



Candidates for Boards and Lay Leadership

To be presented to the congregation at
the Annual Meeting,
June 4, 2017

Brief self-introductions to our leadership candidates, who were selected by the Nominating Committee. Find descriptions of boards, Deacons and the Leadership Council at the back of the booklet.

BOARD OF COMMUNITY LIFE NOMINEES

Anna Cavallo, returning for new 1-year term

David Dobratz, 3-year term



Dave and his wife, Martha, joined Plymouth about a year ago, having attended regularly for several years after moving to downtown Minneapolis. Dave has been active in several congregations over the course of his almost 50 years in Minneapolis. He has sung in choirs and a worship band, served on committees and been involved in small groups, Bible studies and book studies. Dave is retired from work as a computer systems analyst. In retirement, Dave enjoys technology, reading, traveling, exploring their new neighborhood (especially the restaurants!) and spending time with his grandsons.

Nina Jonson, 3-year term



Nina Jonson is the Director of Enrollment and Outreach at Minnesota Life College, a nonprofit organization serving individuals with Autism and learning differences. She also sits on the board of directors for the Youth Performance Company. She is a licensed Zumba instructor and enjoys dancing

with church members on Wednesday evenings. She has been a long-time volunteer with the Church School and youth programming at Plymouth, her “home away from home.” She lives in Robbinsdale with husband Jasper and daughters Zinnia and Adella.

Matthew Wiandt, 3-year term



Matthew Wiandt is a health-care entrepreneur who has more than 20 years of experience building sustainable and effective organizations. Matthew is part of a team that is starting a new health insurance company. Matthew joined Plymouth in 2011 for its commitment to social justice, diversity and respect for an individual’s spiritual journey. Matthew welcomes the opportunity to serve the Plymouth community. Matthew lives in Edina with his wife Ging and their two children.

One opening remains.

Returning Members

Emi Bennett Vo, serving as chair, 1 year

Jay Matre, 2 years

Emily Venell, 1 year

Remona Weaver, 1 year

BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION NOMINEES

Jen Glaeser, 3-year term

Jen Glaeser is a nine-year member of Plymouth, with her spouse, Michele Allen, and children, Harper and Julian. She has served as a Church School teacher for four years. In her other previous volunteer activities, Jen served as board chair for Seward Childcare for four years, assisting this organization in resetting its financial health. In her professional endeavors, Jen is a vice president of product for Connecture in the crazy space of health insurance and, when not traveling, works out of her home office. She looks forward to using her experience and mad skills with spreadsheets in continued service at Plymouth.



Melinda Wellvang, 3-year term

Melinda is a lifelong Congregationalist. She and husband Steve have been members of Plymouth since 1984 and raised three sons in the church. She has served on the Board of Stewards and Board of Member Care and taught Sunday school with Steve. Since retiring from her legal career, she has also volunteered at various community organizations, including Planned Parenthood and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.



Returning Members

Todd Aldrich, 2 years

Jill Hennesen, 3 years

Rick Neville, 1 year

Eric Olsen, will chair, 1 year

John Schenk, 2 years

Jason Schuller, 1 year

Sheri Sheeks, 2 years

BOARD OF FINE ARTS NOMINEES

Lynette Black, 3-year term

Lynette recently retired from a 38-year career in medical device marketing (3M & Medtronic). Long-term member of Women's Caucus for Art and former president of the Minnesota chapter, she studied intaglio printmaking with Leo Lasansky (B.A., Hamline University) and Mauricio Lasansky (University of Iowa M.F.A. program). She has exhibited in



Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia and New York and is currently a member of Highpoint Center for Printmaking. Loves to travel, bike, garden and entertain. Enjoys music, especially jazz and choral music; theater; and film, especially international films and documentaries. Integrating the arts and community service are important to Lynette.

Eric Hugunin, 3-year term

I live in Southwest Minneapolis with my wife, Kelly, and our two daughters, Lucille (9) and Clara (7). We moved to Minneapolis from Los Angeles six years ago; as native Midwesterners we love the



small town feel and the big city amenities the Twin Cities has to offer. I am a freelance scenic designer working on a wide array of projects in town and across the globe: Designing scenery for Target's large meetings & events and creating interactive

landscapes for touring museum exhibitions, along with occasionally art directing local commercials and television. I am excited by the opportunity to become more involved with the church and play an active role in its path forward.

David Myers, 3-year term

David Myers is consulting chair for music at Augsburg College and former Director of the School of Music at the University of Minnesota. He writes, consults and speaks internationally on arts policy and socially relevant preparation of professional musicians. He



teaches doctoral students at the U, was a longtime church organist and attended the Eastman School of Music and the University of Michigan. He and his wife, Judy, joined Plymouth in 2016.

