

EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

NOMINATED OFFICERS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2023

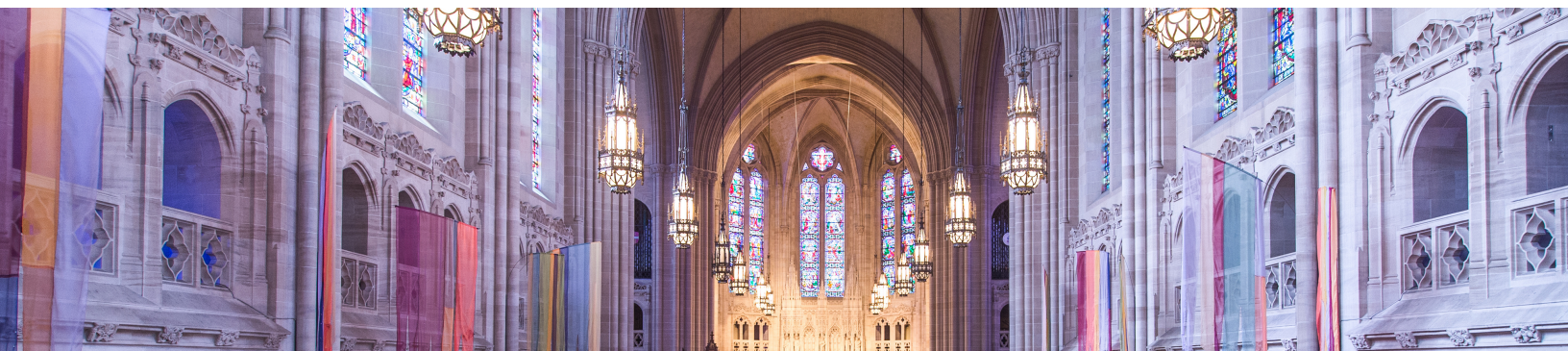


EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026

Todd Hoffman
Hannah Moon
Janet Pollard
Nathaniel Stephens



Todd Hoffman

We have been members of ELPC since 2005. My wife and I were married by Rev. Seaman (interim Pastor of ELPC). Our first daughter, Charlotte, was Rev. Randy Bush's first Baptism at ELPC.



Questions for Nominees

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

I am a former Deacon. My participation has trailed off and would like to be more participatory as a Deacon.

Occupation

Instructor/ Division Coordinator La Roche University

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

ELPC is going through enormous change with the search for a new Pastor. I would like to be a part of how ELPC grows and transitions with this change. One of the wonderful aspects of ELPC that I've valued is the wonderful diversity of the members and the tremendous warmth that this community shares. I would like to continue the values and spirit that makes this church so wonderful.

Hannah Moon

I am creative innovator, artist and tech savvy. I would help church advance community outreach with new technologies and creative ways.



Questions for Nominees

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

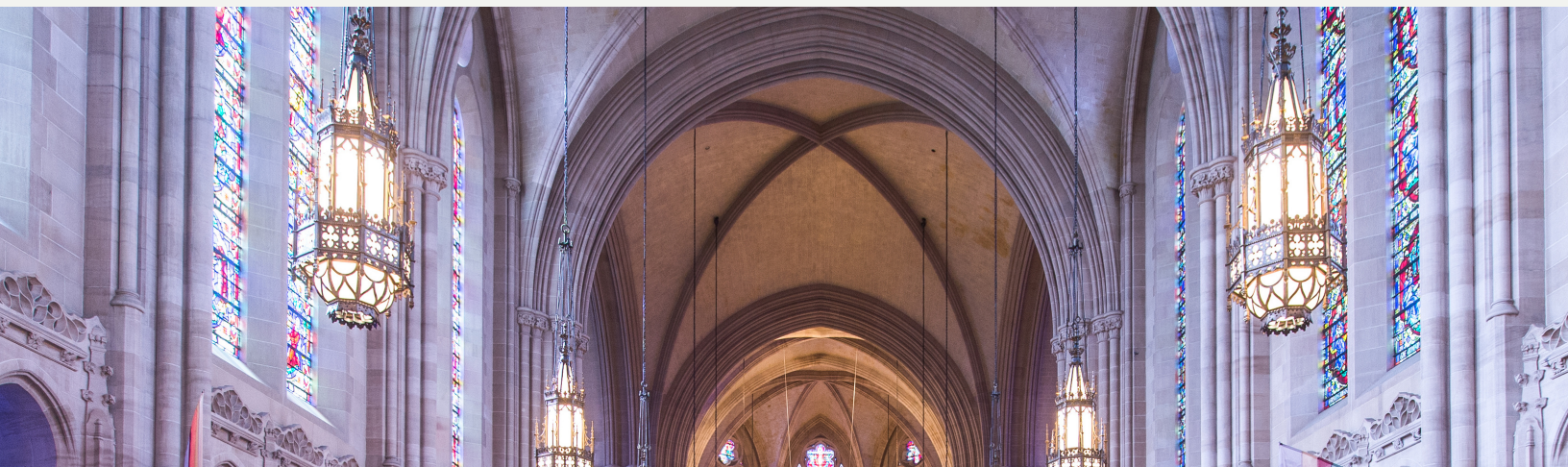
We've been active attendees and volunteering as needed. I've been long to pay forward to the church community.

