



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

NOMINATED OFFICERS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2025





East Liberty Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church



BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2028

Brady Conley (youth)

Adelia Frye

Jennifer Liu Kopanic

Eric McCarty

Alex Payton



Renewing for a 2nd Term:

Jeff Fritz

Brady Conley

he/him

My faith is the most important thing in my life. I am fortunate to have family members who share my faith and are always available to talk with me about my beliefs and my questions. I also feel that music is a gift that I can offer to share and to connect with others.



Occupation: Student

Questions for Nominees

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

I most appreciate the inclusivity of ELPC and the welcoming energy of our congregation. For the future, my hope is that ELPC will continue to grow in finding ways to show justice and to be stewards of our planet.

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

I am a 9th grader, and I participate in youth activities and service projects at ELPC. I am a member of the Woodland Hills High School Golf Team and First Tee of Pittsburgh. Music is my passion, and I am a violist in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony and the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra. I have also participated in Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Connections and am currently in the Three Rivers Apprentice Conducting Program. I am most grateful for my opportunities to perform at community events and at area assisted living and nursing homes.

Adelia (DeeDee) Frye she/her

I enjoy being a volunteer, being part of a group of people. I love having my family & friends for meals, cooking for others is my peace of mind. I am naturally curious, compassionate, & hard-working. I feel it's important to support others & contribute to my community.



Occupation: Bookkeeper

Children: Robert - 40 Erin - 38

Questions for Nominees

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

I am a member of the choir & the Children & Families committee. I worked the polls serving as a Judge of Elections for the last 4 years. I also attended the PA CeaseFire rally in Harrisburg last year & have helped with dinners & the restoration of a home for the Neighbors Committee. I also helped with organizing groups for the Connections committee.

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

When my husband & I joined ELPC, it had a larger attendance. So many events have made changes in this, but I never failed to see the strength of the congregation & the ministry. I feel ELPC is on the way to bringing more interest, energy, & life into the ministry. I am glad I can offer my talents & support.

Jennifer Liu

Kopanic

she/her

I was a full time stay at home parent for twelve years before I began working part time as a lunch lady in my son's school three years ago. I am dedicated to the care of our family and children and love supporting my children's activities and passions and balancing the family's schedule. I have an interest in people and enjoy being part of a team. I have an open mind, attention to detail, eagerness to learn, and will work diligently to serve and support the congregation of ELPC.

Questions for Nominees

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

In our previous congregation, I served as a Sunday School teacher helper, Vacation Bible School group leader, church newsletter editor, served on planning committees for Vacation Bible School and the Advent Family Event, and volunteered at the church food pantry.

Here at ELPC, I have attended the Parenting Circle Sunday School class and various youth, family, and Connections events.

In the community, I have volunteered in my children's schools as a library, clerical, and classroom volunteer. I am the secretary of our neighborhood's Home Owners' Association. I have also spent the past six years volunteering for our school district's Backpacks To Go program.



Occupation: Stay at home parent and lunch lady

Spouse: Jeff Kopanic

Children: Westley (14) and Everson (11)

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

My hope for ELPC is to continue to be an inclusive, diverse group of believers, continuing to accept all – not simply by stating that they do, but by showing their acceptance and love for all of God's children. I envision a place of community: connecting people, families, and youth from all areas and backgrounds sharing their values and faith...a place where the Bible and ways of thinking can be questioned and challenged and where we all feel secure in God's love for us.

Eric McCarty

he/him

I served as an active deacon for over 6 years and a Sunday school teacher for at least as long. I led the Thanksgiving meal project for nearly all those years. My work is around designing and providing finished projects on time and on budget, reaching consensus where needed and making concessions to some details or goals as necessary to make that happen.

I have been inactive in the life of the church due to work requirements and a lack of excitement about the path the church was on, but at the moment I am very excited to see where God leads us as a congregation, and I'm equally excited to be a part of that. I'm also a bit old fashioned in that I can't easily be reached by email unless it's at work (eric@pitgranite.com) and would much prefer a phone call or text. Voicemail will NOT reach me.



Occupation: Kitchen designer
Spouse: Steve Farkas

Questions for Nominees

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

I have previously served ELPC as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher. I currently serve with a group who provides meals to the EECM homeless shelter 5 times per year.

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

I would like to see us as a congregation move even further than radical inclusion into loving acceptance of believers no matter where they are on that journey. I would like to see us find a catch phrase that encompasses radical hospitality and my hopes for that expansion, one that communicates all of the love, acceptance, and celebration of individuals and families in a way that can be fully understood by the modern American. I would like us to take back Christianity from the narrow group that seems to define Christianity from inside and outside of it. Christianity IS the love that Christ brought to us, and that love is inclusive and celebratory of all the diverse people God has created, in all of the richness and difference that God intended in all the various peoples that inhabit this earth, our city, and our neighborhoods.

Alex Payton

he/him



Occupation: Director of Operations & Technology

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

I have been actively involved in various churches, participating as an usher and contributing to committees such as the Facing Systemic Racism and Reparations Committees, where I provided operational and strategic guidance. I've supported church events, including assisting with ceremonies and community activities. I respond to invitations to support initiatives when my schedule allows, prioritizing active listening, creating space for others to lead, and fostering connections among individuals who share common values. My community approach emphasizes collaboration and inclusivity, ensuring opportunities for others to actualize their ideas in meaningful ways.

