

20

MEETING GUIDE

55th ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
[WARD.CHURCH/2022-23](#)

JUNE 7, 2023

23

WC
WARD CHURCH

AGENDA

55TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NORTHVILLE, MI | JUNE 7, 2023 | 7:00 P.M.

1. Quorum and Call to Order

2. Opening Prayer

3. Preliminary Business

MOTION: to approve the agenda

MOTION: to approve and receive as presented the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting held June 8, 2022.

4. Report of the Senior Pastor

5. Presentation of Nominees

a. Report of the Nominating Committee

MOTION: to receive the Report of the Nominating Committee.

b. Affirmation of Nominees

ELDER

Rill Currie
Deanna Hatmaker
Adam Stratton
Jaymes Wainright

TRUSTEE

Peggy Hoekstra
Daniel Mahlmeister
David Morland
Ron Paradowicz

DEACON

Beth Bruns
Kara Burns
Ingrid Frankovics
Raeann Neil
Kathy Skupski
Sue Tranquilla
Glenn Trevisan
Rachel Villaroman
Erin Walkowicz
Marc Walkowicz

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jane Black
Margaret Hermatz
Elaine Kamen
Ben Mungai
Carol Nowacki
Rebecca Park
Peter Tassi

MOTION: to affirm the candidates presented for Elder, Trustee, Deacons, and Nominating Committee.

c. Affirmation of Wayne Byrum as Ruling Elder (non-Session Member)

MOTION: to affirm Wayne Byrum as Ruling Elder (non-Session member)

d. Ordination and Installation of Officers

6. Presentation of By-Law Changes

a. Article II - Membership

MOTION: to approve the change (see Appendix, page 27)

b. Article III - Annual Meeting Date

MOTION: to approve the change (see Appendix, page 28)

c. Article IV - Compensation Approval Clarification

MOTION: to approve the change (see Appendix, page 29)

d. Article VI - Number of Elders on Session

MOTION: to approve the change (see Appendix, page 30)

e. Non-substantive Changes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Session, by a majority vote of those present and voting, may make non-substantive corrections to the Amendment of the Bylaws, such as typos and punctuation, for up to sixty (60) days after the members approve the amendments above.

7. Report of the Farmington Hills Campus Pastor

8. Financial Update

9. Budget Proposal

a. Outreach Plan

b. Ministry Plan

MOTION: to affirm as presented the 2023–2024 fiscal year budget of \$4,900,000.

10. Guided Prayer

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IN MEMORIAM

MAY 2022-MAY 2023

Becky Juntunen

Gregg Bonnell

Phil Hildebrandt

Bob Fisher

Marion Mansfield

Howard Phelps

Nancy VandeBogart

Jim Abernethy

Priscilla Demek

Art Partain

Yvonne Rice

Richard Cebulak

Ross Fichtner

James Pauley

Barbara Washenko

Mark Norris

Patty Carnegie

Elaine Salow

Bruce Bastian

Linda Thompson

Thelma Andrews

Con Behler

Robert McGrail

Norma MacKinley

Roy Konnerth

Al DeVic

Marlene Turner

Carol Hardy Bell

Delphine Goodwin

Sarah Balcer

Gladys Link

Marlin Adams

MINUTES

54TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | NORTHVILLE, MI
JUNE 8, 2022 | 7:00 P.M. IN PERSON (KNOX HALL) AND VIA ZOOM

1. **Quorum** was established by the moderator.
2. **Call to Order** at 7:07 p.m. made by Rev. Dr. Scott McKee, Moderator of the Annual Meeting.
3. **Opening prayer** led by Rachel Villaroman
4. **Report of the Senior Pastor** presented by Rev. Dr. Scott McKee regarding the year. Helen Crown shared her testimony.
5. **Preliminary business: The Moderator presented a motion** from Session to approve and receive the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting held June 9, 2021.
 - a. **MOTION** to approve and receive as presented the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting held June 9, 2021, and the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held February 20, 2022. *Motion approved.*
6. **The Moderator presented a motion from Session:** MOTION to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Associate Pastor Soon Pak at his request so he can pursue his new call as Pastor of Stonebridge Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. *Motion approved.*
7. **Presentation of Nominees**
 - a. **Presentation of Nominees and Report of the Nominating Committee** made by Debbie Meagher, Elder Chair. Debbie presented both motions regarding the nominations: MOTION to receive the Report of the Nominating Committee and to close nominations. Motion comes from Session. *Motion approved.*

Elder: Rick Martin, Steve McKinnie, Troy Morris, Gene Richards

Deacon: Julie Byrum, Claude Freel III, Debbie Freel, Mary Fuelling, Cheryl Garrett, Judy Lawniczak, Linda Marlow, Alida Shepherd, Sue Ventura, Jennalin White

Trustee: Robert Joyce, Kurt Lipsky, Greg Middlemis, John Nowacki

Nominating Committee: Gregg Black, Sara Joyce, Edie Lovell, David Morland, Greg Rubenson, Breanne Wainright, Pam Webber
 - b. **MOTION to affirm the candidates presented for Elder, Trustee, Deacons, and Nominating Committee.** *Motion approved.*
8. **Affirmation of Chris Ockerman as Ruling Elder (non-Session Member)** presented by Melissa Overfield. This motion, put forth by Session, was read by Melissa Overfield, Clerk of Session. MOTION to affirm Chris Ockerman as Ruling Elder (non-Session member). *Motion approved.*
9. **Rev. Dr. Scott McKee called all newly elected Elders and Deacons** to the platform for ordination and installation of officers.
10. **Rev. Dr. Scott McKee called all newly elected Trustees and Nominating Committee members** to join the Elders and Deacons on the platform for a prayer of commissioning.
11. **Rev. Dr. Scott McKee invited those making ministry reports and sharing ministry plans to the platform.**
 - a. **Dan Roberts, Chair of the Trustees,** provided a report on the past year's finances.