Occupation

HCI designer

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

ELPC offers diverse and inclusive community onward.



Janet Pollard

I believe with God all things are possible and that everyone has some type of talent no matter how big or small your talent may be.

Questions for Nominees

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

During my time at ELPC, I served as a Sunday School Teacher for extended session when my children was young. I was part of the Women and Children Committee and helped organize a legal forum for women and children for two years. I used to volunteer with open hand ministries, I served on the nominating committee. I am a member of the Justice Committee where; I help to organize a sign-up petition for Healthcare and the Chip Program some years ago. I am an active member of Membership and Outreach. I help with collection on some Sundays, and I attend Bible study sometimes. I volunteer with New Horizons Theater.



Occupation Manager of Financial Assessment

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

My vision for ELPC is that while we seek to grow that we keep our hearts open to God and his guidance for us, and for ELPC continue to be open to all who walks through ELPC doors, hopefully we can find someone as compassionate as Reverend Randy Bush was in serving ELPC and the community.

Nathaniel Stephens

I've been part of ELPC before I even said my first word. I was baptized at ELPC when I was a baby many years ago. It's no wonder why my parents had me baptized at ELPC. My parents were active with the church for many decades. My father served as the assistant organist for almost 30 years and my mother served as a deacon. I spent countless hours listening to my father play organ and carillon. Although I did not become a musical performer, listening to music instilled a sense of timing in me that I later used in public speaking. I've been involved with public speaking for over 20 years and have taught many classes and workshops in this subject.



Questions for Nominees

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

I was warmly welcomed by Joe Hajdu when I attended Soul Food for the first time in 2019. Joe not only introduced himself and the class members to me, he introduced me to a new world in both spirituality and growth. Each week the class discusses a chapter from a thought-provoking book. Although the class only meets on Sunday mornings, I spend time throughout the week reading and reflecting on the latest chapter and what other members have shared in class. I share these messages with others at ELPC and in my community.

Occupation

Engineer

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

One of my favorite songs includes the lyrics
I belong, I believe

Although the song is not a religious in any capacity, the words echo my vision for the future of ELPC. People should be welcomed openly and invited to belong to ELPC as part of their spiritual journey. We are in the midst of constant upheavals and injustice in this world. By providing not only a building but a fellowship for members of the community and church, we all become part of the cathedral of hope. A place to belong. A place to believe.

