

# University Presbyterian Church

## Nominating Committee Report

Presented at the Congregational Meeting

Sunday, August 21, 2022

11:00 am

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

### Elders, filling unexpired terms



**Lyn Billings (Class of 2024)** joined UPC in 2000 and has been active in the church ever since. She and her husband, Ed, raised their two children, Sam and Katie, in Chapel Hill and at UPC where they participated in Sunday School, PYC, and the youth musicals before heading off into the world. Lyn loves UPC for inspiring her to live out the Sunday message in her Monday to Saturday life. She credits the voices from UPC's pulpit with deepening her understanding of her faith. She especially appreciates how the church found a way to navigate the pandemic while keeping a sense of community, consistency, and support. Lyn is an active Congregational Life member, a past Deacon, and has taught Sunday school. Lyn is a Registered Nurse working at UNC Hospitals where she is a member of a pediatric sedation team.



**Anne Wilson (Class of 2023)** and her husband John have been connected to UPC since the late 80s, as their three children all graduated from UNC. Their late daughter Katherine knew Meg, Jarrett, and Alison Kavanaugh through PCM and Hadley from Montreat. Anne and John came to UPC in 2019 after 52 years at First Presbyterian in Morganton, NC. Anne says, "Leaving a loving, supportive church family after 52 years was a challenge but the warm welcome we received at UPC has made the transition much easier." She brings a wealth of church leadership experience: Montreat chaperone, Youth Advisor, Sunday School teacher, PW Circle leader and moderator, and VBS volunteer. She was awarded Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership. At UPC, Anne is part of PW Circle 2 and serves as a church office volunteer. She is a retired elementary school teacher who has served on the UNC School of Nursing Foundation Board and the UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors. She is a member of the UNC Lineberger Patient and Family Advisory Committee.

## Elders, Class of 2025

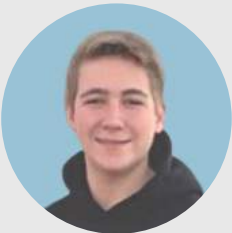


**Debbie Bevin** moved to Chapel Hill in 1972 at age 6 and has been here ever since (except for her college years and a year in California). She joined UPC in 2003. What Debbie loves most about UPC are "our gifted pastors and staff who lead and inspire; our commitment to social justice and earth care; our all-ages programming; and...traditional architecture, liturgy, and sacred organ and choral music which enhance the worship experience for me personally." She has given a lot over the years in her service as Elder, Sunday School teacher (multiple ages over the years, High School currently), VBS volunteer, Confirmation mentor, UPPS Committee member and chair, and Personnel Committee member, and has felt connected to the church even during the pandemic through her service. The work she has done has taught her more about UPC and has allowed her to know church members she might not have otherwise met. Working as a senior architectural historian with a cultural resources consulting firm, Debbie's family includes her husband Chris, son Marshall (21), and daughter Charlotte (16).



**Mike Edmiston** began attending UPC shortly after he was born in 1960. He has many fond memories of growing up in the church, including roller skating in the old Fellowship Hall. He was confirmed here in 1973, he and his wife Sharon were married here, and he was able to walk his daughter, Katie, down the UPC aisle for her wedding. Both of his children, Carson and Katie, are members of the church, and the whole family has been very active. He loves UPC for always being consistently there for him and his family, through good times and through trying times. He said yes to this call as a way to serve God, this congregation, and the community as a whole. Mike has served on the UPC Board of Trustees, the

Property and Security Committees, and the Congregational Retreat Committee. He has been on a dozen ASP trips, where he is famous for performing plumbing magic where it is needed the most, a Haiti trip, and as a youth chaperone for an Asheville trip. Mike has been a licensed plumber working in the Chapel Hill area for 30 years.



**Nathan "Nate" Garber** (*Youth Elder, 1 year term*) is a rising junior at East Chapel Hill High School and has been a member of UPC since 2016, along with his parents, Phil and Lauren, and sisters, Laney and Maya. Previously, prior to moving to Chapel Hill, he was a member of First Presbyterian of Charlotte and First Presbyterian of Greensboro. Nate loves UPC for the opportunities to learn about Christian philosophy, biblical history, the teachings of Jesus, and the connections he has made with others. He agreed to become our Youth Elder to help represent the youth of our congregation and gain experience as a leader. He has been involved in the Youth Engagement Council, youth group, choir, and Sunday

School. Nate also volunteers with the sports medicine club at his high school. Nate will soon start working as a server at Azalea Estates.



