

# Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

# Church Officer Nominees

for terms beginning January 1, 2023

**Sunday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

All LOPC members are welcome to attend.



**T**he goal of the Congregation Nominating Committee (CNC) is to keep a balance of talent and energy to continue to build on the amazing work being performed daily by many volunteers. The committee reviewed many nominations. With Peter Whitelock and Gerald Chinen 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!**

#### **LOPC Congregational Nominating Committee:**

Jeff Patton (Chair) • Heidi Johnson • Marsha McDonagh • Linda Rosenthal • Steve Crocker • Andrea Hilsabeck (Deacon Representative) • Jeanette Shearer (Clerk of Session) • Peter Whitelock (Staff) • Gerald Chinen (Consulting)



**Finance:** **Jim Nagle** is currently the CFO/COO at Bentley School. Prior to that he retired from Wells Fargo Bank after 28 years. He was an Executive Vice President of Wholesale Finance. In his long tenure with the bank, he held numerous positions in Finance, Accounting and Systems areas. He has been a member since 2006. He likes to golf and spend time with his family: his wife Sue and their daughters, Sarah and Kate. Jim has served on the Stewardship Team, the Vine, Men's Bible Study, and Freebirds. He is currently the elder for Finance and is looking forward to serving a second term.



**Operations:** **Jeff Budke** and his wife Jenny became members in 2019, and their children Elyse (15), Brad (12) and Pierce (8) have enjoyed attending Kids Rock, BTW and other youth programs during the past 5 years. Jeff works in commercial construction in San Francisco; planning and estimating new construction projects. Jeff grew up attending WCPC, where his mother became an ordained pastor in 2003. The Budke family lives in Reliez Valley, where Jeff enjoys home renovations and mountain biking in Briones, along with keeping up with the kids and their activities.



**Care:** **Diane Vollerling** has been a member of LOPC since 2018. Her boy/girl twins, Wesley & Riley, (age 5) were baptized at LOPC as babies and attended Seedlings Preschool. They just started Kindergarten at Lafayette Elementary School. Diane grew up in Florida, where she attended a Presbyterian church and was an active member of Young Life. She moved to the Bay Area 8 years ago, where she has settled down with her husband, Sebastian, two kids, Great Dane, and six chickens. Diane is a self-employed architect and developer and is an elder for the first time.



**Worship:** **Bettie Graves** has been a member of LOPC since 1988. She has sung in the LOPC Choir during that entire time as well as served as an Elder for Fellowship, Care, Spiritual Formation, Adult Education, and Worship. Over the years she has served as a support volunteer for Children's Ministry, a facilitator/member of the Companions Program and as a member of LOPC Prayer Team. Bettie is the proud mother of three children, JoAnna, Christian, and Timothy, along with 7 grandchildren. Her philosophy... "All Service is Worship." Bettie served as a member of the Deacon Board before being asked to return as an Elder for Worship filling an unexpired term.



**Worship:** **Julie Atkinson** became a member of LOPC this year but has attended regularly since 2013, volunteering in Children's Ministry as well as working with Family Ministry teams, planning Women's Night Out and Parents' Night Out, and serving on the Diversity Task Force. Previously working as an attorney, Julie currently volunteers with a nonprofit, Center of Hope (Haiti). Julie and her husband, Jay, have two children, Trey and Jasmine. She enjoys painting and beadwork. She has not previously been an ordained elder or deacon.



**Spiritual Formation:** **Jeff Eyet** is the proud husband of Janelle, the assistant superintendent at Martinez USD, and father of Harper, a third grader at St. Perpetua, and Byron and Joey, their yellow labs. Jeff and his family live in the Reliez Valley neighborhood of Lafayette. His passions at LOPC include volunteering at Kids Rock and participating in the men's small group. Professionally, Jeff is a lecturer at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, and he leads The Berkeley Innovation Group.



**Mission:** **Chris Johnson** has been a member since 2010 during which time he's volunteered on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, taught in The Garden, and helped with Vacation Bible Camp and Kids Rock. Chris, and his wife, Heidi, have three children - twins Samya and Levi, and younger daughter Kalia. Chris enjoys spending time with his family along with reading, skiing, golf, dining out, carpentry, and coaching kids' teams. He has previously served one term on session.