Rachel Walker, 1-year term

My family and I have been members of Plymouth for about 12 years.



My husband, Kevin, son Leif (age 15), daughter Sanna (age 13), and mother, Evelyn Durkee, all attend Plymouth. I joined the choir in 2015. I am the daughter of Presbyterian and Methodist ministers. My husband grew up attending Union Congregational Church in Elk River. I work as an environmental scientist in Minneapolis, where I have practiced

environmental consulting for nine years. Our family particularly loves music and theater—my son has played classical guitar since age 4, my daughter, piano since age 6—and we all enjoy regularly attending theater and concert events in the Twin Cities.

Returning Members

Randall Davidson, 2 years

Dick Haines, 1 year


Hawona Sullivan Janzen, 1 year

John Kulstad, serving as chair, 2 years

Amanda White, 2 years


BOARD OF OUTREACH NOMINEES

Sue Moses, 3-year term



Sue attended Plymouth Church with her family when she was growing up. She left for college in St. Louis and a job in Billings. When she returned 12 years later, she no longer had family here. Sue found Plymouth to be a comfort and also a good fit with her values and beliefs. Sue and Mitch were married at Plymouth, and their children Emily and Luke were baptized and confirmed here. Sue previously served on the Board of Education and is glad to serve in this new capacity.

Peter Vitale, 3-year term



Peter is the resident Music Director for Ten Thousand Things Theater in Minneapolis. At Plymouth, he has served on a number of boards, including the Fine Arts Board, and the Board of Children, Youth and Families, for which he served as Chair. Peter was also part of the Senior Minister Search Committee. He has been active in the children's music program, helping out when he can and was Music Director for a number of the summer Playshops.

Returning Members

David Chollar, 1 year

Elisabeth Comeaux, continuing as chair, 1 year

Birdie Cunningham, 2 years

Peter Eichten, 3 years

Clare Gravon, 2 years

Loretta Menke, 1 year

Steven Vincent, 2 years

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION NOMINEES

David Astin, 3-year term

Each person becomes a wanderer again and again in the course of life, as we find our true self by becoming lost.

Each person carries a “story that could be true.” Each crossroad in life secretly asks the question: Who are you really?

—Michael Meade, from *The Water of Life*

David is a retired science teacher, citizen scientist, naturalist, storyteller and natural history photographer on a spiritual journey. Striving to lead an integrated life, he believes with Marcus Aurelius that “Everything is interwoven and the web is holy.” Mary Oliver’s rules for life (pay attention; be astonished; tell what you saw) are important parts of his practice. He believes that each person has unique life experiences that shape their journey to God. No two are alike, which sometimes creates challenges for us to live and work together. The Covenant of Plymouth Church, which invites each person to find their own pathway into the Presence, is of great importance in his daily life.

Becky Dougherty, 3-year term

In July 2012, my husband and I moved back to Minneapolis after having lived 25 years in Stevens Point, Wis. Our three children were mostly raised in that community, and I worked as a public health nurse for the county. I love being back in Minneapolis, where I was raised and attended both Wayzata and Washburn High Schools. Relocating at this time in my life presents new challenges and opportunities. Still feeling like a newbie at Plymouth and still on a spiritual journey myself, I am looking forward to serving with the Spiritual Formation Board.

John Humphrey, 2-year term

John is a product of (among other things) Plymouth Church Sunday School and PF (back in the '50s and '60s). He taught Junior High for seven years, helped Gary Reiersen teach Confirmation for several years, took two groups of PF students to Jamaica on mission trips, helped lead half a dozen PF Habitat mission trips, and most recently helped Paula with PF and Confirmation on an as-needed basis.

He has been a high school teacher, community theater actor, poet, software developer, small business owner, science and engineering

curriculum designer, knowledge management facilitator and nursing trainer. He is currently tutoring ESL students to help them earn their GEDs and general high school students to help them improve their test scores. He is devoted to and wild about family, dogs, spiritual reality, movies, reading, teaching, tennis and travel.

Returning Members

Buck Campbell, 2 years

Becky Dunn, 1 year

Rip Nordhogen, 1 year

Jan Rabbers, 1 year

Helen Wang, 2 years

Ging Wiandt, continuing as chair, 1 year

BOARD OF WORSHIP NOMINEES

Karen Barstad, 3-year term, serving as chair

I joined Plymouth Church in 1987. I grew up in the Lutheran Church,



but I was drawn to Plymouth because it felt like a place where I could wrestle with the complexities of faith and be encouraged to ask the hard questions.