- b. Melissa Overfield, Clerk of Session,** explained the Senior Pastor’s compensation and annual evaluation.
 - c. Director of Outreach Sue Hanstad** shared exciting outreach updates.
 - d. Two missionaries joined in the meeting through Zoom** to share their experiences and appreciation. They asked for continued prayer for wisdom and stamina to seek after the least reached people groups around the globe.
- 12. Financial Plan:** Chris Okerman, Administrator of Finances, outlined our financial plan for the 2022-2023 year ahead using the Annual Meeting Report document. Chris Okerman made the motion on behalf of session. Motion comes from Session.
 - a. MOTION: to adopt the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget of \$5,150,000.** *Motion approved.*
- 13. Elder David Wood** led the Members in a time of guided prayer.
- 14. Meeting adjourned** at 8:50 p.m. by the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Scott McKee

Respectfully submitted,
Clerk of Session Melissa Overfield

CANDIDATES

Each year, the Nominating Committee nominates from the congregation members who are qualified to serve the church on Session (Board of Elders), the Board of Trustees, the Board of Deacons, and the Nominating Committee. Through a season of prayer, deliberation and congregational recommendations, the Nominating Committee selects candidates according to biblical requirements, spiritual gifts, and ministry fit.

Your Nominating Committee has completed its work and will present the following candidates for congregational affirmation at the Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m.**

ELDERS (3-year term)

Rill Currie
Deanna Hatmaker
Adam Stratton
Jaymes Wainright

TRUSTEES (3-year term)

Peggy Hoekstra
Daniel Mahlmeister
David Morland
Ron Paradowicz

DEACONS (3-year term)

Beth Bruns
Kara Burns
Ingrid Frankovics
Raeann Neil
Kathy Skupski
Sue Tranquilla
Glenn Trevisan
Rachel Villaroman
Erin Walkowicz
Marc Walkowicz

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1-year term)

Jane Black
Margaret Hermatz
Elaine Kamen
Ben Mungai
Carol Nowacki
Rebecca Park
Peter Tassi

ELDERS

The ministry of the Elders is one of spiritual oversight. The New Testament is clear the church is to be led by a plurality of godly leaders under the oversight and watchful care of Elders. The Elders are given ultimate responsibility and authority to see that the church remains on a true course biblically, that its members are being appropriately shepherded, that the body is being fed through insightful and accurate biblical teaching, and that the life of the church is being well managed with the assistance of other competent and godly leaders.

They are to care about the spiritual and physical well-being of members, regularly praying for the sick. They are to guard the body against harmful influences, confronting those who are contradicting biblical truth or who are continuing in patterns of sinful behavior (1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9; James 5:14). In response to the biblical pattern of leadership, members of the body are taught in Scripture to lovingly support their leaders and submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Keep in mind that the Elders of Ward function primarily as discerners and shepherds. They serve as the conscience and guardians of the church. Our Elders are not expected to oversee specific projects or ministry areas in their capacity as Elders. Instead, they function as overseers for the entire church. Elders evaluate everything taking place in the church in light of our mission, resources, and doctrine.

In the EPC, there are “Teaching Elders” (pastors) and “Ruling Elders” (not pastors in the strictest sense, but godly men and women). All elders are “ordained by the laying of hands and prayer” and share in the spiritual duties of the church. While ordination is for life, active service on a church Session is for a specified term, usually three years. Non-Session Ruling Elders continue to serve the church as elders and may be called upon to conduct membership interviews, to distribute the elements of communion, to participate in the ministry of elder prayer, and to serve as commissioners to Presbytery and General Assembly. In the absence of a lawfully ordained minister, Session may authorize a ruling elder to administer the sacraments. It is possible for a Presbytery to examine and call a ruling elder as a “Commissioned Pastor” for specific work, such as church planting or missions.

ELDERS SLATE

Three-Year Term Ruling Elder

Rill Currie
Deanna Hatmaker
Adam Stratton
Jaymes Wainright

Non-session Ruling Elder

Wayne Byrum



RILL CURRIE

Nominated for: Elder

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: During a much younger period in my life, my husband and I individually accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Little did either of us know how much that would change our lives forever. Whether through raising children, serious illnesses, deaths, retirements, etc., there were challenges. Sometimes difficulties came one at a time or two or three came at once. But we had Jesus!

Biography: Being a member of God's church has given so many opportunities to serve, grow and live life among fellow believers. Committee assignments, holding office, faithfully sharing time, search committee opportunities, teaching and/or facilitating groups has given me guidance, patience Biblical growth, personal fruit, spiritual awareness and lifelong friends. Although I would gladly exchange any life challenge, I realize I would never have had the growth, peace, wisdom, courage, or God's favor. Challenges still come, but I know I am a better grown person for the opportunity to follow Christ, know His love, and be a small part of a magnificent church family.



