

# University Presbyterian Church Nominating Committee Report

Presented at the  
Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, September 30, 2018 at Noon

**The nominees in this report are presented by the Nominating Committee  
to serve the congregation of University of Presbyterian Church.**

## **Elder, Class of 2021**

(see pages 1-2)

Woody Burns  
Claire Curran  
Frances Hess  
Susan Jackson  
Melver Mann\*  
David Moreau  
Joan Page  
Walter Plunkett  
Tom Warburton

\*Youth, one-year term

## **Deacon, Class of 2021**

(see pages 3-5)

Nancy Avery  
Kara Aycock  
Heidi Cook  
ShIPLEY Jenkins  
Catherine McKenas  
Sara Nicholson  
Dallas Pridgen  
Jim Schultz  
Anna Soderling\*  
Ken Younts

**The 2018 Nominating Committee puts forth the following names  
to serve on the Nominating Committee 2019/2020 terms:**

**Class of 2019:** Debbie Bevin

**Class of 2020:** Melinda Evans, Jay Klompmaker, Tracy Lovelady, Nancy Oates.

We recognize and thank the Nominating Committee for their work in identifying such a capable group of nominees. A special thank you to Mark Bozyski who wrote the short biographies of the nominees in this report.

### **Current Nominating Committee:**

**Class of 2018:** Lee Ann Buck, Portia Christensen, Jim Copeland, Bob Johnson, Vicki Lotz

**Class of 2019:** Mark Bozyski, Sharon Edmiston, David Lane, Day McLaughlin

**Staff Liaison:** Kim McNeill

**“I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID TO ME,  
LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!”**

**~PSALM 122:1**

## Nominees For Elder Class of 2021



**Woody Burns** joined UPC in 1994 and has been involved in many areas of church life, such as volunteering as a Sunday School teacher. He loves our ministers and the programs that are offered, including Sunday School, Kirk Club, Outreach programs, and the music ministry. He and his wife

Harriett have a daughter, Sara Ross, and a son, Will, who also love the choir and participating in the church activities. Woody is a general surgeon with Emerge Ortho and Rex Hospital. He looks forward to giving back to a church that provides so much to his family, as well as the community.



**Claire Curran** loves UPC's thought-provoking worship services and finds great joy in attending weekly. She and her husband, Brian, have been members for over twenty years. During that time, Claire has worked primarily with youth ministries, including the Children's and Youth Ministry

Committee, Appalachia Service Project, and Presbyterian Campus Ministry, and she is currently a Presbyterian Youth Connection advisor. She looks forward to the opportunity to serve the church in a new role. Claire has worked as a UNC Hospitals staff nurse and is now working as an accreditation manager.



**Frances Hess** is excited for the opportunity to serve UPC in a new role. Since joining in 1985, Frances has served two terms as a Deacon, acted as a Stephen Minister for ten years, and has provided integral support for the Youth and Children's Choirs, as well as the choir musicals. She has been involved

with Global Outreach, We Choose Welcome, choir, Sunday School, Second Sunday Lunches, various receptions, ushering, and much more. Frances and her husband, Alex, have an adult son, Corwin. She retired from UNC-CH after a career in the Health Affairs schools, supporting international research and the National Institutes of Health.



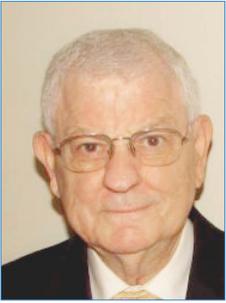
**Susan Jackson** and her family have been members at UPC since 2012. She is a lifelong Presbyterian with ties to First Presbyterian Church in Brockport, New York, and Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. She appreciates the open doors and "we welcome all" policy at UPC, as well as the peaceful feeling that the Sanctuary inspires. She has served on the Children's and Youth Ministry Committee, taught Sunday School, and has served as a cook at the Inter-Faith Council shelter. Susan has led a local Girl Scout troop since 2011 and is a PTA board member and newsletter editor. She and her husband, Ryan, have a 16-year-old daughter, Morgan, and a 14-year-old son, Cooper. Susan is currently serving as a Clinical Research Project Director at UNC-CH.



