



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

NOMINATED OFFICERS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 2021





East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

SESSION

Class of 2024

- * VALIRE COPELAND
- * ROBERT (BOB) FORLOINES
- * NICHOLAS (NICK) GENGER-BOELDT
 - * TODD GOSS
 - * BRITTNEY KRIEGER
 - * JILL MILLARD
 - * TIFFANY SUDAR

VALIRE COPELAND

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: University Professor



I have been a member of ELPC for more than 20 years. My daughters and I have loved having ELPC as our spiritual and religious home. By training I'm a social worker and my expertise in social work is in the area of community health, racial and ethnic disparities in health and mental health among African American Women, Children, and Youth. My Christian journey dates back to my early childhood growing up in North Carolina as a Southern Baptist. I share my faith with family, friends, colleagues, and non-believers.

Children: Fraternal Twin Daughters– Camara Nicole Copeland and Camden Melissa Copeland, 27 years old

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

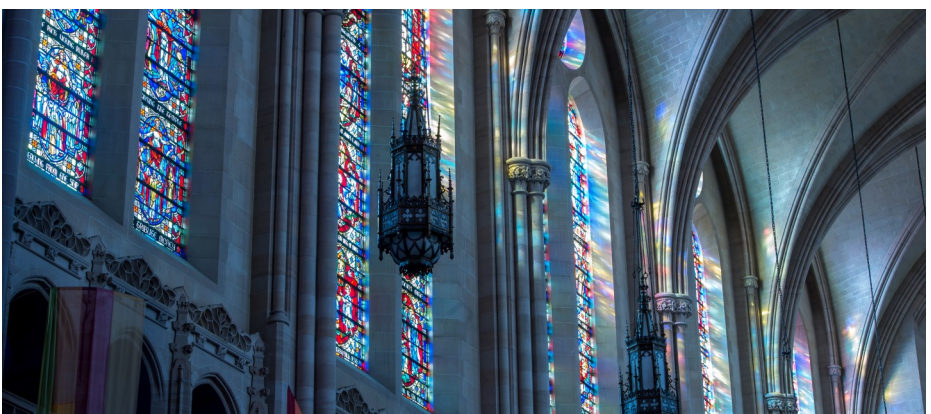
A: Previously served on Session, Christian Education Teacher, Youth Sponsorship, Hope Academy, Nominating Committee, collected funds from neighbors for American Diabetes Association, Presbyterian Publishing Board Corp., Shady Side Academy Board of Trustees, and several University committees

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: That we will continue to be an open church for all who want to worship. Our mission continues to be one of reaching out and seeing ourselves as part of the East Liberty community. The mission of social justice and equity being enshrined in everything we do. We continue to grow our membership, let others know we can be their spiritual and religious home. Continue to facilitate hope in those who are hopeless. Maintain the strength of our youth mission.

“I am a strong believer in social justice and equity for our multicultural society. My faith is solid and I believe there is a power higher than me.”

“My heart, thoughts, prayers, and beliefs have been strengthened by being a member of ELPC.”



ROBERT (BOB) FORLOINES

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: Retired, Chemical Engineer, Business
Performance Improvement Consulting



We moved to Pittsburgh about 7 years ago and soon joined ELPC. I retired about 2 years ago. I focus on food insecurity and social injustice issues.

Spouse/Partner: Carole Forloines
Children: Kate Passarelli, Martha Forloines, Emily Forloines (adults)

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: ELPC Nominating Committee, attend 11:00 AM Worship Service, attending Soul Food Sunday School class. Volunteer with Open Hand Ministries (formerly Circles), 412 Food Rescue and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I see ELPC continuing to grow in our current direction, extending Christ's radical hospitality to all, and finding new ways to inclusively engage our members and our community.

I'm a fan of all Pittsburgh pro teams, enjoy biking in good weather on the many trails in the area, and walk several miles a day in Frick Park.



NICHOLAS (NICK) GENGER-BOELDT

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: Customer Technical Support



I joined ELPC on the advice of a leader from my mother church, State College Presbyterian. I became a Christian at age 18 and always seem to wind up getting involved with something at ELPC.

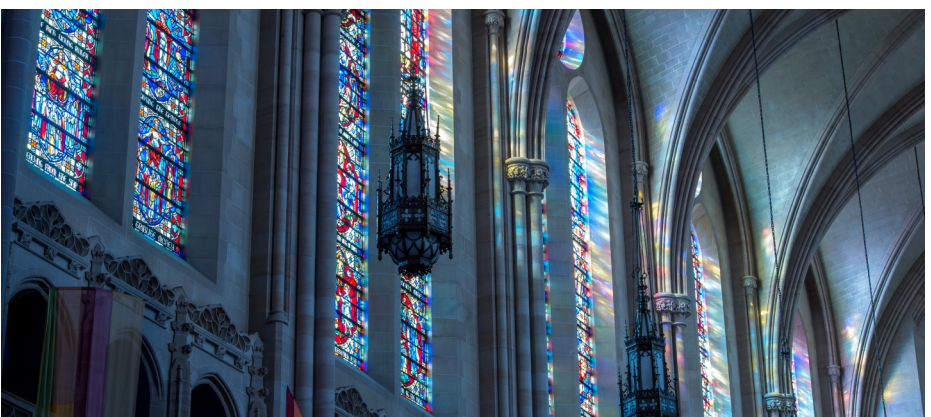
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: Co-chair of Membership and Outreach Committee, 1 term on Session, involved with young adult ministry and LGBTQIA ministry.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: To grow in spirit through inclusive welcoming.