DEANNA HATMAKER

Nominated for: Elder

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe and affirm Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 10:9-10. I personally made a decision to accept the Lord as my Savior at age 11 during a Billy Graham Crusade. I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home, attend an EPC church from a young age and have Christian mentors. I am a lifelong learner and enjoy studying God's word to deepen my understanding of scripture and faith. After prayerful consideration, I feel led to accept the call as a Ruling Elder to serve our Lord, congregation and communities and to help others live out their faith. I am looking forward to how God will use my experience to further His mission and support the ministries of Ward.

Biography: My husband and I have been attending Ward for 25 years. Through the years, I have been active in ministries including serving as Chair of the Trustees, Nominating Committee, Ward Women's Conference Director, Guest Services team member, participating in a weekly Bible study, starting the Quilting Hands Circle ministry and volunteering at events. I enjoy spending time with family, quilting, reading, date nights at community theaters, traveling and being at the lake. For more than 20 years, I have held senior leadership roles working in public, private and non-profit organizations. I have also served on various church, education, community and financial institution boards.



ADAM STRATTON

Nominated for: Elder

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: My wife and I began attending Ward Church 25 years ago. At that time, I was just a new believer. Through Ward programs of small groups and Sunday Bible study classes and through spiritual mentors within the Ward community, my knowledge and faith have grown. Now, I have a vibrant relationship with Jesus. I rely on Him in all that I do through good times and tough times. My driving passions are to create community and relationships inside our church and to enable us to serve and witness outside of our church. As an Elder, I wish to help continue the great things our church is doing to make an impact in our community, in Detroit, and around the world.

Biography: I have the honor to be married to my college sweetheart Laura. This year we will celebrate our 30th anniversary. We have five children: Xander (24), Audrey (21), Abigail (18), Aidan (15), and Asher (5). We live in Livonia and I am an engineer at Ford. I enjoy being a mentor for the Livonia Robotics program working with middle school and high school students. I help co-lead the Father-Son and the Dad-Daughter Canoe Trips. Laura and I serve as Connection Dessert hosts. And for the past year, my family has been helping launch the Farmington Hills campus.



JAYMES WAINWRIGHT

Nominated for: Elder

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe with my whole heart that Jesus died for the sins of humanity and was raised for the dead so we can all have a relationship with God our Father. I believe God longs for a relationship with everyone and is actively participating in this world through the Holy Spirit. As a member of this church Session, it would be my honor to lead and pray for this church in order to maximize our impact for the Lord.

Biography: My wife Breanne and I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We moved to the Detroit suburbs in 2014 and became members of Ward in November of 2016. We have three children that keep us very busy: Carter (4), Blaire (3), and Daphne (1). I previously served on Session from 2018-2021 and I am excited for another opportunity to serve His church.



WAYNE BYRUM

Nominated for: Elder (non-Session)

Ordination as a non-Session Ruling Elder does not make that person a board member, but can serve as an affirmation of their ministry, provide a sense of spiritual weightiness, and bring them under the authority of Session and of Presbytery.

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I have been working as a part-time volunteer Ward Church Care Pastor since 2016. I was a senior pastor in the Nazarene Church for 10 years before becoming a psychotherapist in 1982. I served in three churches in Texas, Tennessee, and Michigan. Today, I provide counseling and pastoral care and officiate weddings and funerals. I am so glad God has opened this door for me to serve Him. This is truly an answer to prayer for me. I feel like I am home, as I work with so many others that are working for the Lord in various fields of service.

Biography: I have a B. A. from Trevecca Nazarene in Nashville, TN, and a Master of Social Work degree from Wayne State University. I have a graduate certificate in social work practices with families and couples. I'm a National Guard Veteran and private pilot. I retired from the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor in Psychiatry Services as a Psychotherapist after 32 years with special focus on POWs. I am married to Julie Byrum, who teaches piano at Ward, sings in the choir and is a deacon - a wonderful lady who loves Jesus! My favorite Bible verse is Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave himself for me."

DEACONS

The ministry of the Deacons is one of sympathy and service. The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, concern for needs, and of serving others. The Board of Deacons is under the authority of the Church Session.

Duties: Provide pastoral care to people in crisis (sick, the grieving, the needy); Prepare the Lord's Supper for both corporate worship and home visits; Minister locally to people with material needs (single moms, unemployed, etc.); Host dinners or receptions for funerals and memorials; Serve in other duties as requested.

DEACONS SLATE

Three-Year Term

Beth Bruns
Kara Burns
Ingrid Frankovics
Raeann Neil
Kathy Skupski
Sue Tranquilla
Glenn Trevisan
Rachel Villaroman
Erin Walkowicz
Marc Walkowicz



BETH BRUNS

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I was raised by loving Christian parents who taught me the value of faith and a personal relationship with God. As I grew into maturity, I didn't have one "aha" moment of making my faith my own, rather steps along an ongoing journey. Especially during my college years, I grew in my own relationship with God and continue to seek Him through the ebbs and flows of life. In the Bible, deacons were called to meet the physical needs of the church. We show our love to God and people through actions, and the office of Deacon is a tangible way to care for our community. I would be honored to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in this way.

