

LOPC'S
CONGREGATION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

LEADERSHIP
NOMINEES

for Elder, Deacon, CNC, and Foundation Trustees

Terms beginning January 1, 2025



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

Church Officer Nominees

for terms beginning January 1, 2025

The goal of the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) is to keep a balance of talent and energy to continue to build on the amazing work being performed daily by LOPC volunteers. The committee reviewed many nominations.

With Peter Whitelock and Jaime Polson as staff liaisons, the committee reviewed the gifts and talents of all the nominees and matched them with the needs for Ruling Elder, Deacon, CNC, and Foundation. We are grateful for the nominees willing to serve. Each year we are able to confirm the health of the congregation, the strength of the staff, and the programs and mission projects we support through this process.

The Committee would like to thank the congregation for their continued support in this crucial process!

2024 LOPC Congregational Nominating Committee

Jeff Patton (Chair) • Heidi Johnson • Lynne Terril • Linda Rosenthal • Steve Crocker •
Esther Kim (Deacon Representative) • Mark Weaver (Clerk of Session) •
Peter Whitelock (Staff) • Jaime Polson (Consulting)

Sunday, September 24, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

All are welcome to attend but only LOPC members may vote to approve nominees.

Elders

Carolyn Bauer
CNC



Carolyn has been a member of LOPC since 2012 and has been involved with Youth Ministry while serving as a youth advisor and also attending mission several trips (including Children of Faith in Visakhapatnam, India). She previously served as a deacon. Outside of LOPC, Carolyn has been an Activity Leader at Lamorinda Adult Respite Center. She previously operated her own marketing and public relations firm. Carolyn enjoys walking, hiking, singing, and dance.

Carson Beckemeyer
SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Carson has been a member since 2009. She has volunteered with the Spiritual Formation Team, Thursday Fellowship, Interfaith Team and has served as a Deacon. Carson has also been involved in several Bible Studies and is presently a Companions facilitator. Professionally, Carson is a former elementary school teacher and is currently a private Academic Coach for students K-6. In her free time, Carson enjoys travel, reading, hiking and yoga. She and her husband, Jim, live in Lafayette with their beloved dog, Thunder.

Lauren Browman
MEMBERSHIP



Laurel and her husband Darryl have been members since 2010. Her son Max is a proud graduate of Seedlings pre-school and currently a sophomore at De la Salle High School. After a career in advertising, Laurel was a volunteer for vacation bible school & Kids Rock for many years. She was also a Meals on Wheels driver for an almost a decade through LOPC. Laurel runs the family vineyard in the Stags Leap District Napa. She is also a board member of The Basic Fund an education driven nonprofit.

Patrick Chen
MEMBERSHIP



Patrick and his wife Patty have been married for 16 years. They have three wonderful daughters: Noella, Adalyn, and Kaia. They have attended LOPC since 2015 and officially became members in 2018. Patrick is currently wrapping up his first term as Membership elder, and is looking forward to serving a second term in this growing ministry. He is a family medicine physician at Kaiser Oakland. He enjoys time with the kids, reading history, and supporting Cal.

Elders

Cathy Eberhardt
FELLOWSHIP



Cathy Eberhardt has been a member of LOPC since 2017. She lives in Moraga with her husband, Tom. They have two grown daughters. After stints in San Diego and Maryland, they returned to the Bay Area in 2014 and have been active together in Youth Alive since then. As a college advisor, she helps teens navigate their next journey. Her favorite pastimes include day-tripping around the Bay Area, hiking, gardening, and cooking.

Nancy Grabow
YOUTH



Nancy, along with her husband Larry, have been active members of LOPC since 2014. Nancy very much enjoys LOPC's welcoming congregation, the mission outreach, and especially the outstanding music program. Nancy currently serves as youth elder and is looking forward to beginning a second term. Nancy is a German teacher at Northgate High School. Nancy and Larry have two adult children: their daughter is an OT (Occupational Therapist) in Southern CA and their son is a professional bass trombonist.