TODD GOSS

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: Small Business Development Officer



I am passionate and caring. I want to make my community a better place for everyone to live.

"I've enjoyed my time on Session and hope to continue to contribute."

Partner/Spouse: Richard Frederick

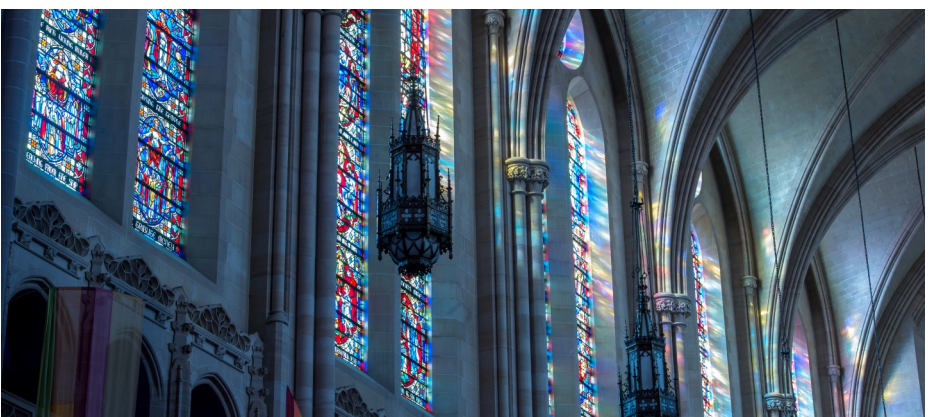
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I am currently on Session and the Property Committee, Gwen's Girls Board Member, Northside Community Development Loan Fund Approval Committee, Northside Chamber of Commerce Member, Teach saving and budgeting to students at Gwen's Girls and Nazareth Prep, teach credit to minority business owners at Riverside Innovations, taught homeowning classes at the Pittsburgh project and the Hill District CDC. Worked with Rebuilding Pittsburgh, active volunteer for the United Way, member of the Friends of Riverview Park, Committee member of the Brighton Heights Citizen's Federation.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: To get more involved in the Community. More hands on.



BRITTNEY KRIEGER

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: HRIS



I would like our congregation to know first that my middle name is Hope and that I truly embody hope most days (we all have our off days). But, I think that being at ELPC has helped me to let my light shine even brighter. I am a true advocate for ELPC and I am hoping to help other young people to find their light and home in our church. In terms of leadership, I would hope to bring energy and a diverse perspective to some of the committees– I would also hope to foster more engagement from people of my generation that I see at church. Lastly, I work in HRIS so I am very good with excel, data, and most things in the Information world.

Spouse/Partner: Lauren Uranker

Brittney has been a member since April 2016, and currently serves as the co-chair of the Personnel Committee.

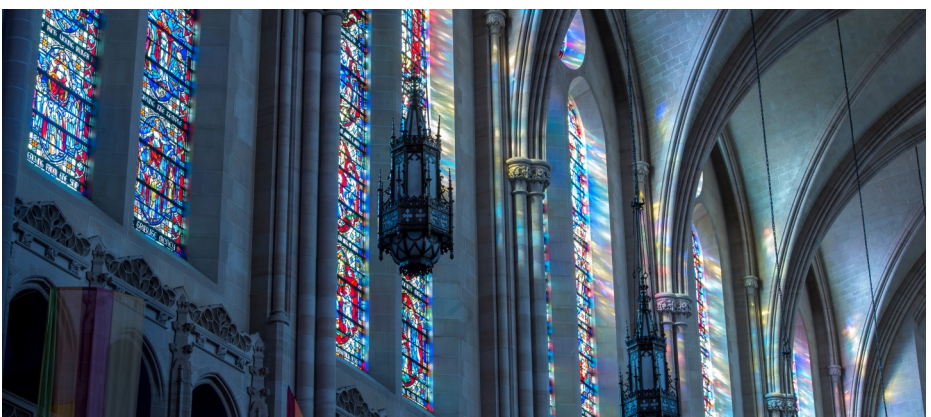
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I have been active in church and community in various ways. In church, I participate in the LGBTQ ministry and served on their Advisory Board for Pride. Also, I am a new member host, have helped with offering and I am part of a connections dinner group. IN my community, I lead 2 Employee Resource Groups at Bayer– BLEND (LGBT) and AAHA (Ethnic Diversity). Lastly, I am part of Vibrant Pittsburgh’s Next Generation Council which works to create strategies to attract, develop and retain diverse Millenials to PGH.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I would like to see ELPC attract more black and brown people. I would also like to form partnerships with stronger partnership with local universities and high schools. I think finding a church home is one of the reasons college kids will stay in PGH.