Plymouth did not disappoint. During my years at Plymouth, I've served on numerous boards and committees, most recently on the Board of Spiritual

Formation, Sunday Forum Committee, Legacy

Giving Committee and Gun Violence Prevention

Committee. I also volunteer for Third Sunday Meal and am a

BeFriender. I've lived in Minneapolis since 1981 and have worked

in banking all of my career. Currently I'm a compliance officer for

Alerus Financial.

Becca Norris, 3-year term

Becca is an accomplished healthcare leader with an extensive



background in health systems operations, business strategy, public policy, sales management, healthcare analytics and new program development. She

is presently Vice President, Strategic Business

Initiatives, at McKesson Corporation, a global

healthcare services company. Recognized as a highly

effective collaborator, Becca leads the bridging and integration of McKesson business units to support healthcare organizations' pursuit of better health for their business and the patients they serve. Throughout her career, Becca has been actively involved in numerous community organizations and currently serves on the board of United Family Medicine in St. Paul. At Plymouth Congregational Church, she has served as a Trustee and was co-chair of the Membership board.

Three openings remain.

Returning Members

Rossi Clem, 2 years

Karl Jones, 2 years

Jasper Jonson, 2 years

Jerry Jorgensen, 1 year

DEACONS

Peg Birk, 3-year term

Peg has been a member of Plymouth for eight years. She has served in several leadership positions; recently, she became interim chair for the Racial Justice Task Force. She is the Founder and CEO of Interim Solutions, a Minneapolis-based consulting firm that works with foundations, nonprofit organizations and associations undergoing management and organizational changes. Peg brings to her change management expertise executive experience, including serving as Transitional General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, interim president for the McKnight Foundation and currently interim executive director for the Perpich Center for Arts Education. Prior to founding Interim Solutions, Peg was senior vice president and general counsel for Federated Insurance; city attorney for the City of St. Paul; general counsel for AIG's U.S. insurance business; and senior government affairs counsel and senior corporate counsel for The St. Paul Companies.



Returning Deacons

Pat Born, 1 year

Ed Curtiss, 2 years

Katie Dillon, 1 year

Claire Kolmodin, 3 years

Catherine Shreves, 3 years

Brian Siska, 1 year

Jim van Iwaarden, 2 years

Greg Zoidis, 2 years

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chad Freeburg, Leadership Council Chair, for a term ending June 2018

Deb Fowler, Leadership Council Chair-Elect, for a term ending June 2018

Deb Fowler has been a Plymouth member for nearly 20 years. In



her professional life, she helps senior executives and teams create sustainable change with high-impact and results-focused consulting. She helps teams at the top zero in on strategy, lead significant organizational transformations, enhance leadership skills and successfully collaborate with key stakeholders. With an artful balance of intuition and acumen, challenge and support, she helps leaders leverage their strengths and enhance their effectiveness and impact.

Returning Officers

Claire Kolmodin, Moderator, for a term ending June 2018

Brian Siska, Clerk

Jim van Iwaarden, Treasurer

Ray Martin, Deputy Treasurer

Mike McCallister, Leadership Council Secretary

Mary Welfling, Archivist

Ed Curtiss, Property Manager

The Board of Community Life includes new member programs, the oversight of Sharing the Ministry, small groups, hosting coffee hours, BeFrienders, strengthening community and more.

The Board of Finance & Administration oversees the Church's finances (investments, endowments and stewardship campaign), building and grounds and general administration.

The Fine Arts Board's mission is: *To awaken the Plymouth Congregation to art around us, and within us.* The FAB oversees programs in the visual, performing and literary arts for the benefit of the congregation and the community at large (excluding activities relating to church worship services).

The Board of Outreach connects the Congregation with Plymouth's wider community through acts of compassion that address the immediate needs of those vulnerable in our society, and through advocacy for social change that furthers justice as a realization of the Realm of God.

The Board of Spiritual Formation is responsible for spiritual exploration, education and enrichment programs offered to members, from babies through adults.

The Board of Worship works with the Senior Minister to strengthen and support Plymouth's various worship services, including hospitality, ushering and serving communion.

The Leadership Council is made up of the chairs of the six boards, clergy, three officers and the church archivist. They join in the oversight of boards; with board chairs, consider new initiatives; put into operation the strategic direction set by the Deacons; and more.

The Deacons have legal and fiduciary responsibility for Plymouth, set strategic direction for the church, recommend an annual budget to the congregation and develop governing policies and a system of accountability to monitor that goals are being met.

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Minneapolis
www.plymouth.org