Andrea Hilsabeck
REET



Andrea and her husband Brad joined LOPC in 2005. They have three children, Sophia (24), Hailey (18) and Preston (16). Andrea has previously served as an elder for Seedlings Preschool, a member of the Personnel Team, a Deacon, and has volunteered with Kids Rock, YOW, Vacation Bible Camp, and *love does*. She has been on the Racial Equity and Engagement Team since its formation in January 2021 and is currently serving a one-year term as elder for REET which ends this year.

Phil Hunter
MISSION



Phil has served as a Sunday School teacher, Senior High Mission trip advisor, member of the Personnel Team, the Generosity Team, Communications Team, and served as Clerk of Session in 2021. Phil has been serving on the Mission in Society team for over 15 years. He retired from Apple, Inc in 2012 after being employed there for 25 years. He enjoys retirement by doing pro bono consulting work with non-profits. Phil and his wife (Beth) and family joined LOPC in 1987. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Deacons

Norman Fitzsimmons



Norman has been a member of LOPC since 2023. Following the loss of his wife, Marion, in 2020, Norman relocated from Holywood, County Down, Northern Ireland, in April 2022 to live close to his son, Graeme, daughter-in-law, Monica, and grandchildren, Joaquin and Gigi. Norman has been retired for some 20 plus years, devoting his time to extensive travel and charity work. He has a passion for rugby and cricket, but primarily supports his grandchildren in all their school and sports activities.

Cyndy Jacobsmeyer



Cyndy has been a member of LOPC for over 36 years; she married her husband, Jake (aka Richard) at LOPC in January of 1989. They have Jake's son, Matthew and their daughter, Kelsey (31). Cyndy recently retired from Kaiser Permanente as the National Area VP of Sales and Account Management for KPOJ. Cyndy has served as an Elder, previous chair of Mt. Herman with Jake, and they taught Godly Play at LOPC. Cyndy is a Volunteer at Youth Homes, Inc. Cyndy enjoys traveling, golf, wine tasting, gardening, and the friendships she's made at LOPC over the years.

Ann Lofton



Ann recently became a member of LOPC but has been a member of PC(USA) for decades and previously served as Deacon another church. She is looking forward to becoming more involved with LOPC and the communities we serve. She is a naturally helpful person and endeavors to be a Christian servant-leader in both her personal and professional life, which is why she is looking forward to serving as a deacon. Ann is a wife, mother of two grown daughters, also a pet mom to Nutmeg, an 18 year old dog. Professionally, Ann's career has been in underwriting management for an insurance company (still at it).

Xander Mitman



Xander Mitman has been a member of LOPC for six years. He grew up attending College Hill Presbyterian Church in Easton, PA, and was happy to find a vibrant, engaged, and service-oriented congregation at LOPC. He has worked as a product manager at various tech companies around the Bay Area and enjoys gardening and hiking in his free time. Xander lives in Lafayette with his wife Meghan and their twin girls Hannah and Clara.

Deacons

Jeff Patton



Jeff, and his wife, Laura, and three kids, Steven, Emma and Jackie, joined LOPC over 20 years ago for the stellar youth group. Now, as empty nesters, they enjoy many other aspects of LOPC, including Free Birds and one of the origins FISH groups that lives on. Jeff has served both as elder and deacon. Jeff is retired from Wells Fargo Bank, NA. He enjoys hiking with his cute little dog, tomato farming, and lumberjacking and looks forward to a fantastic ski season.

Eddie Reiter



Eddie has been a member of LOPC since 1977 and has been very involved with several ministry areas at LOPC, most recently serving as Deacon Moderator in 2023. She is very much looking forward to serving another deacon term. Eddie is retired from teaching Mathematics and Computer Science at Cal State East Bay, though she often teaches a course for the fun of it.