TIFFANY SUDAR

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: Fundraising



I live in Lawrenceville and work at Carnegie Mellon University. I love animals and have one dog and three cats of my own. I am an official foster for Paws Across Pittsburgh and have a variety of 'guests' at any given time. I have found a home at ELPC and the Soul Food class is one of my favorites.

Pet Parent to : Luci -10 (dog) Mimi - 4 (cat)
Timmy - 2 (cat) Gail - 9 months (cat)

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

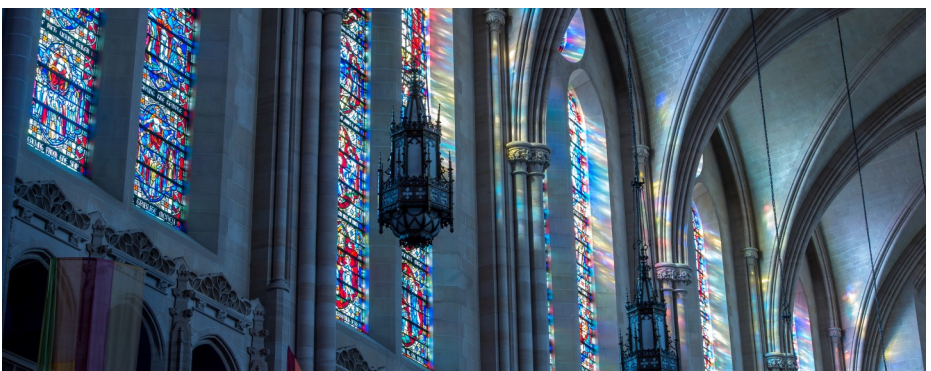
A: Finance Committee co-chair, Sunday School teacher, Soul Food helper. EECM green bean maker (pre-Covid times).

“EVERYONE is welcome.

EVERYONE is loved...We are the helpers.”

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: ELPC is a place of love and refuge for all of those who seek it. EVERYONE is welcome. EVERYONE is loved. We will not shy away from hard conversations and will serve all of God's people. We are the helpers.



JILL MILLARD

SESSION
Class of 2024

Occupation: School & Public Librarian



I have been a part of a church family all of my life. Ironically it was when I was trying to 'leave the church,' that I found ELPC. I am a victim of radical hospitality! I spent much of my life in a clergy household - as a daughter and then a wife. When circumstances changed, I was exceedingly grateful to be adopted into the ELPC family. It is this gratitude that fuels my desire to serve. I want everyone to experience this feeling of belonging. I don't have any amazing talents hidden or visible, but I get incredibly excited about finding resources and empowering people to make positive decisions. I am an educator to the core. I am increasingly interested in inter-generational learning. I am passionate about stories -written and oral. I read a lot about wellness (even pre-pandemic). I am an habitual planner, but with the events of this past year, I am learning to be more present, and I hope I have become a better listener. I am also in awe of my adult children who help me to see the world in new ways. Selfishly, I look forward to traveling again one day.

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I have received far more than I have given at ELPC. I have been an erratic member of Soul Food, attended a number of transformative Spiritual Life Retreats, and served on a monthly breakfast team at EECM. Over the course of my life, I have had many roles working with children and youth, facilitated small group studies, helped with mission trips, and served on Session in a different church. I have worshipped in many different churches, and I value the vastly different ways people can express their spirituality.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: ELPC has a clearly articulate vision as a 'diverse community of believers extending Christ's hospitality to all.' Can it get more beautiful than that? The challenge is sustaining that vision. Almost every single word in that statement summons courage. You can't use words like - diverse, community, believers, Christ, hospitality....and all without expecting some pushback. I certainly can't improve on that vision, but I hope that I can be a part of fulfilling that vision in an ever changing and often uncertain world. I appreciate tradition, but I am hugely inspired by the innovation that has evolved over this past year. I believe the church has made huge adaptations, and the ability to stay flexible will remain paramount.

"I want everyone to experience this feeling of belonging."

I am a morning person! I have better mental clarity at sunrise than sunset. You can put me in charge of morning coffee at any retreats. Session meetings should start at 7:30am not 7:30pm....just kidding....kind of.

I have three amazing and wonderful children in their 20s. All of their names start with "J."



