

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

Church Officer Nominees

for terms beginning January 1, 2026

Elders:

Sandy Barnett (Worship)
Jody Black (Volunteer)
Charlie Cowden (Finance)
Steve Crocker (Operations)
Jeff Eyt (Strategic Planning)
Heather Logan (Spiritual Formation)
Brian O'Shea (Interfaith)
Glenora Salacuse (Seniors)
Alistair Shearer (Worship)

Deacons:

Sam Austin
Angie Carlson
Suzy Gerke
Marjorie Nicolaisen
Dorothy Moore
Connie Sayers
Johanna Sisteck
Sarah Weaver
(YOUTH)

CNC:

Brandt Andersson
Jim Beckemeyer
Jim Boyd
Jane Kadash

LOPC Foundation:

Mark Cratsenburg
Jen Crocker
Esther Kim
Cam Olufson
Mike Ross

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!

LOPC Congregational Nominating Committee:

Carolyn Bauer (Chair) • Jane Kadash • Lynne Terril • Linda Rosenthal • Steve Crocker • Cyndy Jacobsmeier (Deacon Representative) • Chris Johnson (Clerk of Session) • Peter Whitelock (Staff) • Jaime Polson (Consulting)

Sunday, September 28, 2025, 11:30 a.m.

Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

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

Elder Nominees



Sandy Barnett

Team: Worship
3 Year Term

Sandy Barnett joined LOPC in 1972 and is excited to serve as an Elder! During these last 53 years, she has taught Sunday School, was an advisor for the SR High Program, served on the Church Nominating Committee, Stewardship Committee, and has been a deacon twice. She was the Bookkeeper for Orinda Books for 35 years. Her granddaughter, Stella, is a big source of happiness! Participating in Worship and singing beautiful music brings her closer to God. She also enjoys reading, gardening, playing canasta and traveling.



Jody Black

Team: Volunteer
2 Year Unexpired Term

Jody Black has been a member of LOPC since 2014. Since that time, Jody has been active in the Chancel Choir as well as serving as Elder and Clerk of Session. He has also worked with Youth Sunday Morning and has hosted several Lenten studies. Recently retired, Jody spends his time gardening and cooking – two of his favorite activities aside from reading mysteries! He loves the welcoming community at LOPC and always happy to serve.



Charlie Cowden

Team: Finance
3 Year Term

Charles Cowden and his wife Virginia joined LOPC in 1975. He and Virginia, share a common religious commitment that goes back to their initial meeting at a church summer camp near Sun Valley, Idaho in the mid-1960s. Over the many intervening years Charlie has served in a

variety of roles at LOPC including Sunday School teacher, Admirals (along with Virginia) of the Voyager fleet, previous terms on Session, Pastor Nominating Committees and as a Trustee of the LOPC Foundation.

Charlie is an “almost retired” CPA who practiced in Walnut Creek most of his career serving closely held businesses and their owners. He and Virginia have a son who lives in Oakland and a married daughter with four children—a granddaughter age 12 1/2 and three identical boy triplets who will be 11 years old in November. Virginia and Charlie enjoy golf, travel and spending time with friends and family.

Charlie has indicated: “It is an honor and a privilege to be asked to serve LOPC and I am looking forward to it.”



Steve Crocker

Team: Operations
3 Year Term

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 as an Elder, as well as the Love Does team. He has also served on the CNC team (also as an elder), as a deacon, DPNC team, and family ministry. Steve is a commercial real estate broker. He enjoys spending time grilling/smoking meat, making sawdust, mountain biking, and playing with his awesome family (mostly the grandkids though!).



Jeff Eyt

Team: Strategic Planning
1 Year Term

Jeff is the proud husband of Janelle (the assistant superintendent at Martinez USD) and father of Harper (a sixth grader at Stanley).

Elder Nominees

They are an animal-loving family with a horse, Hera, a yellow lab, Joey, and a lot of chickens. Jeff and his family live in the Reliez Valley neighborhood of Lafayette. His passions at LOPC include volunteering with Children's Ministry and leading the Men's Friday Fellowship. Professionally, Jeff is a lecturer at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, and he leads The Berkeley Innovation Group.



Heather Logan

Team: Spiritual Formation
3 Year Term

Heather has enjoyed being a critical care/trauma nurse, as well as holding nursing hospital leadership and teaching positions. She joined LOPC in 1990, taught Sunday school, was a youth group advisor, participating as "the nurse" for 6 youth mission trips. Heather has served as a Deacon, LOPC book group leader, Stephen Minister, and choir member. She finds joy in serving others, traveling, family (including 2 grandsons!), gardening and exercise.



