (at previous churches)

Testimony: I was born and raised in the reformed faith. While I made a public profession of faith at age 17, I do not remember not knowing Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I have been an active church member throughout my life serving as a deacon in several churches.

Getting to Know You: I grew up in the Dutch reformed community of South Holland, IL, and married my high school sweetheart, Sheri, in 1991. Sheri and I started attending Presbyterian churches in the Washington, D.C. area after returning to the U.S. from Panama where I served in the military. We moved back to Illinois in 1998, and to central Illinois in 2008. I have been working in computer networking and security for most of my adult life. Sheri and I have been married for 33 years. We have 10 children and 14 grandchildren.

NEW DEACON ORDINANDS



Jordan Nelson – Member since 2016; Living Stones Sunday School

Current Ministries: National Missions Subcommittee; Sunday School teacher; Small group; Neighborhood/Friendship/Workplace evangelism

Past Ministries: Multimedia support for Exodus Church plant launch in Springfield, IL.

Testimony: I grew up going to church but did not put my faith in Christ until my freshman year of college at Bradley University through the ministry of Campus Outreach. The gospel was so clearly shared to me, showing my need for a savior and my only hope for true life and salvation in Christ. I was discipled by leaders in Campus Outreach through my college years, learning how to read and study the Bible, share my faith, lead others, and live in community. I became connected to Grace through their ministry and have been richly blessed by this church.

Getting to Know You: I grew up just outside Rockford, IL, and went to college at Bradley University to study Communication, which is how I ended up in Peoria. While there, I became a Christian through Campus Outreach. I work as a Marketing Manager for a utility energy efficiency program and film wedding videos on the side. I've been married to my incredible wife, Jessica, for eight years and have two kids - a son Callum "Cal" (3) and a daughter Luca (1). We love hosting friends and neighbors and we spend lots of time out at local parks playing with our kids and connecting with other families.



John Parker – Member since 2004; Families for Christ Sunday School

Current Ministries: Worship team; Boys' Brigade leader; ESL; Children's Ministry

Past Ministries: Boys' Brigade; Sunday School teacher

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home with 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, 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 my family and me.

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



Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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