I am a dedicated problem-solver and collaborator, passionate about bringing people together to address challenges with creativity and respect. While I enjoy exploring diverse interests, my focus is on projects that build community and promote justice. I believe in creating space for dialogue, even with those holding differing views, to find common ground and work toward shared goals. I constantly challenge myself to grow spiritually and intellectually by engaging with perspectives that differ from my own. My faith inspires me to foster understanding and connection while addressing systemic issues with humility and determination.

I am honored to be considered for this role. Whether or not I am selected, I look forward to continuing to serve and participate in the life of the church, contributing to its mission of compassion and inclusion.

Questions for Nominees

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

My vision for ELPC is the same vision it has for itself which is a growing, inclusive community that reflects Christ's love by creating a large tent for people of all backgrounds. I see the church as a place where individuals come together to address systemic challenges through shared values and collective action. By fostering respectful dialogue, repairing harm, and leaning into God's guidance, the church can create a meaningful impact in the world. I hope to support ELPC in its mission to build bridges, embrace diversity, and engage with justice-focused work that uplifts the community and beyond.

SESSION

CLASS OF 2028

Doug Booth
Mabel Buben (youth)
Pepo Mazingi



Renewing for a 2nd Term:

Hollen Barmer
Sandy Brake
Carol Chonoska
Stephen Simpson-Hunt
Matt Stufft

Doug Booth

he/him

Having been raised in an evangelical Christian family and watching my father and mother be highly involved in church life and mission, and then serving our previous PCUSA church in many capacities, including as a deacon and elder, I believe I have an excellent understanding of the overall mission of ELPC.

I am grateful for this chance to further serve Jesus Christ and his body here at ELPC.

Questions for Nominees

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

Pastoral Nominating Committee, Open Hands Ministry, creating photographic record of ELPC stained glass windows, Taize worship services and Taize, France trip in 2013.



Occupation: Photographer

Spouse: Susan Wadsworth-Booth

Children: Two young adult children, Meg and Annie

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

I believe ELPC can and should be beacon of hope in the community of eastern Pittsburgh, a church that shows a whole new generation of Pittsburgh residents what it can mean to be radically inclusive, loving and faithful followers of Christ.

Mabel Buben

she/her

My mom is an elder, I am very willing to voice my opinions and I am always willing to help others



Occupation: Student

Questions for Nominees

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

I participate in lots of youth activities and I've been a helper for vacation church school

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

I want to make sure that kids my age and younger feel welcome and happy at ELPC

Pepo Mazingi

he/him

- Certified paralegal, retired from Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Gate Law Firm after 19 years of service.
- Lead African Arts Co. in Pittsburgh, Europe and Africa.
- Working hard with USCIS (U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services) to get my children left in DR Congo.

Hoping to grow up my attitude to mission and conversion into the faith of God & serve as ELPC Elders brothers in Christ.

Blessings



Occupation: Retired

Spouse: Francine M. Bengama

Children: Prince, Ange, Messie, Amani, Emmanuel, and Nadine

Questions for Nominees

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

- Deacon at ELPC
- Membership & Outreach committee at ELPC
- Task Force Cure Violence in Wilkinsburg Community by Pittsburgh University

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

- No discrimination of race, religion & sex/gender
- ELPC vision & Mission to be a reflection of God

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CLASS OF 2028

Lynne Chadwick
Liz Hopkins



Lynne Chadwick

she/her

I have a passion for connecting with people and recognizing their unique gifts, so the Nominating Committee is a good fit for me. I love learning, especially about personal finance and enjoy sharing my knowledge, particularly with those on the lower end of the income spectrum.



Occupation: Financial Planner
Spouse: Peter Trotsch

Questions for Nominees

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

I served on Session for 6 years and have served on the Membership and Outreach and Worship, Music, and the Arts Committees. I currently serve on the Open Hand Ministries board as ELPC's representative, and have served on the boards of Sojourner House and the Foundation of Hope. I teach a personal finance course at Sojourner House. I also volunteer to prepare tax returns at the Homewood YMCA.

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

To continue to practice radical hospitality and inclusiveness.

Liz Hopkins

she/her

Before retiring after 30 years at Westinghouse/Eaton, my job consisted primarily of technical support, marketing, and training. I am goal and detail oriented, and enjoy reaching collaborative solutions.



Occupation: Retired

Children: Wendy, deceased

Questions for Nominees

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

I have been an usher/greeter; Elder on Session (Chair of Membership & Outreach, member of Stewardship); choir member; Beadle/Crucifer; previously served on Nominating Committee; past Vacation Church School volunteer; volunteer at Chapel Market; Sunday School volunteer (pre-K to 3rd Grade); and have participated in political campaigns in my home community.

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

I want ELPC to creatively continue our pursuit of Matthew 25 teachings as we welcome all to our faith community.



THANKS TO OUR RETIRING OFFICERS FOR THEIR SERVICE!

Retiring Elders: Ray Anthony, Carla Depperman

Retiring Deacons: Jo Ellen Aleshire, Yodit Betru, Amy Bialek, Dana Carl, Ellie Wilson (youth)

Retiring Nominating Committee Members: Michele Bossers Josh Mattila