**McIver Mann** is excited to be asked to serve as the Youth Elder at UPC. She has been a member her whole life and attends church with her parents, Edward and Lindsay, and her brother, Ward. McIver has been a member of the Children's, Junior, and Youth Choirs, is a member of Presbyterian Youth

Connection (PYC), attended Montreat Music and Worship Conferences and the PYC DC Middle School Service Trip, and volunteers at the Advent Craft Festival and Vacation Bible School. McIver loves the accepting and inclusive community of faith at UPC, as well as the many opportunities to develop meaningful relationships while growing in her faith. She looks forward to increasing her involvement while serving as a voice for the youth of the church.

## Nominees For Elder Class of 2021, cont.



**David Moreau** and his wife, Polly, have been members of UPC since 1969. They have a grown son and grown daughter who are both confirmands and members of UPC. David loves the worship with its outstanding preaching and musical programs. He is involved in the adult education programs and fellowship opportunities

and loves investing in the spiritual development of young people. He appreciates the commitment of our church to serve in the community and around the world. Earlier in life, David was a member of other Presbyterian churches in several southern states, as well as Massachusetts. David is active in East Chapel Hill Rotary Club and the Orange County Literacy Council. Here at UPC, he has served two terms on the Session and was Chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee in 1990-1991, the Transition Team in 2017, and multiple renovation committees, including the Sanctuary renovation at the time of the organ installation and the Terrace Room room renovation. He has served on the board of Presbyterian Campus Ministry and the Adult Education Committee. David is a retired Professor of City and Regional planning and Environmental Sciences. He looks forward to continuing to serve the church in this time of transition.



**Joan Page** and her husband, Bob, became UPC members in 1971. They have two adult sons, Robert and Brock. Joan loves interacting with the inspirational, engaging members of the congregation each Sunday, and it's been a special treat to have some of her former university professors teaching her Sunday School classes!

Joan is an ordained Deacon and a Stephen Minister, has been a Sunday School teacher, a Vacation Bible School teacher, and a Circle 5 co-leader, has served on the Nominating Committee, has worked with Local Outreach, and has helped in the church office. Locally, she has served as Chair of the Chapel Hill Public Art Commission, has served two terms on the Chapel Hill Design review board, was Vice Chair of Governor Hunt's Physical Fitness and Health council, and was Secretary for NC Press Women. Joan retired from a Marketing and Sales Communication Manager position with Burroughs Wellcome Company after having worked at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC. She was also a writer and editor for UNC News Bureau and a reporter and columnist for the Raleigh News and Observer. Joan looks forward to the opportunity to share her time and talents while working with other members of the faith community.



**Walter Plunkett** and his wife, Linda, have been members of UPC for over 15 years. He has been involved with the church in many ways, including serving as an usher and greeter and maintaining and trimming the bushes. Walter loves attending the Men's Breakfast and volunteering at the church dinner at the Inter-Faith Council Community Kitchen.

He feels that UPC provides a place of peace and at the same time stimulates thoughts on how to be a person of God who interacts with other humans in a way that in turn brings peace to all. Walter has been a member of several other churches in Texas, West Virginia, and Virginia. Walter and Linda have two grown children, Emily Thrasher and Walter Plunkett IV, as well as two grandchildren. Walter is honored to be asked to serve as an Elder and looks forward to making a meaningful contribution to the congregation.



**Tom Warburton** and his wife, Judy, felt at home on their very first visit to University Church. He loves the worship services with the thoughtful insights to scripture from clergy and the excellent music that fills the church and leads in worship every Sunday. He also enjoys the sense of community that he feels

being reinforced as we sing, pray, listen, and are silent together each week. At UPC, Tom is a Stephen Minister and was formerly Chair of the Adult Education Committee for two years. He has also served on search committees for an organist/choir director and director of education, as well as the committee to adopt a new hymnal. He has taught various Sunday School classes, has served as a mentor for confirmands, is the substitute organist, and is pianist for services at Carolina Meadows. He retired from UNC-CH Department of Music in 2005. He and Judy have two adult daughters, Karen Warburton and Sara W. Nicholson, who is also a UPC member. Tom has felt gratified watching his grandsons grow up in the congregation, beginning with baptism and preschool and now experiencing the many opportunities they have through youth activities. Tom is honored that the church community has confidence in him to serve in this crucial time of transition.