Brian O'Shea

Team: Interfaith
3 Year Term

Brian and his wife Liz have been members of LOPC since 2008 when they relocated to the Bay Area from Philadelphia. He recently retired from Genentech after a career in biotechnology spanning 35 years. In addition to his involvement with LOPC, He is on the board of Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley, guest lecturer at both St. Mary's College and UC Berkeley, and consultant for SageTree Collective, a boutique healthcare consultancy.



Glenora Salacuse

Team: Seniors
3 Year Term

Glenora Salacuse and her husband Bill Salacuse live in Poets Corner, Pleasant Hill with their (19) year old son Miles and two cats. Since becoming a member at LOPC in 2022, Glenora currently volunteers with Thursday Fellowship, a greeter on Sunday mornings and involved in a women's bible study group. In her free time she likes swimming, movies, live music and traveling.



Alistair Shearer

Team: Worship
3 Year Term

Alistair Shearer and his wife Jeanette became members of LOPC in 2019 and have lived in Lafayette just down the hill from the church since 1993 where they raised their two daughters, Annika and Emily. Alistair was born in Scotland and immigrated to California in 1981 to complete a Master of Architecture degree at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where he met Jeanette at the First Presbyterian Church college choir. Alistair is recently retired after an international career in Architecture and Project Management and enjoys having more time to spend with his new grandson. At LOPC, Alistair is a member of the Choir.



Sam Austin

Deacon

Sam Austin III became a member of LOPC in 2024. He and his wife Marcia have lived in Moraga since 2000, after moving to the Bay Area from New Jersey and Massachusetts. They have one adult son, Samuel IV, who now resides in Texas. Sam has previously served as an elder and a pastor for 15 years at another church. Sam and Marcia have served on the LOPC Congo Mission Team for two years. Sam is an institutional investment consultant and enjoys golf, hiking, traveling and teaching young people about financial literacy.



Angie Carlson

Deacon

Angelita Carlson, a retired middle school teacher, joined LOPC in 2022. Angie has sung in the LOPC choir and served as a volunteer for Vacation Bible Camp, the Sanctuary Guild, and the Backyard Bash. She enjoys being a member of the Hobie Cats Voyager group. Two years ago, she started volunteering with Thursday Fellowship, a ministry that she loves and finds very fulfilling. Angie's favorite activities include reading, traveling, playing piano, hula dancing, and spending time with her new granddaughter.



Suzy Gerke

Deacon

Suzanne Gerke joined LOPC in 1972. She chaired the Computer Committee when the church purchased the website name and installed the original pcs and network. She participated in the Singles Ministry

Board in the 80's, Monument Crisis Center support, Hoopa Reservation mission trips, Children's Ministry, and now Hobie Cat events. Suzy is retired from the software industry. She enjoys traveling to other countries, working with refugees, building projects, all kinds of boating, and reading. Her treasured family includes three daughters, Janice, Diana, and Karen, two sons in law, and nine grandchildren. She lives in Lafayette.



Marjorie Nicolaisen

Deacon

Marjorie Nicolaisen and her husband of 46 years, Royce, have been members of LOPC since 1995. They have three daughters, living in LA, Washington, D.C. and NYC, as well as four granddaughters, so much of the time can be found traveling between those spots, as well as their adopted country of Spain. She has served on session as an elder on Mission, and is the mission liaison for Fotokids. She previously served on the board of Children of Faith Missions, an LOPC mission partner. She has also been a volunteer for Godly Play, Warm Winter Nights, and Love Does. When not traveling, Marjorie can be found working in the garden, reading, at a museum exhibit or planning the next trip.



Dorothy Moore

Deacon

Dorothy Moore joined LOPC in 2024 and has been attending since 2008. She joined the choir in January and thinks it's a wonderful way to share a love of music with many new friends. She and her husband Jeff have raised three children in Lafayette. Two of them, Julia and Alec, were active in Youth Group. Dorothy

accompanied the high schoolers on their 2010 Mission Trip to Zimbabwe. She currently works as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, treating patients 15 to 90. She previously worked as a nursing professor at San Jose State University and an Emergency Department nurse at Kaiser. She looks forward to serving LOPC as a Deacon.