**Bob Mosteller** has been a member of UPC for nearly 4 decades. During that time, he's served as a Deacon, Elder, and Clerk of Session. He said yes to serving as Elder once again largely because those experiences have been very rewarding as he enjoys contributing to the mission of UPC with others who love the church. Bob and his wife Elizabeth Gibson raised their two sons, Benjamin and Daniel, at UPC. Bob notes that "UPC is an inspiring community of caring, involved members who demonstrate in their lives the love of Christ." UPC felt like home from the first time he attended when starting his academic career as a law professor in 1983. Bob has served as a public defender in Washington DC, a law

professor at Duke and UNC, and as a board member and president of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, an organization headquartered in Durham that helps defend those facing the death penalty and works to end the death penalty in North Carolina.



**Nancy Oates** is grateful to have a beautiful place to worship and hear insightful sermons and beautiful music with a congregation of people of all ages and a diversity of thought and life experiences. She has been an active UPC member for 25 years, having moved here from New York City with her son Will Priest and daughter Sarah Priest. She is well prepared to serve again as an Elder, having already served in many facets of church life as a Sunday School teacher, occasional usher, member of PW Circle #5, a member of the Stewardship and Nominating Committees, chairing the Outreach Committee, and a Deacon and Elder. She would like to continue contributing to the church's life force and mission. Additionally, Nancy

has served our local community as a Chapel Hill Town Council member and has many community volunteer activities. Nancy is a freelance writer and editor.



**Robert Owen** and his family officially joined UPC in the spring of 2019, transferring his membership from Peachtree Presbyterian in Atlanta. At Peachtree, Robert was an active member and ordained Elder. At UPC, he has been one of the leaders of our Crossroads Sunday School Class, creating a strong community for Bible study both before and throughout the pandemic, and he currently serves on the Local Outreach and Endowment Committees. Robert's wife Laura is active at UPC as a middle school Sunday school teacher and regular volunteer. They have three children, Ben (14), Cooper (12), and Campbell (9). Robert is a member of the East Chapel Hill Rotary and a mentor at the Kenan Flagler

Business School. His favorite thing about being a part of UPC is the multi-generational relationships he has developed, and he is looking forward to serving as an elder at UPC so that he can support and help grow this community of faith that has meant so much to him and his family.



**Naomi Sherry** has always been interested (and immersed) in the workings of the church and is genuinely interested in things like how we're allocating our budget. Naomi and her husband Matt have been members of UPC since 2020, after moving to Chapel Hill from the Washington DC area. Naomi has previously been involved in churches in Maryland, Richmond, and Iowa. Naomi loves the UPC community and the fact that people know each other and genuinely care about each other. Naomi has been involved at UPC as a member of the Young Adult group and the Stewardship Committee, a youth advisor, and part of our Small Group ministry. Outside of church, Naomi works as a Digital Demand Strategist at Anteriad

(in real people talk that means she uses digital channels to attract new customers to the business). She enjoys spending time with her husband, her friends, and her adorable cat Luca.



**John "Spencer" Spencer** and his family — wife Kara Millonzi and children Bella (9) and Nico (6) — have been in Chapel Hill for 6 years and members of UPC since 2019. Previously, they were members of Orange United Methodist of Chapel Hill and First United Methodist of Wilkesboro, NC. Spencer is the Director of Advancement Services at the Duke University School of Law. At UPC, he serves on the Children's Ministry Committee and has organized youth gatherings. At former churches, he has served on the Eucharist and Baptism Committees. Spencer was called to church by the warmth of people willing to guide his children, the grounded messages from the pulpit, and the stability of the church. He has always

felt pulled to God and to church, and when he walks into a service "it is as safe as [he] will ever feel." As an Elder, he hopes to aid both members and guests to feel that UPC is a peace-filled home that can offer rest from life's hardships and a community of people with whom to form lasting relationships.