**Seniors:** **Sally Roberts** became a member in 2015. She has volunteered with Thursday Fellowship since first visiting LOPC, and it is a ministry that she loves and enjoys. Sally has been a Deacon the past three years which has given her wonderful experiences in many of the ministries of the church. Sally and her husband, Tom, have two grown children and four grandchildren. Besides family visits, she loves to garden, read, hike, and travel as much as possible.

#### Elder Nominee • One-Year Term



**Mission:** **Ginny Ross** and her husband, Mike, have been members of LOPC for more than 25 years. They have two grown children. "Ginny", as she is known by many, as been active at the church, serving as an elder previously and a deacon. She has taught in The Garden and chaperoned youth mission trips. She currently serves as secretary on the board of Children of Faith, one of LOPC's mission partners. She can often be found hiking in the bay area's regional parks and the mountains around Tahoe. Ginny enjoys traveling, quilting, and reading.





**Sue Fernstrom** has two grown children and four grandchildren, ages 13-17 living in Denver and Portland. Sue became a LOPC member in 1972. She has previously been a Deacon, taught in The Garden, is an usher, and a member of

Explorers, Presbyterian Women, and is a member of the Women's Spiritual Journey Group. Retired from working as a certified diabetic educator and research dietitian for over 50 years. Sue is very active in Assistance League. She enjoys walking, hiking, traveling, reading, yard work, and time with the family.



**Mary Welte** and her husband, Tom, of 54 years have two daughters and five grandchildren. Mary is a retired elementary school teacher and joined LOPC in 1990. She has been active in the Explorer's group and worked on LOPC's kitchen

team. Mary enjoyed being a Stephen Minister, a deacon, and an elder previously. She loves reading a good book, swimming, spending time with the grandchildren, painting, gardening, traveling, and walking the dog.



**Heather Breen** has been a member of LOPC for about a year but has been attending since 2019. She has been most active in Children's Ministry but has not served as an Elder or Deacon. She is a full-time mom and

homeschooler for her daughter with special needs as well as a volunteer for a small nonprofit. On the rare day that she has time to herself she loves to thrift, try her hand at sewing, or go for a hike. She and her husband, Jim, and daughter, Clara, live in Walnut Creek.



**Randi Long** is excited to be once again a part of the Deacon Ministry team after previously serving twice. She and her husband, Herb, have been active LOPC members for fifty years. As a retired math teacher, Randi has served as Elder

for Children's Ministry, on Church Nominating Committee, and as a rotating Winter Nights Family Shelter tutor, following children from church to church. She participates in Bible study, Interfaith group, Festival Choir, and Hobie Cat Voyager group. Mother of two, and grandmother of four, and she also enjoys gardening, birding, genealogy, and traveling.



**Muriel Franz** a retired choral music and voice teacher, has been a member of LOPC since 1991. She enjoys singing, sailing, and spending time with her grandchildren. Muriel has been part of many programs at LOPC including the handbell

choir, Companions, Hobie Cats, Worship and Music team, and more! This will be her second term as an LOPC deacon.



**Claire Van Rooyen** and her husband, Reghardt, became members of LOPC in 2012, following their move to the East Bay after meeting in college and graduating from CSU Chico. Claire is a labor and delivery nurse and

lactation consultant and is honored and grateful to serve families at this sacred time in their lives. She is a mother of two young children, and highly values the support of this faith community in the parenting journey. Claire enjoys music (especially at LOPC!), playing piano, singing, swimming, cooking, traveling, reading, and being in nature! She has served on the Spiritual Formation Team and with many of the wonderful volunteering opportunities at LOPC. This is her first term as deacon.



**Jeanette Shearer** and her husband Alistair have two grown daughters, Annika and Emily. Jeanette's history with the church includes membership at Christian Reformed Church of San Diego, 1st Presbyterian Church of San Luis

Obispo, and Lafayette United Methodist Church prior to her 2019 membership here at LOPC. She is an elementary school teacher. She has served on session the past three years and is currently serving as Clerk of Session. This will be her first time serving as a deacon at LOPC.