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

**BOARD OF
DEACONS**

Class of 2024

- * PETA HARRIGAN COLE
- * DAVID COWAN
- * MAUREEN (MOLLY) DAVIDSON-WELLING
- * ANDREW (DREW) SIMPSON
- * SUSAN WADSWORTH-BOOTH
- * THOMAS (TOM) STURGILL

PETA HARRIGAN COLE

BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2024

Occupation: Retired Paralegal



I was born in the British Virgin Islands, High School in U.K., College in U.S. Have been a volunteer in the Senior Companion Program of Allegheny County for over a decade and served on the Advisory Board. For the last 16 years I have been a volunteer Reading Tutor at the Pittsburgh Public Schools. I am also a member of the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Presbytery International Partnership with Malawi and South Sudan and have been commissioned twice as a Missionary to Malawi. I am also a Presbyterian Panelist. I enjoy reading, music and International Mission Advocacy.

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: Tutor, mentor, Session, VCS, Chair of Peace Committee, Co-Chair Personnel, Property & Heritage. Currently Peace, Mission Board and Secretary of the Leadership Team of PW, usher & greeter, Assistant Church School Extended Session.

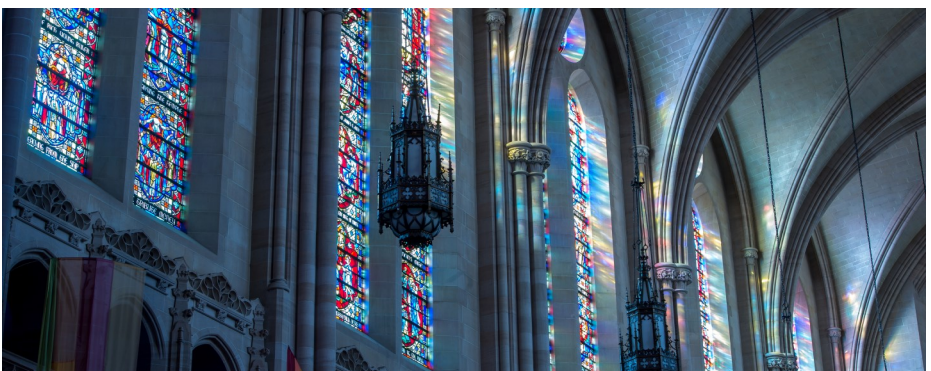
Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: That ELPC will help lead PC(USA) in its witness to Gods Kingdom on Earth.

“ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

—Psalm 25:5

Children: Derek Harrigan



DAVID COWAN

BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2024

Occupation: Physician



Partner/Spouse: Alyssa
Children: Annie (13), Liam (11)

Pre-COVID we were a family that travelled regularly. Since March we have been able to redirect that energy...spending time playing board games, watching movies, and a healthy dose of Nintendo switch jeopardy. We are thankful to have found such a diverse, justice-minded, loving minded church community and leadership team.

Questions for Nominees

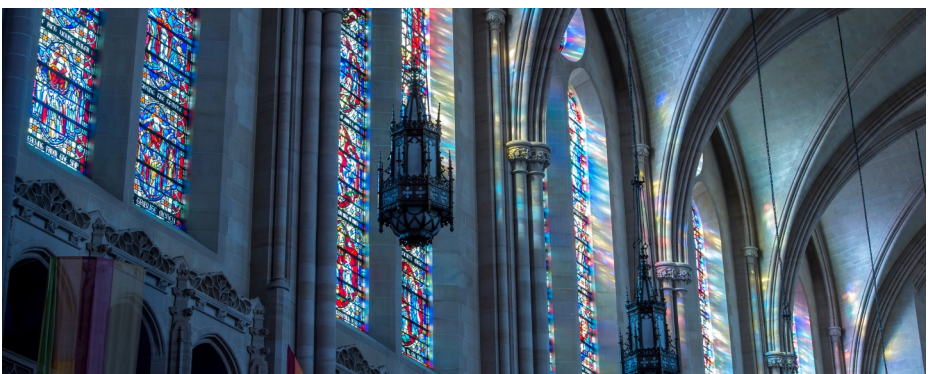
Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I served as a deacon for the last three years and have participated in a number of the facing systemic racism activities.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I feel like the church is on an excellent trajectory and has responded amazingly well to the changes of the pandemic. I think by working to continually encourage our members to engage in service to the church and community and to participate in the many educational opportunities provided we lead to further growth of the body in numbers and spirit.

“We are thankful to have found such a diverse, justice-minded, loving minded church community and leadership team.”



MAUREEN (MOLLY) DAVIDSON-WELLING

BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2024

Occupation: Lawyer



I attended ELPC as a youth. After years away, settling down, and starting a family, I joined ELPC as a member a couple of years ago. I have always loved ELPC's commitment to social justice, ELPC's many programs that offer something for everyone, and the warmth of the congregation. I look forward to sharing my time and talents.