**Ben Urick** moved to Chapel Hill in 2016. He and his wife Katie Owen quickly joined UPC thereafter and their daughter Caroline (1) was baptized here. Ben has been active with Young Adults, the Men's Group, his Small Group, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. In addition to the spiritual leadership in the pulpit, Ben appreciates how fellowship groups have enabled him to develop sincere friendships within the church. Ben was active in two other Presbyterian churches prior to moving to Chapel Hill: Westminster Presbyterian in Des Moines, IA, and First Presbyterian in Iowa City, IA, where he served as a Deacon. He understands the importance of church governance and is looking forward to serving as an

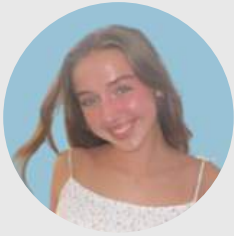
Elder. Ben is the Dance Director for the Little German Band and Dancers (many will remember him from the Polka Party last year), serves on his neighborhood HOA, and is Co-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee for the Carolinas Affiliate of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. Previously a Pharmacy professor at UNC, Ben now works as the Principal Health Outcomes Researcher for Prime Therapeutics.

## Deacons, filling unexpired terms



**Mary Norris Oglesby (Class of 2023)** loves UPC, is so thankful to be part of our church, and appreciates the many members who work to make UPC what it is. She loves that “UPC opens its arms in welcome and love to all people and tries so hard to teach and help us to *do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.*” Mary Norris, her husband Patrick, and daughter Emily joined UPC in 1992, coming from First Presbyterian in Greensboro, NC. Her sister, Jane Preyer, is also a UPC member. While Emily was young, Mary Norris served on the UPPK Board and taught Sunday School and VBS. Later Mary Norris served as an Elder at UPC. Although retired now, she has served our larger community by working in the Public Defender’s office in Greensboro, NC, and as a Legislative Assistant to members of the U.S. House of Representatives. She has been a volunteer in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro school system and TABLE. Mary Norris knew and loved Day McLaughlin and is honored to have been asked to complete Day’s term as Deacon.

## Deacons, Class of 2025



**Laura Aycock (Youth Deacon, 1 year term)** is thrilled to be filling the role of Youth Deacon. She feels that by taking this role, she is helping a church that helped her so much in the past and continues to guide her. Laura joined the church in 2006 and has lived in Chapel Hill for 16 years. She loves the sense of community at UPC and that so many people go the extra mile to make our church a fun and inviting place. She also likes the creative ways she is able to learn about God— through youth group, choir, Sunday School, and other activities. Laura really enjoyed helping to lead the service during Youth Sunday as well as speaking during other services. Laura’s family includes her brother Evan (18), mom Kara, and dad Perry. Outside of church, Laura is involved with teaching ballet at Triangle Youth Ballet and Class Council at her school.



**Marla Dunham** has lived in Chapel Hill for 31 years and has been a UPC member since 1991. Over the years she has served as a member of the AIDS Care Team and the Adult Education and Outreach Committees, as a Confirmation Mentor, and has participated in the Educational Mission Trip to Haiti in 2015 and the Congregational Retreat. She currently ushers and serves on the Earth Care Team. She has recently been elected ViceChair of the Weaver Dairy Satellite Precinct and she participates in The Climate Crowd Interest Group at Carol Woods. What Marla loves most about UPC is our meaningful worship services, including the liturgy, sermons, and music. She values the opportunities for outreach and service and the educational offerings and loves her fellow congregants. Marla taught English for almost 40 years at the middle school, high school, and college levels. Her family includes her husband Bob, a former pastor of UPC; their son Aaron, his wife Natalie, and their children Catherine (7) and Spencer (2); their daughter Leah Singleton and her husband Prentice.



**Jim Evans** has been a member of UPC since moving to Chapel Hill in 2001. He is drawn to UPC for its welcoming acceptance of people of all ages and notes that there are programs, activities, and educational opportunities for everyone. He loves that UPC provides support for those who are struggling and celebrates those who have achieved milestones or overcome adversity. Jim has previously served as a Deacon at UPC and has served as a Youth Advisor for PYC. He and his wife Melinda have two children – Matthew and Maggie – who grew up at UPC participating in many of the youth programs offered here. Jim is retired from the banking industry and is currently serving as President of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Sunrise Rotary Club as well as Treasurer and board member of PORCH Chapel Hill-Carrboro.