Connie Sayers

Deacon

Connie has been a member of LOPC since 1983. Since becoming a member she has worked on various committees and drove for Meals on Wheels eight years for LOPC. She and her husband have four grown children and eight grandchildren. Connie enjoys her garden club, book club, gourmet group, reading, birding, and especially spending time with her grandkids.



Johanna Sistik

Deacon

Johanna has been attending LOPC since 2017, and became a member in fall 2024. She is retiring this fall from a career as an attorney, and is looking forward to spending time giving back to LOCP and her local community. She moved to Rossmoor in Walnut Creek from Point Richmond this past spring, and has been enjoying being closer to her daughter and her husband in Rockridge, and to LOPC.



Sarah Weaver

Deacon

Sarah Weaver has been a member of LOPC since she was three years old. She has loved participating in the children's and youth programs, including going on mission trips and volunteering locally. She currently attends By The Way and works in The Garden on Sundays. Sarah is currently a junior at Campolindo High School where she is an active member of Leadership and Youth in Government. She has two older siblings (John at Fordham, Katie at Emory) and a younger brother in 7th grade (Andrew). In her free time, she enjoys reading, baking, watching movies with her family and spending time with her friends.

LOPC Foundation Nominee



Mark Cratsenburg
Foundation

Mark and his wife Ena have been members of LOPC since 2006, and he previously served as Elder for Worship and Elder for Spiritual Formation. Mark is currently the Chief Commercial Officer for the technology company, Aeris. He enjoys hiking, music and spending time with his LOPC family and friends. He has an active interest in animal welfare, and is currently serving his second 6 year term on the Board of the East Bay SPCA.



Esther Kim
Foundation

Esther Kim and her husband Jonathan Lee have been LOPC members since 2006. Esther has been involved with several church programs including Godly Play, One Sunday and most recently served as a Deacon. She is also an Elder, having served when she was a member of Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, where she and Jonathan were married 30 years ago. Esther and Jonathan have two adult children, Abby and Hannah, who grew up participating in the youth programs, particularly the service trips both locally and internationally. Esther has an estate planning practice in Martinez where she is the managing partner of Turner, Huguet, Adams & Farr. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, reading, hiking and more recently playing pickleball. This will be Esther's first term on the Foundation.



Cam Olufson
Foundation

Cam Olufson grew up in Lafayette where she continues to live with her husband, Jim. They joined LOPC in 1994. They have two daughters who grew up in the church, Gabby and Lena. Cam has been an Elder for both the Youth and Mission Programs and has been active in several LOPC community groups. Last year she retired after 40 years at Cal – 36 years as an alumni relations director and fundraiser. Cam enjoys gardening, reading, cooking and traveling.

CNC Nominees



Brandt Andersson

CNC

Brandt is married to Patricia and father to Erik, 35, and Linnea, 32. They joined LOPC 30 years ago. Brandt was an Elder, chaperoned a dozen youth mission trips, and sung 28 years in the choir. In his spare time, he is an estate planning attorney. Past adventures include more than a decade each as a Lafayette City Councilmember (twice Mayor), solar research scientist, and computer programmer. He cycles – a lot.



Jim Beckemeyer

CNC

Jim Beckemeyer and his wife, Carson, have been LOPC members since 2009. Jim is in his final year as a trustee of the LOPC Foundation, where he currently serves as president. Previously, he served as elder for both Membership and Personnel, and was Clerk of Session. Jim recently retired from Kaiser Permanente after 29 years in various finance, strategy, and consulting roles. In his free time, he enjoys volunteering on love does projects and participating in Freebirds. Jim is also an avid sports fan, and relishes gathering with friends, traveling with his wife, and taking long walks with their dog, Thunder.



Jim Boyd

CNC

Jim and his wife Lois have been members of LOPC since 1979. Jim has served as a senior high advisor, has been a Deacon three times, was involved in Men's Breakfast for many years and participated in LOPC's clean water project in Guatemala. Upon retiring from teaching in 2005, he started volunteering at the Monument Crisis Center just as LOPC elected to support MCC as a local mission partner. He has been the MIS Group's liaison with MCC since that time.



Jane Kadash

CNC

Jane Kadash has been a member of LOPC since 2002 and her husband, William, became a member in 2024. She and her husband have a 15 month old daughter, Charlotte, who was baptized at LOPC in February 2024. Jane has been an active member since she joined, including being a part of the youth group program from middle school through high school, went on mission trips, and was confirmed her sophomore year of high school. In her free time she loves spending time with her family, going on long walks, and cooking.