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

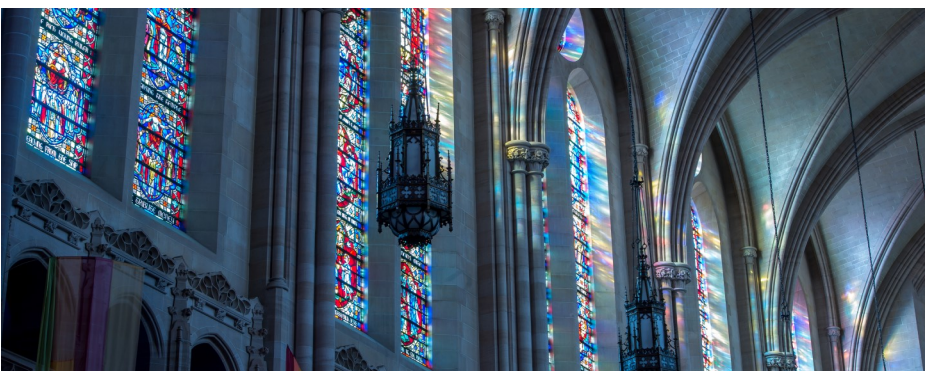
A: I participate on ELPC's membership and outreach committee. I have been a part of ELPC's marathon relay team trying to raise funds for Open Hand Ministries for the past few years. I have attended a variety of church-related events and functions.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I hope we will all be able to be back together worshipping in the physical church building sometime in the not-too-distant future. ELPC has begun offering more and more virtual programming, and I hope those wonderful programs continue alongside in-person options in the future.

Partner/Spouse: Jonathan Perret

Children: Josephine (6) and Jackson (8)



ANDREW (DREW) SIMPSON

BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2024



Occupation: Assistant Professor of History

I am honored for the opportunity to serve EPLC and the congregation. We are very blessed for the opportunity to bring up our son in this diverse and inclusive congregation. If I am elected, I will take my responsibilities seriously and continue to work to support the mission of our church.

Partner/Spouse: Amy Simpson
Children: Ethan Simpson, 2.5 years

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: Over the last decade, we have been active with ELPC through the Health Committee and helping with the bicentennial planning. In the fall of 2014, I participated in the City of Pittsburgh's Civic Leadership Academy. From 2016-2019 Amy and I served as members of Holy Family Institute's Emerging Leaders Board and in 2018 I served as a member of their Courage House Luncheon Committee. Through my work as a history professor, I have organized or co-organized several events to connect Pittsburghers and other people with local and national history. As of January 2021, I am serving my first term on the governing council of the Pennsylvania Historical Association.

“... we can continue to call attention to [widening health disparities] and support grassroots efforts to promote health justice.”

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I believe that ELPC is well-positioned for the future. Our focus on issues of social justice and inclusivity continues to differentiate our church in the region. Moreover, by keeping our commitment to creating a welcoming environment, I believe we will continue to grow, despite a national environment where a decline in church attendance is the norm. One area where I would like to see our church become more involved is addressing the widening health disparities in our region. Working through our health committee and providing moral leadership, we can continue to call attention to this problem and support grassroots efforts to promote health justice.



SUSAN WADSWORTH-BOOTH

BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2024



Occupation: Director, Kent State University Press

Especially now that our daughters are young adults and no longer living at home, my husband and I are anxious to use our extra time and energy to serve people more. I am an editor and writer and hope to use those skills to help with church functions as well.

Partner/Spouse: Douglas Booth

Children: Margaret Booth (24), Annie Booth (21)

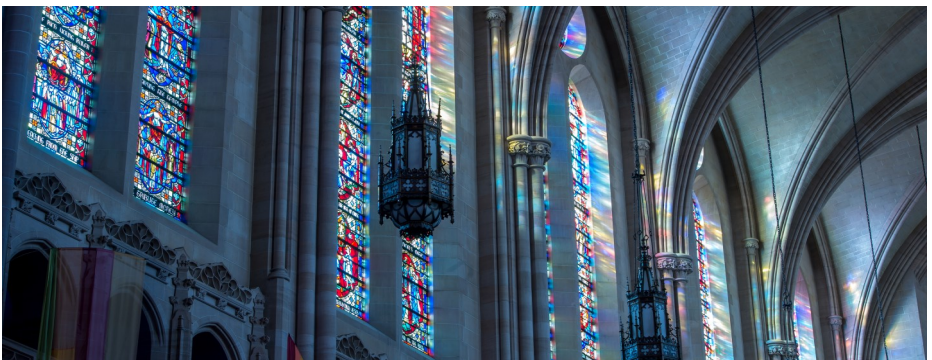
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

Not as much as I've wanted in the last few years with my job having me split my time between Ohio and Pittsburgh. Various community events in Highland Park, donations to book and food drives, letter-writing campaigns for Amnesty International and Vote Forward. I served as a deacon, an elder, and a trustee at the South Side Presbyterian Church and was also its church treasurer for several years.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

To continue to be a welcoming place for all and to be a vital source of inspiration and help to the East Liberty and surrounding communities. To reach more young people, given the trend toward less church involvement in that group.