## Nominees For Deacon Class of 2021



**Nancy Avery** has been a member of UPC since early 1980. She appreciates the kindness and thoughtfulness of the staff and loves the peace that she feels during the worship services. Nancy currently serves as an usher and greeter. She has helped with serving coffee on the landing. At her former church, she taught Sunday School, was involved with Circle, and always volunteered when needed. She enjoys volunteering at Preservation Chapel Hill where she also served on the board of the Historical Society. Nancy was a volunteer at the polls for 20 years. She has two grown children who are both married with one grown child each. She retired from Durham Technical Community College as director of the Math and Science programs. After retiring, she worked for several years for a CPA preparing taxes. Nancy is looking forward to contributing to the church family in her service as a Deacon.



**Kara Aycock** and her husband, Perry, joined UPC in 2003. Since then, she has been a member of the Congregational Life Committee, a member and leader of Parents of Young Presbyterians, and a member of the Presbyterian Youth Connection subcommittee, and she has been involved in various other roles at the church. Kara enjoys the Woman to Woman group and participating in Circle 1. She and Perry have two children, Evan and Laura, who are very involved in the middle school and high school programs at UPC. Kara enjoys the inclusive and community-oriented feel of the congregation and has appreciated the support of other church members. She believes that working with others on projects that strengthen our church community also serves to the betterment of our wider community and that the responsibility of creating and maintaining a strong church community lies with the members. She is honored to be asked to serve in this way.



**Heidi Cook** loves the fellowship with other members at UPC, the staff, and the caring nature of the church. She and her husband, Aaron, have two daughters, Adrienne and Megan, who are involved in the children's and youth music programs, as well as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Heidi has served primarily with the children's ministries at UPC, teaching Sunday School, volunteering at VBS, and helping with Parents of Young Presbyterians. She has also helped with planning and facilitating sessions at the congregational retreat. When she is not practicing dentistry and serving as Assistant Dental Director at Piedmont Health Services, Heidi volunteers at the Inter-Faith Council, with TABLE, at Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Paws dog training center, and with the Skipsations Jump Rope organization. Heidi is excited to be asked to serve in a new role at University Church.



**Shipley Jenkins** has involved herself in the life of UPC in many ways, including serving on the Local Outreach Committee, participating in Circle 5, helping with the initial phase of Woman to Woman, volunteering as the Inter-Faith Council liaison for UPC, serving as the CROP Hunger Walk Chair, leading the Connections Sunday School class, and more. She and her husband, Joe, were first members in the 1970s, left for a time, and have now been back in town as members since 2014. Shipley loves every aspect of UPC—from worship services to music and Sunday School to the multi-generational connections that are available throughout the congregation. She and Joe have been members of several other churches in the state, and she has immersed herself in many aspects of those congregations, as well. An entrepreneur at heart, Shipley has designed many items, including an original line of gold jewelry to celebrate church events like christenings and baptisms. She and Joe have three grown children and four grandchildren. Shipley is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the UPC family in a new role.

## Nominees For Deacon Class of 2021, cont.



**Catherine McKenas** is enjoying being a part of the most caring and helpful congregation with which she has ever been associated. She loves the people at UPC and is appreciative that she was able to “plug in” so quickly upon arrival. She truly loves the welcoming and caring nature of everyone she has met thus far. In her four years at University Church, Catherine has co-led a small group at Presbyterian Campus Ministry with John Rogers, serves on the Congregational Life Committee, and recently started organizing service and social events for the Young Adult group. In her high school church in Carrollton, Texas, The Nor’kirk Presbyterian, she played viola for parts of the worship service and volunteered with Vacation Bible School for two summers. She is now in the fifth year of her PhD Chemistry program and hopes to teach general and analytical chemistry courses at a small college. Catherine feels that there is no better way for her to give back to the congregation that has given her so much than to become a Deacon and help others. She is honored to be asked to serve.