**Stephen Kiyoi** and his wife Janet live in the Walnut Creek, Parkmead neighborhood with their two children, Henry (7), and Hope (4). Originally from Martinez, California, Stephen grew up attending the Japanese Christian Church

of Walnut Creek. Stephen became a member of LOPC in 2019, and has volunteered with the children's ministry. Stephen works at the UC Davis Library, and in his spare time, runs marathons, deals vintage furniture, and cooks unique foods.



**Michele Fixel** became a member in 2004.

Since becoming a member, she has volunteered extensively with the children and youth ministry programs, beginning with LOGOS, now Kids Rock, and followed by the Middle School - YOW, and High School - BTW programs as a Youth Advisor. She has also volunteered at Respite Night, sometimes bringing several additional volunteers with her from Samuel Merritt University's Nursing Program, where she teaches Pediatric and Community Health Nursing. Previously a deacon, this will be Michele's second term. In this role, she especially enjoys serving at Memorials; a time when families most appreciate receiving support from LOPC and the deacons. Michele has 2 daughters, Alex and Taylor, who grew up at LOPC.

Nominees continue next page →

## Deacon Nominee • One-Year Term



**Barbara Duff** has been a member of LOPC since 2012. She is retired from Wells Fargo as a vice president in commercial banking. She has 2 sons and 4 grandchildren who live in the San Diego area since son Greg and family, LOPC members, moved last year, so she will be taking frequent trips to visit and enjoys traveling, hiking, reading history, biographies and British mysteries, taking OLLI courses, classical music, art and all things CAL. Barbara currently serves as an usher, an officer with the Explorers, and has participated in Pastor Jamie's Bible study classes and theology study groups. She has served one term as a deacon at LOPC.

## Youth Deacon Nominees • One-Year Term



**Paige Carpenter** has been involved in LOPC her whole life, going through each of the Children's Ministry programs and currently participates in By The Way (BTW). She is a junior at Carondelet High School where she on campus ministry and the indoor and sand volleyball teams. In her free time she enjoys coaching club volleyball, spending time with friends, and walking her dog, Cody.



**Griffin Dubois** was born in Santa Monica and has been attending LOPC since his family moved to Lafayette when he was 3 years old. The LOPC youth ministry program supported his development into a kind and caring person.

Griffin is a Sophomore at Acalanes High School, he is an active soccer player for both the team at Acalanes and a local club. In his free time he enjoys reading, skiing, biking, video games, and spending time with friends.

## CNC Nominees



**Steve Crocker** 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, swimming, and playing with his new grandson!



**Heidi Johnson** is originally from Nebraska and works as a Legal Nurse Consultant. She and her husband, Chris, have three children. A 10-year member of LOPC, she has been involved in Kids Rock, Vacation Bible Camp, and Sowers. In her spare time she enjoys weightlifting, tennis, and even had time to write her first short play which earned first place in a local playwright's competition last year.



**Linda Rosenthal** - See bio under *Foundation Nominees*.

## CNC Nominees



**Lynne Terril** and her husband of 36 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 Godly Play, 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 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.

## Foundation Nominees



**Linda Rosenthal** 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 works with the Racial Equity and Engagement group and is a proud team member of the rice and beans packing team. She and Jeff just celebrated 30 years of marriage, and are avid cyclists. Sons Matthew, Alex, and Charlie are recently launched and live in the Bay Area. This will be Linda's first term on the Foundation.



**Mike Ross** and his wife Ginny, have been members of LOPC since 1997 during which time Mike has been deeply involved with many church programs, especially service programs through One Sunday, *love does*, and special retreats. Mike has also served on session as an elder. Mike and Ginny have two adult children, Charlie and Margaret, who grew up participating in the youth programs. A retired attorney and published author, Mike enjoys spending time traveling and enjoying time with family in Tahoe. This will be Mike's second term serving on the LOPC Foundation.



**Jen Crocker** has been a member of LOPC since 1978 when she was confirmed as a teenager. She, and her husband Steve, have two children who are now both married. Jen currently works as a CPA and in her spare time loves spending time with her beautiful grandchildren. Jen has been very active in the church over the years and has served as a youth advisor and Sunday School teacher, and she also participated in many mission trips. Jen has also served on committees serving childcare, children's ministry, family ministry, stewardship, and finance. This will be Jen's second term on LOPC's Foundation.