THOMAS STURGILL

BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2023



Occupation: Senior Center Director

Partner/Spouse: Janet Sturgill

I have a compassionate heart to build up and encourage others, especially those going through difficult seasons in their lives. I have a passion and concern for the marginalized and disadvantaged in our society and for finding ways to help them truly believe that God loves them just as they are. I want to bring joy to the lives of those I love, those who love me, and those I encounter in my life journey. I like to meet needs as I'm able. My greatest interests are home and garden design, the arts, and serving older adults.

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A. I was previously a deacon at Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church in Murrysville, PA. I am a past participant in Soul Food and the Meditation Group at ELPC and have been an active participant in the LGBTQ ministry at EPLC for 5 years. I've been an active member of ELPC for almost 3 years now and have volunteered to assist with several events. I coordinate the "Food for Seniors" COVID-19 project at Vintage Senior Center, which ELPC has been supporting, as part of my role as Center Director.

"I have a passion and concern for the marginalized and disadvantaged in our society and for finding ways to help them truly believe that God loves them just as they are."

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: ELPC is the most unique church I've ever attended throughout a lifetime of attending various churches and denominations. I like that it's a church for seekers and those who are not quite sure what they believe. I'd like to help envision ways that the church can reach folks throughout the state and across the country who might not have access to such a church in the areas where they live.

I have come to love so many at ELPC in such a short period of time. The pastors have been such an encouragement to me and have helped me with so many theological questions and most of all have helped me truly feel the true love of God after decades of doubt. It is a gift for which I'll be forever grateful.





East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

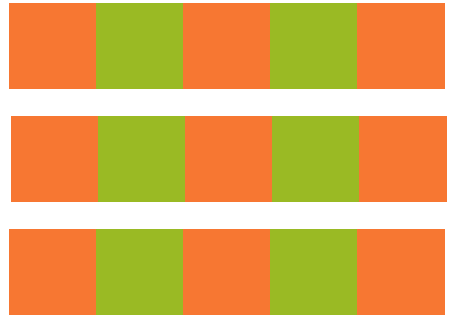
**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**
CLASS OF 2022

- * KAREN BEASLEY
- * ANDREA DeVRIES
- * TIM ENGELHARDT
- * JANICE (JAN) PRESSMAN

KAREN BEASLEY

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Class of 2022

Occupation: Public Safety/City of Pittsburgh-
Retired



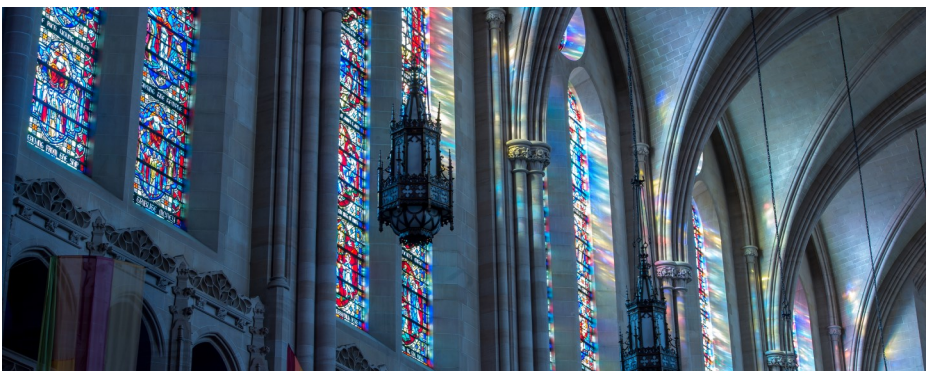
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: Deacon (3 years), community support in areas of environment protection, conservation, U.S. Military, animal rights, and being a caregiver to others.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I would like to see ELPC to continue with its mission of diversity acceptance of all sexual identities and women in pastoral positions. I don't want to see staff phased out and a dependence on volunteers. I believe a church as large as ELPC and a "Beacon" in an economically improving community needs a trained and efficient staff to meet the needs of a church that has its hands in many pots.



ANDREA DeVRIES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Class of 2022



Occupation: Public Health Research

This past year has helped me realize how important our faith community is to my family and to the broader community in Pittsburgh. In terms of gifts and talents -- organizational skills, and willing to roll up my sleeves to get things done.

Partner/Spouse: Howard Degenholtz
Children: Isaac (19), Sonia (18), Annabel (16)

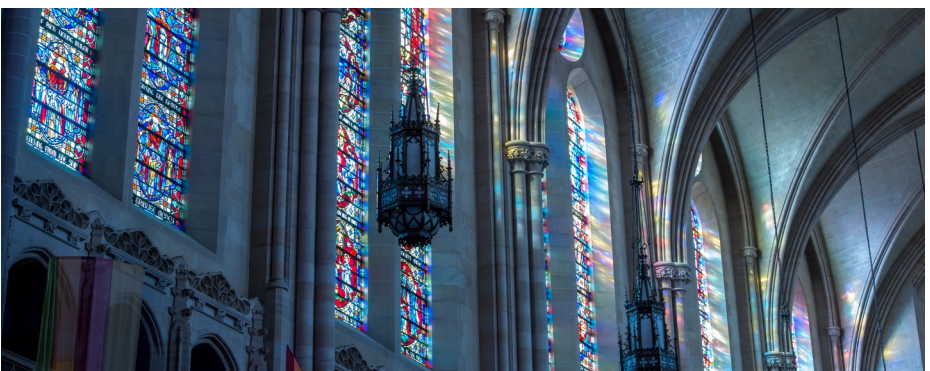
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: ELPC Membership and Outreach, Session, and Finance Committee.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: That we continue to be a Cathedral of Hope, a place for people to worship, to find peace, to connect with each other and with God.