Annie Cowan



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

CLASS OF 2026

Kristin Cummings

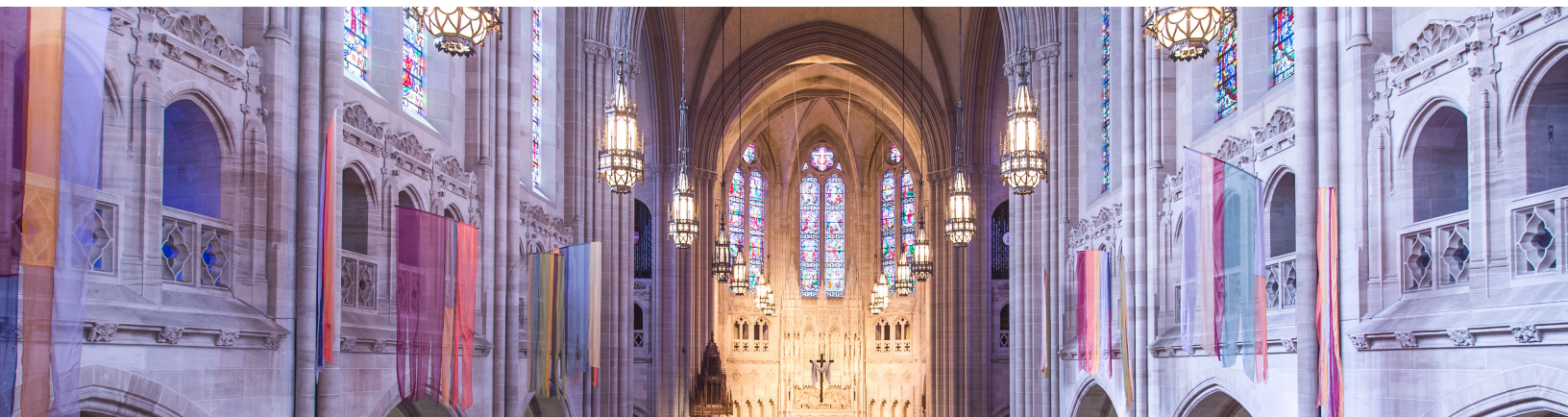
Charma Dudley

Tim Engelhardt

Carol Mullen

Mario Seneca

Nancy Wright



Kristin Cummings

My career has been focused on working with children and families. For 6 years I was an early childhood educator and am now working as a family care concierge specialist, a role where I get to support families by finding resources and options specific to their family's needs. I came into this role about a year ago after I completed my graduate degree at Carnegie Mellon University, where I studied Public Management. I hope to bring my experiences working with children and families to any leadership role I may have at ELPC to support the experiences of children and families within the church. Outside of work, I love spending time with my friends and family, spending time outside, and traveling.



Questions for Nominees

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

I've participated in various groups and events at ELPC over the last several years, such as the bell choir, Soul Food church school, Young Adult Ministry, and Cathedral Yoga. I hope to be involved with children's programming in the near future! Outside of ELPC I have done volunteer work at Humane Animal Rescue, and worked in early childhood education for 6 years locally.

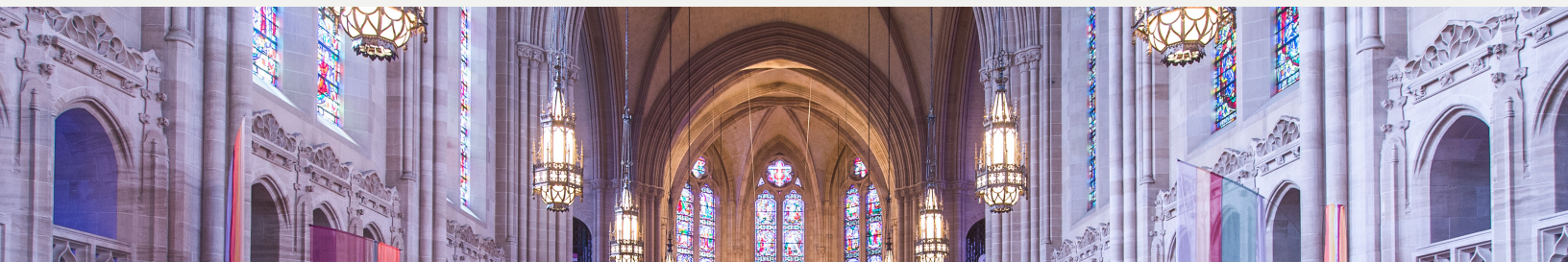
Occupation

Family Care Concierge Specialist

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

ELPC has amazing ministries and programs that support people of various ages, interests, backgrounds, and passions. This programming is something I feel is particularly strong at ELPC, and I think the future of ELPC is in supporting and building upon these initiatives so that we can continue to be a welcoming, loving, and supportive community for all. My vision for the future of ELPC is that church programming will continue to grow and develop to meet the needs of the congregation and community.

Charma Dudley



Tim Engelhardt

I am an artist who often works in collaboration with communities, organizations and other artists to creatively tell a story through visual representations. I believe my experience, bolstered by my faith in a loving and an always creating God, may be of some benefit to the leadership of our congregation over the next several years.



Occupation

Visual Artist

Questions for Nominees

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

In addition to being a regular attendee on Sunday mornings, I have served on the Board of Deacons and Nominating Committees. For the last 15 years I have been a part of the Samaritan Dinner group, serving dinner in the shelter at EECM.