**Mike Hammersley** has been a member of UPC since joining in 1994. He and his wife, Terry, raised their two children, Aaron and Kelsey, at UPC and have called Chapel Hill home for their 43 years of marriage. He enjoys UPC in part for its easy mix of generations — young families and more established older ones — and the feeling of family as a part of the UPC congregation. He has especially enjoyed being a part of UPC outreach programs, having traveled with the ASP trips, Habitat for Humanity builds and UPC men’s trips to Haiti to work on construction projects. He looks forward to meeting new members and their families as he continues his faith journey at UPC. Professionally, Mike is a civil engineer and is a partner in the architectural/civil engineering firm, CRA Associates, Inc., where he has been employed for over 33 years.



**Bob Johnson** is proud to say he is a born, bred, and baptized Presbyterian. He first came to Chapel Hill as a student at the University, graduating in 1964 with degrees in English and French, and a M.A.T. in 1965. He had a rewarding 30 career teaching English in Charlotte, NC, and Shaker Heights, Ohio. After retirement, he returned to Chapel Hill and joined UPC in 2007 where he has enjoyed wonderful friendships and diverse and outstanding ministry. Bob has a varied church service record: an usher most Sundays (you can't miss his welcoming smile), an office volunteer for 5 years, a Nominating Committee member, and an Elder on the Session twice! He is honored to join the Deacon Class as a new area of service and to continue to reach out and help with the mission of the church. Bob says, "I ♥ UPC and UNC!" and lives with a 4-year-old Cocker Spaniel aptly named Tar Heel.



**Karen Morrell** joined UPC in 1993. She and her husband Dean are parents to two grown children: Justin (27) and Mia (24). They have experienced first-hand how well UPC serves both the youth and adult communities. Karen appreciates how UPC manages the difficult task of serving different age groups while also encouraging multigenerational activities. She is looking forward to giving back to this community and serving as a Deacon. Karen is a retired Physical Therapist. Within the UPC community, Karen has been a Montreat chaperone, served on the Local Outreach Committee, served IFC dinners, and has been an active member of Woman2Woman and Circle #2. Within the larger community, she is a PORCH neighborhood coordinator and has volunteered at FPG school, UNC hospitals, and TABLE.



**April Smithwick** and her family — husband David and children Davidson (10) and Craven (8) — joined UPC in 2021, after moving to Chapel Hill from Asheville, NC. April was previously a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian in Asheville and First Presbyterian in Charlotte. April has volunteered with Vacation Bible School, helped plan the 2022 Women's Retreat, and previously served with outreach projects at her former churches including Room in the Inn and Loaves and Fishes. April is a neonatal nurse practitioner currently working at UNC Children's Hospital. April loves the community, music, staff, and welcoming environment of UPC. She felt called to accept the invitation to serve as Deacon and give back the love and support she has already felt from the congregation.



**Chip Sudderth** has been lucky enough to live in Chapel Hill for 24 years and be a part of UPC since 1998. Prior to UPC, Chip was involved at First Presbyterian in Greensboro and First Presbyterian in Kernersville. He is looking forward to being a Deacon to be more intentional in serving his fellow UPC members with heart and hope. Chip has served in the past as an Elder and part of the Nominating Committee. He loves the thoughtful, nuanced, and loving discernment that fills UPC. He says that "we question and explore God's will for us. We open our doors widely. We are Reformed and reforming." Chip is married to Shannon and has a son, Will (20). He works for the Durham Public Schools as chief communications officer, working with colleagues to foster effective and constructive community engagement.



**Beth Visser** has been a member of UPC since 1985. For 33 years, she led the Youth and Children's choir program at UPC which included directing the 3 choirs, their musicals, and VBS music, and organizing the Montreat Worship & Music trips. After retiring from that position several years ago, she is now looking forward to serving this faith community in a new way as a deacon. Beth loves UPC for all the members who share their energy and gifts and is inspired by the worship, the music, and the challenges the congregation steps into. Beth has been an active member of the Chancel Choir, Presbyterian Women Circle, Woman2Woman, and Small Groups. She is currently working with the Afghan family that UPC is supporting and has served as a Confirmation Mentor. Beth and her husband Rod are parents to three grown children: Lindsay (34), Graham (32), and Cameron (30).