Biography: I live in Farmington Hills and have attended Ward for over 20 years, starting when I was looking for a church home as a newly minted adult. Ward has been a great fit throughout the stages of my life so far; looking for community in the beginning of marriage, sanity during the little kid years of starting a family, and support for the middle of it all. I am married to Eric and we have two teenage sons. I work as a children's librarian and have volunteered with children's ministry and with Afghan refugees.



KARA BURNS

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I was raised in a Christian home. I made confession of faith in high school. I feel that service is one of my spiritual gifts and I enjoy serving.

Biography: I have been married to Russ for 18 years. We have 2 boys. We live in Plymouth.



INGRID FRANKOVICS

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe in God the Father, the Creator of everything who wants a personal relationship with me and every human being, but from whom we are separated because of our sins. I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate, fully God and fully human who was born to live a sinless life and die for our sins so we could be in relationship with God the Father. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in us to glorify Christ, convicts us of our sins and gives us gifts to further God's kingdom on earth. After being nominated to serve as deacon, I spent some time in prayer and conversation with my husband. The role of serving others has always been one I feel called to the most.

Biography: I was born and raised in Germany. I'm the middle of three sisters. I was raised in a Baptist home and spent most of my childhood in school and church. I studied to become a paralegal and worked in that profession until I married and started a family. I met my husband Achim when I was 25. We married in 2007 and had our daughter Livia two years later. In 2012, we moved to Michigan for a work assignment my husband had. Our son Ilai was born in 2013 in Michigan. We had planned to move back in 2015 but Michigan became our home. We stayed, due in no small part to our involvement with Ward Church and its members that had become our family.



RAEANN NEIL

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe in a sovereign triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Humankind is sinful and God in His great love for us, sent His Son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin through His death on the cross. Because of Christ's victory over sin and death due His resurrection, we can have a personal relationship with God and one day will join Him in Heaven. Jesus is fully God/fully man who came as a baby and will one day return for His called, chosen and faithful followers. God has given us His inspired Word, the Bible, which is trustworthy and true. It is a Believer's guide for how to have a faithful walk with God. I am humbled and honored to have a small part in helping others on this walk.

Biography: When I was about age of six, my home church sang the song "10,000 Angels." The words, "He could have called 10,000 to destroy the world and set Him free, but He died alone for you and me" were used by the Holy Spirit to enlighten me to the fact that God loves me so much that He chose to send His son Jesus to pay for my sin. I was later baptized at the age of 13. After joining Ward in 2001, I've enjoyed participating in ministry activities, such as the summer VBS crafts team, holding and playing with babies and toddlers in MOPS nursery, learning about busy young moms as a MOPS mom mentor, and being disciplined through Tuesday morning Bible Study as well as leading a ladies' small group.



KATHY SKUPSKI

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I

firmly believe in the Gospel of Christ and that we have a triune God. I believe in the Father and His son, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, died on the cross for our sins, was resurrected on the third day and is seated at God's right hand, ruling from heaven. I believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in me and in all who have accepted Christ. I'm called to serve God, and I pray for the right opportunities to serve Him through what gifts He has given me. I've been through many struggles and have much empathy for the pain in people's lives. I know that turning to God, especially in times of trouble, brings great comfort and draws us closer to God.

Biography: I was born in Detroit and grew up in Livonia. I have attended Ward Church my entire life. My husband Doug and I live in Plymouth. We have three grown children, all living in different states, and we have one grandson. I have always worked and my last job was as an artisan in Greenfield Village, first as a tinsmith and then during the past five years in the village pottery shop. I became disabled by a neck injury and am no longer working. Now, I've had more time for church activities. I have served one term as a deacon, I lead a small group for Pam Dodge's CBC, and Doug and I co-lead a longtime Bible study group. You may have seen me serving communion monthly for the past few years.



SUE TRANQUILLA

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I believe God the Father created me, God the Son saved me, and God the Holy Spirit indwells within me and enables me to do good works, which God prepared in advance for me to do. I can do nothing in my own ability, but only as I rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance and power to use the gifts God has given me. I believe God has given me the gifts of encouragement, faith, intercession, and mercy. I want to use those gifts to serve as a Ward deacon to promote God's glory.

Biography: I was raised in a mainline denomination, where I acquired head (but not heart) knowledge of Jesus Christ. I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior in my 30s during a Ward membership class. That has made all the difference! Since then, God has been transforming me through such means as Margaret Hess's Community Bible Class, Bible Study Fellowship (20 plus years as a leader), various Ward Adult Life Groups, the Forgotten Harvest food ministry, the GriefShare ministry, and serving as a deacon. My husband Mike and I have been blessed with two children and four grandchildren.



GLENN TREVISAN

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: While I have been drawn, even if reluctantly, into many leadership roles professionally in non-profit/human service management and voluntarily on committees and boards, including four terms as ruling elder for Grace Chapel between 2004 and 2022, I feel I'm more inclined to supportive or serving roles and I see the merger between Grace and Ward as an opportunity to explore those avenues. Even so, I was hesitant to throw my hat into the nominating pool for deacon so I turned to some friends/advisers to prayerfully consider whether they felt I would be a good fit for deacon. With no exceptions, they affirmed me and I was nominated.