TIM ENGELHARDT

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Class of 2022

Occupation: Artist



I am a husband and father. I am a full-time artist specializing in murals and fine art. My work often explores my spirituality and the relationship between God and us through abstract art inspired by my time in solitude in nature.

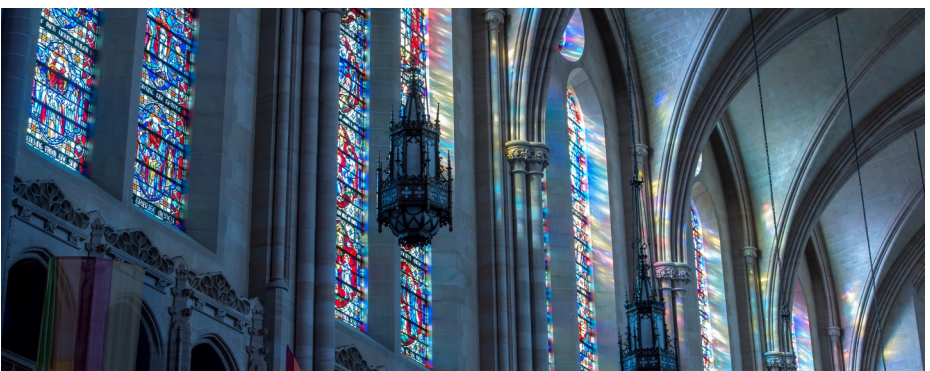
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I have served on the Board of Deacons for one three year term. I volunteered with Club 116. Most recently, I was a part of a “curating committee” helping to sort through and hang the church’s collection of art. I was also an employee working in hospitality. Currently I am part of the Good Samaritan group serving meals at EECM.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I envision ELPC continuing its mission to serve the community and stand as a leader in seeking justice for the marginalized and providing a safe space for all to worship. I also envision ELPC as a church that not only houses and supports the arts through Hope Academy but also serves as a catalyst for visual artists (primarily POC and women) to showcase their work through rotating exhibits on the first and second floor.



JANICE (JAN) PRESSMAN

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Class of 2022

Occupation: Retired Teacher



As a mother and educator I hope to instill God's love to all his people through creative endeavors.

Children: Caryn 38, Micah 35, and Deirdre 33

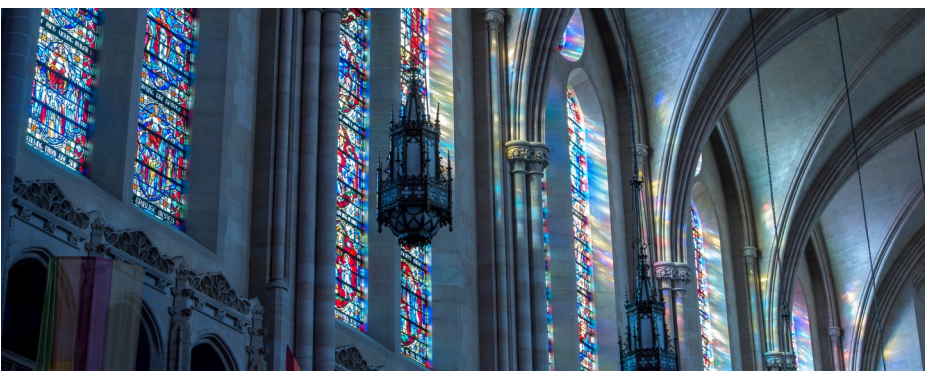
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I have taught preschool Sunday School and Vacation Church School for almost 29 years. I served as an interim Deacon for approximately 2 years and served on Worship, Music and the Arts many years ago.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: It is my hope that ELPC continues to be in the forefront of creative and innovative means to bring justice for all of God's people and to maintain a respect for our world.