Alethea Sargent



Alethea joined LOPC in 2023 and has enjoyed becoming involved with the LOPC community. She lives in Lafayette with her husband, Daniel, and three children, Corrina Mary, Ramona Elisabeth, and Johanna Rosalynn. Alethea is a federal prosecutor based in Oakland. In her spare time, Alethea enjoys spending time with her family and they love to travel to national parks and, more locally, to go to Six Flags.

Puja Sarna



Puja K. Sarna moved to Lamorinda in 2019. She is mother to a small flock of 5 lovely children, who she raises with her beloved Neil. She serves her East Bay community as a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner, compassionately supporting seriously ill patients and their families. She's a graduate of UC Berkeley and Yale University. Puja enjoys strong cup of black tea, Indian sweets, and Wordle.

Deacons

Virginia Stambaugh



Ginger and her family have attended LOPC since moving to Moraga from Illinois in 2014. Ginger has taught Sunday School and is currently serving as an Usher. After two satisfying careers in the Oil and Gas Industry and Banking, Ginger settled into her favorite role as Mom to her daughter Regan, who now attends Grinnell College in Iowa. Ginger and her husband Fred are now happily retired and enjoy many of the outdoor activities that this area has to offer.

Tom Whitelock



Tom is a familiar face at LOPC, having attended since he was in elementary school. He is looking forward to serving his first term as a deacon. Tom's passions include mission work and local community projects, helping children and youth, and small groups. Tom lives in Concord with his wife, Erin, son, Cooper, and dog, Otto. He works in Walnut Creek at JLL as a commercial real estate broker. For fun, he loves exploring new cities and venues, cheering on the 49ers, and golfing.

Foundation

Mark Weaver Three-year term



Mark, his wife, Christine and their four children (John, Katie, Sarah and Andrew) have been active members of LOPC since 2012. Mark served on the Generosity team for several years before becoming the elder for Generosity in 2022. He is currently LOPC's 2024 Clerk of Session. Mark is a partner at the San Francisco firm of Farella Braun + Martel, and leads the firm's trusts and estates group. Before law school, he was a minor league baseball play-by-play announcer, and now spends his free time coaching youth baseball and softball.

Jim Beckemeyer 1-year term



Jim will be finishing his second term on the Foundation at the end of this year. He previously served in the following areas: Elder for Personnel and Membership; Clerk of Session; Spiritual Formation Team member; Fish groups; Small Groups leader; Lenten study group leader; Couples groups; and Freebirds, among others. He also previously served as a Deacon. Jim has been a member of LOPC since 2009 along with his wonderful wife, Carson. He works in Health Care Strategic Planning, enjoys spending time travelling and snorkeling, and is an avid sports fan.

Congregation Nominating Committee

Steve Crocker



Steve and his wife, Jen, have been LOPC members since 1988. Currently, Steve is a member of the Mission team for which he has served two terms as elder. He has also served as a deacon. Steve is a commercial real estate broker. He enjoys spending time doing yard work, mountain biking, and playing with his grandchildren!

Linda Rosenthal



Linda joined LOPC in 2000. She has served with Children's Choir, Vacation Bible Camp, Kid's Rock, Youth discipleship, Kitchen Ministry, Membership, and as a Fellowship elder. Linda sings in the choir, serving in leadership there and on the Worship Committee. She is an LOPC Foundation Trustee and also works with the Racial Equity and Engagement Team. She and Jeff just celebrated 31 years of marriage, and are avid cyclists. Sons Matthew, Alex, and Charlie are recently launched and live in the Bay Area.

Lynne Terril



Lynne Terril and her husband of 37 years, Jim, have two grown children, Chris and Laura. Lynne has been a member of LOPC since 1986 and has served in Special Needs Ministry as a Sunday Buddy, in The Garden, and the Friendship Voyager group. She is a new member of the floral team. She has served two terms as an elder and one as a deacon. Since retiring as a Special Education teacher, Lynne enjoys finding more time for her family, as well as traveling, gardening, water aerobics, and ceramics.