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

In addition to continuing our presence and work outside the doors of our church, I would like to see a growing and expanding web of support within the congregation. I have had discussions with several long time members who feel "lost in the crowd" so to speak. They feel alone in times of needed assistance, whether it is a burst pipe that needs fixed or a ride to the grocery store. We are a congregation that possesses a great wealth of talent and skills. How can we better invest our talents and skills to assist our congregational needs? It is a question I often ask of myself. So, my vision for ELPC is one in which we continue to stand for justice, calling on leaders to enact legislation that benefit the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed while also extending "Christ's radical hospitality to all" outside AND within the walls of our church.

Carol Mullen

ELPC has been an important part of my life and my family's life for more than two decades. But for most of that time, I have been a "lurker"--attending and enjoying services, participating in Pastor BJ's virtual and in-person retreats, visiting the occasional church school class--gaining great value from the church but not actively giving back in any "time and talents" substantive way. During this exciting period of transition and possibility at ELPC, I have been inspired by Pastors Heather and Patrice to step up and become more of a contributor.

In addition to more than 30 years of experience as a strategic communications professional, I have developed and managed DEI programs and implemented a centralized staff hiring model with an emphasis on recruiting 'non-traditional' candidates with transferrable skills. I would like to bring these experiences to work to serve the Session, the administration, and the congregants of ELPC.



Occupation

Director of Communications and Undergraduate Recruitment, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

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

My wife and I have been members at ELPC for more than 20 years. We began our relationship with the church by attending Taize services and after learning more about the mission and vision of ELPC, we decided to become members. My wife and I also served as Volunteer Hospitality Greeters at ELPC for two years. I am a past board member of the Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, served as a volunteer medical advocate for Pittsburgh Action Against Rape for nearly a decade, and was a member of the Pittsburgh Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Pride Festival Committee. Having greatly appreciated the important work that ELPC is doing in and for the community, I would like to take a more active, participatory role in the church.

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

I think the future of ELPC is bright and thriving and full of potential. This is a crucial time in the history of ELPC--leadership transitions can feel energizing, frightening, inspiring and so much more. We as a congregation have the opportunity to use this time of change to reflect on how the needs of our current members have evolved and shifted during the past few years and how we as a (small "c") church must continue to adapt to effectively meet those needs. At the same time, we have to consider how to identify and attract prospective new members and what that outreach process can and should look like. ELPC has always been firmly rooted in service and community outreach--truly living up to the "reaching out" part of our tagline. How do we remain committed to that work in real and relevant ways? With our mission and values as our guide, my vision for the future of ELPC includes growth in the size of our congregation; adequate support and resources to nurture our pastoral team; professional development opportunities for staff members; and programming that makes a difference in the lives of our diverse congregation and community.

I am honored to be nominated and it would be a privilege to serve.

Mario Seneca

I am originally from Washington PA and am a lifelong Presbyterian. My childhood congregation was Faith Pres., where I previously served on Session while a college undergraduate. I first started coming to ELPC shortly after graduating law school and while I was still a Minor League Umpire (2004-2012). Since leaving professional baseball, I worked for five years as a labor lawyer and international rep. for the Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO. There, I traveled the country negotiating collective bargaining agreements, prosecuting worker grievances, organizing new units, and litigating before the NLRB. After my time at OPEIU, I took my current job with Judge Deborah A. Kunselman of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. In this role, I help the judge decide all manner of appeals, from reviewing the legal sufficiency of criminal convictions, police violations of defendants' search-and-seizure rights, contract disputes, real property cases, employment matters, and complex tort/class actions. This year, my Judge is running for the open Justice position on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, so, hopefully, I will follow her up to the highest court in the Commonwealth. Finally, I'm a Big XII football official, most recently working Syracuse and Minnesota in the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium. I also officiate high school basketball, baseball, and boys' lacrosse, as well as D3 and D2 college baseball. My husband Colton and I married at ELPC on May 28, 2017.



Occupation

Attorney (Judicial Law Clerk) & Sports Official

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

First and most obviously, we need to call a new Senior Pastor — someone who can help us move into a new form of ministry, one that is attractive to Millennials and Gen Z. Unfortunately, they are the two most un-churched generations in history. We must draw them in anyway: a young, diverse, white-collar professional community that moved into East Liberty over the past several years. If our congregation doesn't get younger, I worry that the architectural masterpiece in which we are blessed to worship every week will eventually follow so many other churches into becoming a night club, a restaurant, or condos. I'm not sure what road will get us there, but it is painfully clear that what we're currently doing isn't growing our numbers to the needed degree.