**Ashley Wallace** has spent the last 11 years living in Chapel Hill and joined the UPC community in 2011. Ashley is married to John and has three lovely children: Jack (11), Olivia (9), and Maggie (7). She stays very busy as a Nurse Practitioner at UNC Hospitals in the Newborn Nursery (awww!) as well as her role as an Adjunct Faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill. At UPC, Ashley has taught Sunday School, led and volunteered at the Advent Craft Fair, volunteered with VBS, and served on the UPPS Committee. Ashley was drawn to UPC's thoughtful messages from leadership and the supportive and nurturing community. Her children have benefited from UPC being a place they can grow spiritually while gaining friendships outside of school. She enjoys connecting with people and making others feel at home at UPC, so the Deacon role is a natural fit. A fun fact is that Ashley and John were married at UPC in 2005 and that Ashley attended church here while an undergrad.

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# Nominating Committee

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**Scott Buck** sees UPC as a faith community composed of earnest, active followers of Christ. He appreciates that we work to best live the life God intends for us, whether through supporting one another or addressing the needs of local and international partners alike. He especially loves the intergenerational impact UPC has. On the Nominating Committee, Scott is excited to both honor our faith and service traditions at UPC while also helping move the church forward as times and needs change. Having lived in Chapel Hill and been a member of UPC for 21 years, Scott brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. Prior to moving to Chapel Hill, Scott was a member of other

churches including First Presbyterian of Waunakee in Waunakee, WI, Christ Presbyterian in Madison, WI, and Westminster Presbyterian in Nashville, TN. At UPC he has served on the Administration Committee, as an Elder, and has taught Youth Sunday School. He and his wife Lee Ann raised their two sons, Ben (wife: Katie) and Evan, at UPC. Scott works as a cardiologist at the UNC School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics.



**Emily Damone** joined UPC shortly after moving to Chapel Hill for graduate school in 2018. She says that she felt like part of the community right away and was attracted to how welcoming UPC is to new members. She also appreciates how invested UPC is in the greater Chapel Hill community. Looking forward to her work on the Nominating Committee, Emily understands that identifying members to serve in leadership roles is important work and will help ensure that UPC stays a strong, welcoming place. Emily has been actively involved with the Young Adults and serves as a Small Group leader, building wonderful friendships along the way. Prior to moving to Chapel Hill, Emily was active in other Presbyterian churches

including Warrenton Presbyterian Church in Warrenton, VA, John Knox Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN, and Central Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, IN. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Biostatistics across the street at UNC, and when she gets a break from her research she enjoys playing in The Village Band (Chapel Hill community band) and spending time with her fiancé Jacob Boesch and her dog Ruby.



**Annette Munson** said yes to the opportunity to join the Nominating Committee because she cares deeply about sustaining the strong leadership at UPC and appreciates contributing to that work.

A UPC member since 1980, Annette's list of things she loves about UPC is long: personal relationships, opportunities for service, the intellectual and spiritual challenge of classes and sermons, retreats, the energy of the new leadership, and music. Before coming to UPC, Annette was a member of Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, CO, and First Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn, IL. At UPC Annette has served two terms as an Elder. She has been a leader on many Haiti teacher workshop trips, as well as going on Middle School mission trips. She has taught Sunday School, participated in Habitat for Humanity activities, and served on the UPPS board. Outside of UPC, Annette taught English for 30 years. She has been a docent at the North Carolina Museum of Art for 12 years, and she has volunteered for CORA and the food bank. Her family includes her husband Eric and their children: Lars (50), Anna-Lisa (46), and Mike (40).



**Bill Whisenant** has been a member of UPC for over 30 years. In that time, he's served as an Elder, a Trustee, on the Stewardship Committee, and on a Pastor Nominating Committee. He loves "just about everything" at UPC including the preaching, the music, the church community, and the outreach that UPC is a part of. Bill is excited to serve the church through the Nominating Committee and sees this as an avenue where he can be of value to the larger church. Bill's two children, Allison and Ross, grew up at UPC, and his wife Kelly is active as well. Bill has been involved in youth sports in Chapel Hill as well as Rotary. He's retired from UNC Health Development.

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We recognize and thank the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee for their work in identifying such a capable group of nominees. A special thank you to the current Committee who worked together to write the short biographies of the nominees in this report.

*Nominating Committee 2021-2022:* Brian Curran, Sandy Grubbs, Patty Haydon, Laura Horrigan, Erin Kent, Lisa Lord, Lee Scott, Donna VanEngen, Chelsey Wommack

*Staff Liaisons:* Kim McNeill, Jarrett McLaughlin