East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

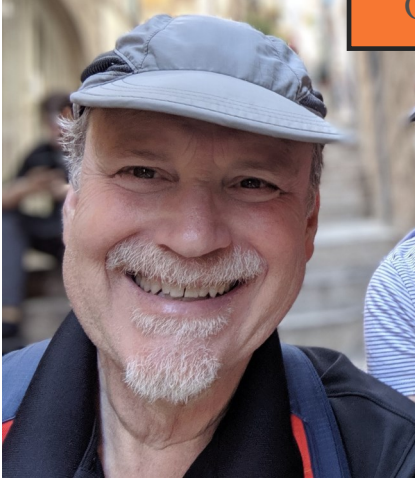
CENTENNIAL FUND

CLASS OF 2024

* STEPHEN (STEVE) MASSEY

STEPHEN (STEVE) MASSEY

CENTENNIAL FUND TRUSTEE
Class of 2024



Occupation: Financial Writer

I have been a member of ELPC since 1991, my wife is a Friend of the church and I am the son of a Presbyterian minister (deceased) who was a progressive in a southern town. I'd like to think I bring experience, commitment, thoroughness and follow-through to whatever roles I take on at the church.

Partner/Spouse: Martha Mannix
Children: Madeline, 28; Lydia, 24

Questions for Nominees

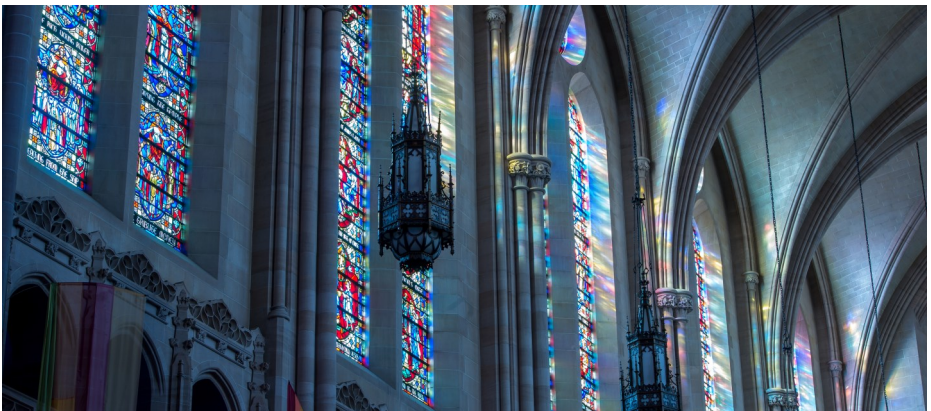
Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I've been a member of Session, chair of the Personnel Committee, a Deacon and a Senior High Sunday School teacher.

“...extend radical hospitality to all...”

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: To continually build on its call to extend radical hospitality to all, embracing diversity in all its forms and serving as a refuge and place of comfort and nourishment for the body, mind and soul.





East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

**YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVES
CLASS OF 2022**

- * DYLAN GEIBEL
- * CORINNE KRIMMEL

DYLAN GEIBEL

BOARD OF DEACONS
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
Class of 2024

Occupation: Student



I was confirmed last May and have been a part of the ELPC Community for 12 years. I'm hardworking.

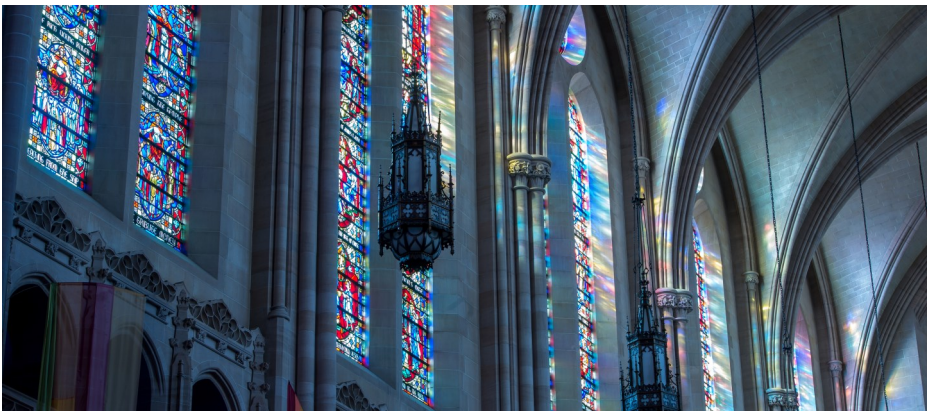
Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: Youth mission trips; Open Hands Ministry; and community baseball camp assistant.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: To continue to be an inclusive, welcoming place for all.



CORINNE KRIMMEL

SESSION
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
Class of 2024

Occupation: Student



I like working with kids. I also have a passion for music and play three different types of saxophone (alto, tenor, and baritone). I love the community at ELPC and having the opportunity to connect with others. I am the middle child of three sisters. I enjoy playing soccer and softball, but definitely not tennis. My favorite show at the moment is Stranger Things, and my favorite candy is gummy bears.

Questions for Nominees

Q: In what ways have you been active in your church and in your community?

A: I am in school plays and musicals, part of local sports clubs, I am the vice president of the community service club at my school, and I used to do the community food bank. I take part in Sunday School and, in the past, have gone to youth retreats. I've also participated in the 30 hour famine. I have also been confirmed at ELPC.

Q: What is your vision for the future of ELPC?

A: I am interested in exploring how the church, and Christianity as a whole, supports equity for all.