**Sara Nicholson** is always inspired and challenged by the preaching at UPC, and she appreciates being around people who approach their faith thoughtfully. She and her husband, Mike, are grateful for the friends and fellowship they have experienced within the congregation. At UPC, Sara has taught Sunday School, volunteered at Vacation Bible School, served as a Deacon, and served on the Nominating Committee. She currently owns her own tutoring and education consulting business. In her spare time, she is a merit badge counselor and fundraising volunteer for Boy Scout Troop 39. Her sons are Graham and Cooper, and she enjoys volunteering as a fundraiser for the Chapel Hill Carrboro Public School Foundation and in various other ways at her sons’ schools. Sara enjoys working with other congregants and connecting with people she might not otherwise meet. She appreciates the opportunity to serve another term as Deacon.



**Dallas Pridgen** loves the community of people that make up the congregation at UPC. He and his wife, Kristin Parks, have two daughters, 16-year-old Bess and 15-year-old Virginia, and they have enjoyed steadily increasing their family’s involvement in the church since moving from another local church several years ago. They have enjoyed the openness of the congregation and welcoming spirit they witness when seeing visitors come to the church. As a family, they are involved with assisting refugees in our community and maintain close relationships with the families they help. While at their previous church, Dallas served on the Church and Society Committee. He is self-employed as a jewelry designer and owns a studio and catalog company. He accepts the call as Deacon as a way to become even more connected with the church and the congregation.



**Jim Schultz** and his wife, Gwen Waddell-Schultz, have been members of UPC since coming to Chapel Hill in 1994. Jim loves the multi-generational representation in our church, as well as in the choir. He loves the great food that everyone contributes for Second Sunday lunches. The Anne McClamroch McFall Memorial Garden is a special place for Jim as his oldest son’s remains are placed there. He has been involved in churches all over the country, and he served on several church committees. Here at UPC, Jim has served two terms on the Board of Trustees, as well as several terms on the Adult Education Committee, and he has coordinated and taught many adult education classes. Jim first retired from IBM as Quality Manager of hardware and software platforms. He also retired as Principal Consultant and Architect from BMC software. He currently volunteers teaching computer, photo enhancement, and smartphone classes at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill. He also develops and teaches classes for the visually handicapped. He and Gwen have grown children, Doug Schultz, Jennifer Kelly, and Thom Waddell. Jim is honored to be asked to serve as Deacon and to assist in God’s work.

## Nominees For Deacon Class of 2021, cont.



**Anna Soderling** loves the welcoming and open-minded nature of the UPC congregation and always feels loved and accepted when she comes to church. She feels God's love through the kindness and graciousness of the members, and she truly considers this church to be her family. Before

she and her parents, Scott and Jackie, and brother, Ben, moved to Chapel Hill, she was a member of Beaverton Oregon Christian Church. Since coming to UPC, Anna has volunteered at Vacation Bible School for the past five summers, has sung in the choir, and has participated in church musicals. Anna is a high school student and helped to organize the school walkout for March for Our Lives, the movement against gun violence. She also dedicated 84 hours to community service through the YMCA leaders club. Anna is pleased to be given the opportunity to serve as Youth Deacon and to try to give back to the church and people who have supported her and welcomed her for the past 11 years.



**Ken Younts** is impressed each week by the welcoming nature of the UPC faith community. He appreciates the involvement and engagement of a congregation that is in search of the word and the discovery for how God is at work in our lives and in the larger community. At his first church, Ken

was a member of youth groups and served as Youth Deacon. He and his wife, JoAnna, have two daughters, 20-year old Chandler and 17-year-old Henley, who have both been involved at UPC throughout their lives. The family was involved with other churches in Dallas TX., Charlotte, NC, and Bethesda, MD. Here at UPC, Ken was a Sunday School teacher for the four-year-old class and the kindergarten class for six years. He has been on the Board of Trustees for a three-year term and has served on the Personnel Committee for the past two years and continues to do so. He is employed with Laboratory Corporation of America Holding, Inc. (LabCorp) in Burlington, NC. Ken is excited to be asked to serve as Deacon as he has prayed for opportunities to be more involved in the church and to be able to contribute to the life and health of the church family in a more engaged manner.

UNIVERSITY



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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