Biography: I was raised in a large, loving family. I am the oldest of 10 children, raised by devout Catholic parents. Even so, my relationship with God was more head knowledge vs. relationship. I drifted from churchgoing in college where I met my wife whose faith background was much like mine. After we married in 1979, we attended a Catholic church and became leaders in a high school group. These students' questions inspired us to join a couples' Bible study in 1981. We both grew in the word and became believers in 1983. Over the years, we grew in Christ and with fellow believers especially since joining Grace Chapel in 1997. In 2019, Cindy died and I retired. Then COVID, merger and now!



RACHEL VILLAROMAN

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: Having been raised in a Christian family, I can't point to an exact conversion moment. (Thank you, parents!) I've enjoyed a lifelong love of the Triune God of the Bible, and my faith continues to deepen as I study the Word, fellowship with other Christians, and see God's handiwork in my life. I am continuously looking for ways to be the hands and feet of Christ inside and outside of the church. I am looking forward to coming alongside our community members to bless them and show them the love of Christ as a deacon.

Biography: I was born and raised in southeast Michigan, but I have also lived in central Illinois, southwest Florida, and southern Kentucky. I started coming to Ward in 2017 when I moved back to the Mitten state for work and love. I have spent most of my serving time in WardKids and with the Young Adult ministry, though I took a break from both last year when my husband Ian and I had our son Calihan in September. You can find our family of three sitting in one of the front pews on Sunday mornings.



ERIN WALKOWICZ

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died to cover the sins of all who would receive Him. I accepted this gift as a child and continue to believe this truth. I try to study His word and live according to it. I have recently served as a deacon on the Care Team and would be blessed to continue to do so.

Biography: I was born and raised in Georgia. I graduated from Georgia Tech and moved to Michigan to work for Ford. I began attending Ward in 1998 at the Livonia campus. I was active in Single Spirit for many years including having a minor leadership role (organizing community service). I served as a Sunday School teacher for about 4 years in the age 2/3/4 classrooms. I am happily married to Marc. I served in Ward's Stepping Stones ministry for children (part of Divorce Recovery). I was involved in Bible Study Fellowship and served as a Group Leader.



MARC WALKOWICZ

Nominated for: Deacon

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and look to Him alone for my salvation. I believe that serving as a deacon is serving both God and people.

Biography: I am happily married to my wonderful wife Erin. I was born and raised in Michigan and am an engineer at Ford Motor Company. Previously, I was a deacon on the Care Team, served in Stepping Stones, which was a Ward Divorce Recovery program for children, and served in the past as a small group leader in the Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) organization.

TRUSTEES

The ministry of the Trustees is one of provision. The Trustees enable the ministry of others by providing three important "tools" for ministry: facilities, finances, and legal affairs. Normally, the Board of Trustees is made up of men and women who have some expertise in these areas and who desire to advance the work of the church by providing these foundational elements.

TRUSTEES SLATE

Three-Year Term

Peggy Hoekstra
Daniel Mahlmeister
David Morland
Ron Paradowicz



PEGGY HOEKSTRA

Nominated for: Trustee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: My journey of faith began for me as a child. I was raised as a Catholic, attending Catholic grade school and high school. Our family went to mass every Sunday. I received all the sacraments. As an adult, I went through the motions of attending church, but without a real relationship with God. Three years ago, my husband took a job at Ward. We learned about the church and began attending worship services. This experience has helped me have faith in God, to pray, and realize the responsibilities we have as Christians in this world. I believe God has called me to help.

Biography: I am a CPA with Plante Moran, a regional public accounting and consulting firm. As a Senior Manager on the consulting team, I enjoy helping clients and colleagues every day. The best part of the job is helping people. My husband Bob and I are longtime residents of Livonia. We raised two children and recently became grandparents. I look forward to the opportunity to volunteer as a Trustee to help Ward Church further its important mission.



DANIEL MAHLMEISTER

Nominated for: Trustee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was eight years old. Our family attended Ward Memorial Presbyterian Church in Detroit. I was blessed to be raised by Christian parents and was pastored by Rev. David Owen and Barry McKenna, who served as my youth pastor. I have always sought the Lord's guidance through prayer my entire life. I am a strong believer in the power of prayer and the impact it can have in people's lives. I have seen and experienced answers to prayer both personally and for others. I have truly been blessed attending Ward Church my entire life. I attended Ward Livonia after Ward Memorial closed. My wife and I were married at Ward Livonia. I believe the Lord has equipped me with skills to contribute and I look forward to the opportunity.

Biography: I received my degree from the Univ. of Mich. and started working for a relatively new company owned by a Christian couple. I have been with that company for 43 years serving in several areas. I have held positions in Technical, Operations, Administration, Sales and Marketing. I currently serve as president. I have been married to my wife Tina for over 42 years and we have two adult daughters and two grandchildren. I served on the BOD for Huron Forest Camp Cherith (Now Camp Cedar Ridge) for nine years, three of those as President. I served two terms as a Ward Elder and Trustee.