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

I'm the coordinator for the Beadles and Crucifers. I also attend pre and post service meetings and classes throughout the year. Furthermore, I cut the grass this past summer for several weeks.

Nancy Wright

Questions for Nominees

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

Served on Session - 2 terms, Samaritan Dinner Team for 19 years, Member of Presbytery Finance & Property Committee since 2018



Occupation

Real Estate Sales



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

CENTENNIAL FUND

CLASS OF 2026

Doris Dick
Eugene Harris



Doris Dick

I am originally from NJ, have lived in Pgh for 29 years, and have been a member of ELPC for 14 years. My wife Sharon, son Dylan and I live in O'Hara Township. I have worked as teacher, projects manager and presently as an administrator in the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh. I manage facilities, human resources, and primarily finances. Financial management includes grants of up to \$5 million. I love numbers and believe I can contribute to the work of the Centennial Fund.



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

ELPC: Open Hands Ministry; extended session volunteer; Committee that developed Food for Thought; Christian Education Committee; advance slides at Journey service
Community: PTA treasurer; poll worker; volunteer at food bank

Thanks for this opportunity.

Occupation

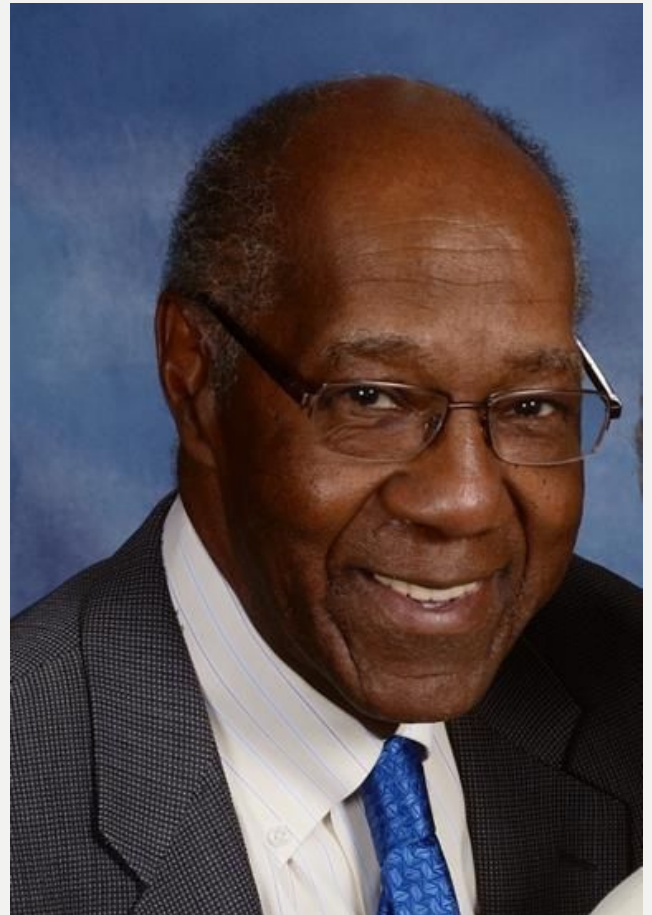
Higher Education Administration

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

Between Pastor Randy's departure and the resumption of in person services and activities, opportunities for moving in new directions exist. I would like to see us live into who we say we are. While ELPC is a work in progress, we need to address tough topics and not assume we've got it all figured out. My vision is to be bold and take chances while supporting and encouraging each other.

Eugene Harris

My wife and I are long-time members of the Presbyterian church. Our faith continues to be strengthened by the ministry, support and hope that the church provides for us. My experience in the corporate world as a manager and leader of Human Resource development utilized my administrative and legal background.



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

I served on the Session, Personnel Committee and the Centennial Fund. For many years I was a board member of the Manchester Youth Development Center, Bidwell Presbyterian Church session, and Pittsburgh Urban League.

Occupation

U.S. Steel retiree

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

ELPC will continue to grow, offering spiritual guidance and hope to our members by extending Christ's radical hospitality to all.

EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CLASS OF 2024

Bill Johnson
Jessica Giannotta



Bill Johnson

I am the son of Justin M. and Florence L. Johnson. I am a Veteran of the US Military and do a lot of Volunteering at the church.



Questions for Nominees

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

I have been a Liturgists, Usher, Sunday School teacher, Club 116, Good Samaritan Service.

Occupation

Security Officer

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

Keep doing what we are doing and this is being an all inclusive Church.

Jessica Giannotta