DAVID MORLAND

Nominated for: Trustee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: Although I was raised in a Catholic home, I was mostly spinning my wheels as a good "ChrEaster" Catholic for the majority of my childhood. I truly discovered the love of Christ in my freshman year of college through campus ministry groups, and had my re-dedication/baptism in a frozen lake in mid-Michigan. Ever since, I've worked to learn more about Christianity as well as tried to walk more like Christ every day. I feel called to be a Trustee to put my prior military experience, my experience as a Security and Production volunteer at Ward, and my experience in the IT field to work for the church.

Biography: I'm a lifelong Michigander. I have been married for 14 years to my wife Kate. We have two sons, Isaac (8) and Simon (3). I work in IT for a conglomerate of companies which make software for churches. I enjoy a good trip to Disney World now and then.



RON PARADOWICZ

Nominated for: Trustee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: The Lord used a series of events to get my attention, and I became a lifelong follower of Jesus in 1978 when I began to understand the emptiness of life without Him. I have grown spiritually over the years despite yielding too often to my old sin nature. I realize that I have to depend moment by moment on the work of the indwelling Spirit to live the abundant life described by Jesus. I am willing to serve the body of Christ in any way I can. The position of Trustee matches up well with my giftedness, interests and background.

Biography: I have lived in the Detroit area my entire life. My wife Barb and I were married in 1982. We have two sons and four grandchildren, all of whom live close by. After working as a CPA for 15 years, I accepted a position at an assisted living company (Courtyard Manor) and am currently the company president. We have attended an EPC church since 1987, and came over to the Ward Northville campus from Grace Chapel after the merger last year, as we live less than two miles from the Northville campus. I have served in leadership roles in our prior two churches.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each year the Nominating Committee nominates from the congregation members who are qualified to serve the church on the Church Session (Board of Elders), the Board of Trustees, the Board of Deacons, and the Nominating Committee. Through a season of prayer, deliberation, and congregational recommendations, the Nominating Committee selects candidates according to biblical requirements, spiritual gifts, and ministry fit.

The Nominating Committee consists of at least 11 people (two Elders, one Deacon, one Trustee, and at least seven members at large). The pastor is an ex-officio member of the committee without vote. Each member at large is elected by the congregation to a one-year term on a rotating basis.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

One-Year Term

Jane Black
Margaret Hermatz
Elaine Kamen
Ben Mungai
Carol Nowacki
Rebecca Park
Peter Tassi



JANE BLACK

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I have a Heavenly Father who created me, knows everything about me, and loves me more than I can imagine! In spite of my deep love for Him, I don't always do, think, or say the right thing. I'm a sinner. Sin stained my life and separated me from a holy God. Jesus, God's son, took the punishment for my sin and died in my place. I am no longer separated from God and I am confident I will spend eternity in my Heavenly Father's house. I'm grateful for God's Holy Spirit that is alive in me. I'm newly retired from my employment with Ward Church. I have prayerfully considered this role. I have many relationships from my years on staff and as a ministry volunteer.

Biography: My husband Gregg and I have been members of Ward Church for 37 years. I have joyfully served in a variety of volunteer roles over the years: Adult Small Group Leader, Fifth Grade Sunday School Teacher, Kids Kamp Counselor, Student Ministry, MOPS Leader, VBS teacher, Kitchen, and Data Entry. I served on the Ward Staff for 15 years in Students Ministry, Database Administration and Application Support. I lead the Northville Days for Girls Team. I have three adult daughters and two grandchildren. I enjoy gardening, camping, and watching Purdue and MSU football and basketball and Indy Car racing. I have a degree from Purdue University in Institutional Management.



MARGARET HERMATZ

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: God created me. Jesus died for my sins. He is my Lord and Savior. God's grace through the Holy Spirit allows me to live and be more like the person He created me to be. I prayed for an opportunity to become more involved at Ward in a way that matched my spiritual gifts. This opportunity came up shortly after and I feel like it is a way for me to grow in my faith and as a member of Ward Church.

Biography: I was born and raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina and attended Westminster Presbyterian Church with my family while growing up. After graduating from Northwestern High School in 2008 and College of Charleston in 2013, I received a Master's of Occupational Therapy from University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in 2015. I have worked as a school-based occupational therapist in Detroit charter schools since 2017. Dennis and I married in 2018 and we had our daughter Hayes in 2022.



ELAINE KAMEN

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I feel blessed to have had a mother who not only cared about me physically but also spiritually. We attended a small church where I first became aware of my need for a Savior. It was there that I also developed my beliefs. I believe in God the Father and in Jesus Christ, God's Son. I believe in Christ alone, through personal repentance, I can be forgiven. I believe in the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Bible as God's infallible word. As a believer, I am called to glorify God, love my neighbors and share the hope I have within me. I feel called to serve as I was asked. I feel I have the time and I know many members due to my longevity at Ward.

Biography: I live in Northville with my husband Don. We started attending Ward in 1969. We raised our three children at Ward. We have four grandchildren and two sons-in-law. I have worked in accounting and was the relocation director for our real estate company for many years. I am recently retired. Over the years, I have served in various areas of the church such as youth programs, children's programs, VBS leadership and teaching, women's ministries, Pathfinder's Sunday School class, and the nominating committee twice. I enjoy attending Pam Dodge's Bible study and a Zoom Bible study group. I also enjoy walking, boating, traveling and spending time with family and friends.



BENJAMIN MUNGAI

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: I believe in the Triune God: God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Ten years ago, I unequivocally gave my life to Christ as my Lord and Savior. I recognized that God truly loves me. He has forgiven me all my sins by the shedding of Jesus' blood at Calvary. Giving my life fully to Christ changed me completely. I had struggled in faith as a young Christian, but God's grace continued to pull me towards Himself. As I matured in Christ, I recognized I needed more grace and mercy for myself and my family especially as a single father. As I continue to live the Christian life, God continues to transform me to be more Christ-like, fit for His service.

Biography: I was born in Kenya, East Africa. We moved to the United States in 1992 as my dad pursued his graduate studies. Since 2007, I have been working professionally as a licensed real estate agent in Metro Detroit. I'm a single father of three: Mark (married to Mackenzie), Michelle is in college and Melvin is college-bound. I have been part of Ward Church for over ten years, which has been such a blessing for me and my family. As I continue to grow in Christ, I feel called to serve Him in various ways. I currently serve in the Security Team at Ward Church. I am ready and willing to be of service in the Nominating Committee as I serve Christ's Church and the Great Commission.



CAROL NOWACKI

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: At the age of 10, I walked myself into a small neighborhood church with a sign that said "VBS - Registration begins today." I, of course was lovingly told I needed a parent with me to register. The next day, I returned with my father. This was the beginning of my journey into faith. Over the years, I have put my trust in the triune God. I believe God created me for relationship with Him and I have a role to help others know Him. I believe that the Bible, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is my guide to a life of love and service. In January 2023, I committed in prayer that this would be a year of saying yes to serving. I am humbled to be asked.

Biography: John and I have been married for 42 years and have been members of Ward Church since 1987. We were first drawn to Ward through the ministry of its Daytime Preschool. We very quickly realized we had not only found a preschool for our children but a church home for our family. During the past 36 years, I served alongside others on staff with Ward Preschool and in areas of ministry with elementary and high school youth, VBS, deacons, MOPS, Marriage Retreats, Worship and Search Committees. In service, I have truly received much more than I have given.



REBECCA PARK

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office: After exiting the foster care system when I was seven years old, I grew up with adoptive parents (my biological grandparents) who loved God and took me to church regularly.) I came to know Jesus as my personal Savior when I was in high school through attending a friend's weekly youth group. The theme of adoption has always played a strong role in my faith and it is how I understand the overwhelming love and grace of God. He will continue to provide and equip me as I grow and serve Him and the church. I feel called to the nominating committee because I love connecting to people, identifying their individual talents, and helping them grow into who God created them to be.

Biography: My husband Gun and I have been married for nine years and we have three young children (Harper, Collin and Eli). We moved to Michigan almost five years ago for Gun's job in the automotive industry. We have attended Ward for four years, becoming members a year ago. Throughout my time at Ward, I have been able to volunteer with MOPS, International Friends, and various small groups. I have worked in education for most of my adult life. I currently teach ESL to visa employees at Nissan, but I am excited to start seminary and the Ward pastoral residency soon.



PETER TASSI

Nominated for:
Nominating Committee

Statement of faith and why you feel called to this office:

I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in October of 1981 after realizing I was a sinner in need of salvation. I understood at that time that Jesus loved me, that He died for all of my sins and that there was nothing I could do to deserve or earn my forgiveness. It was by faith through His grace and mercy that God accepted me. Today, I rely on Jesus and His love and forgiveness and the power of the Holy Spirit to direct my life. I know that I am a steward of all the time, talent and treasure that He has granted to me and I strive to live my life to honor Him.

Biography: I have been married for 46 years to Susan. Our son Paul is married to Michelle and has one son, Noah. We joined Ward in 1982. Over the years, my Ward involvement has included being an ongoing Membership class assistant, serving with the Anxiety and Depression ministry, and as an Ordinary Vessels Class member, Ward office volunteer, Elder, Trustee, Deacon, and in the past with the Nomination Committee. I have served with an off-campus discipleship ministry. I retired from Ford Motor Company and DTE Energy, having worked in various organizational improvement and management roles.

APPENDIX

Article II - MEMBERSHIP

Old By-law Language:	New By-law Language:
<p data-bbox="149 432 389 464">A. Qualifications</p> <p data-bbox="175 499 786 625">1. The three classes of membership are confirmed, baptized, and affiliate. Such classes of membership are defined, including rights and privileges in the <u>Book of Government</u>, as amended.</p> <p data-bbox="175 667 756 827">2. All confirmed members of the Church, as established by official action of the Session, are also members of the Corporation. The confirmed members of the Church are hereafter termed the Membership.</p> <p data-bbox="149 863 500 894">B. Rights and Privileges</p> <p data-bbox="185 930 776 993">All active members of the Church shall be eligible to vote and to hold office.</p>	<p data-bbox="805 428 1429 554"><i>Membership, its rights and privileges, are as specified in the Book of Government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</i> (See https://epc.org/downloads - "Book of Order," chapter 8)</p>

(Changes highlighted and italicized)

APPENDIX

Article III - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Old By-law Language:	New By-law Language:
<p>B. Annual</p> <p>Beginning in 1997, an Annual Congregational Meeting of the Membership shall be held on the first Wednesday of June of each year, unless changed by the Session, for the purpose of transacting any business which may lawfully come before the meeting. If changed by Session, the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held no later than the first Wednesday in July.</p>	<p>B. Annual</p> <p><i>An Annual Congregational Meeting of the Membership shall be held on the first Wednesday of June of each year, unless changed by the Session, for the purpose of transacting any business which may lawfully come before the meeting. If changed by Session, the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held no later than the first Wednesday in July.</i></p>

(Changes highlighted and italicized)

APPENDIX

Article IV - CONDUCT OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Old By-law Language:	New By-law Language:
<p data-bbox="198 480 488 516">A. Presiding Officer:</p> <p data-bbox="235 554 769 772">1. The Senior Pastor shall preside at all Annual and Special Congregational Meetings, or if unable to attend, the Senior Pastor shall designate one of the other pastors to preside. In the event that no pastor is able to preside, then a moderator will be appointed according to the Book of Government.</p> <p data-bbox="235 810 769 1089">2. When the Membership is acting on the Senior Pastor's terms of call, the Senior Pastor, all other staff members and their immediate family members shall be excused from the meeting and the Clerk of Session or other person designated by the Session shall preside. The discussion permissible under this provision shall be limited solely to the terms of call of the Senior Pastor.</p> <p data-bbox="235 1127 769 1220">Immediate family members include spouses, children, parents, grandparents, in-laws, brothers and spouses, sisters and spouses.</p> <p data-bbox="235 1257 769 1474">3. When the Membership is acting on the church staff terms of call, with the exception of the Senior Pastor, all staff members, except the Senior Pastor, shall be excused from the meeting. The discussion permissible under this provision shall solely to staff compensation.</p>	<p data-bbox="794 480 1084 516">A. Presiding Officer:</p> <p data-bbox="831 554 1408 741"><i>1. The Senior Pastor shall preside at all Annual and Special Congregational Meetings, or if unable to attend, the Senior Pastor shall designate one of the other pastors to preside. In the event that no pastor is able to preside, then a moderator will be appointed according to the Book of Government.</i></p>

(Changes highlighted and italicized)

APPENDIX

Article VI - BOARD, OFFICERS, AND TERMS

Old By-law Language:	New By-law Language:
<p data-bbox="198 487 360 520">A. Session:</p> <p data-bbox="224 550 786 898">1. The Session shall consist of the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor(s) and twelve (12) ruling Elders. Assistant Pastor(s) may attend but shall have no vote. As the need arises, one (1) Elder from a daughter church may be elected. This Elder shall be added to the then present Session of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church until the daughter church be established, at which time this Elder shall cease to be a member of the Session of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>	<p data-bbox="805 487 967 520">A. Session:</p> <p data-bbox="831 550 1399 907">1. The Session shall consist of the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor(s) and nine to twelve (9-12) ruling Elders. Assistant Pastor(s) may attend but shall have no vote. As the need arises, one (1) Elder from a daughter church may be elected. This Elder shall be added to the then present Session of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church until the daughter church be established, at which time this Elder shall cease to be a member of the Session of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>

[Changes highlighted and italicized]

APPENDIX

By-Law Revisions Frequently Asked Questions

Why are By-Law revisions being proposed at this time?

It has been several years since the last revision, and Session felt the by-laws should be reviewed to see if they clearly spelled out our current practices, that they were in conformity with the Denominations Book of Order, that any redundancies were eliminated or reduced, and whether they provided flexibility in certain areas.

What was the process in arriving at the proposed revisions?

A task force was formed to bring recommendations to the Session. Session reviewed the list of proposed changes and approved four of them to be brought to the congregation for approval?

Why is there a change being proposed in the Membership language section?

The current language merely repeats the language in the Book of Order. To avoid having to amend the By-Laws every time the language in the Book of Order changed, it is proposed that the By-Laws reference agreement with the Book of Order language instead of repeating it.

Why is there a proposed change in the Annual Meeting date?

The current language refers to a date when the church moved from a calendar fiscal year to a July-to-June fiscal year. That clarification is not needed.

Why is there a proposed change in the requirement for congregation approval of Pastor and Associate Pastor compensation?

The Book of Order states when a congregation desires to call a new senior or associate pastor, the membership must vote on the call and the remuneration. The current language of the Ward Church By-Laws implies annual approval and also makes a reference to staff compensation. This change eliminates the ambiguity and conforms the language to the Book of Order.

From the Book of Order Acts of the Assembly, pg. 201:

12-11 The Assembly adopts a policy regarding approval and recording of ministers' terms of call, superseding the actions of the 18th and 31st General Assemblies (Acts 98-04, p. 185 and 11-08, p. 200). (Minutes 32-56)

1. The initial terms of call shall be approved in public by both congregations and presbyteries, using the forms found in the Book of Order and Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees.
2. Changes in terms of call must be noted and voted upon by presbyteries on recommendation from the Ministerial Committee. The changes may be noted as either a dollar amount, or percentage amount, with only the change, not the new total, noted.
3. Background or supporting material regarding terms of call shall be made available to the Presbytery Review Committee through the Stated Clerk upon the Committee's request.

Why is there a proposed change in the number of Elders on Session?

The current language mandates that there be 12 Elders. The proposed change of nine to 12 Elders provides flexibility in the event of resignation or lack of qualified candidates as determined by the nominating committee. The change also brings the number of required Session members into conformity with the number of required Trustee Board members.



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