

2024 SPC ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Sunday, December 8, 2024, 9:45 a.m.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Ruling Elder Nominees

Class of 2028

(three year term, renewable,
except for *continuing members):

*Suellen Myers, Anne Teresa,
*Adam Ware, *Carolee Youngblood*

Deacon Nominees

Class of 2026

(one-year term,
renewable for a three-year term):
*Siri McDonald, *Chris Morehouse,*

Lynne Wiseman

Class of 2028

(three year term, renewable,
except for *continuing member):

*Eva Barnett, Yvonne Fisher,
Elaine Hurd, Diane Kradel,
Susan Lovell,

Nominating Committee Nominee

Class of 2028

(three year term, non-renewable):

Frances Marshall

Trustee Nominee

Class of 2025

(three year term, non-renewable)

Suellen Myers

NOMINEES BACKGROUND:

We asked our slate of nominees these questions:

1. When (approximately) did you first attend a service at SPC? Who or what prompted you? What was your first impression?
2. Previous church (es), if any.
3. Considering that many people in America don't, why do you participate in the life of a church?
4. One thing SPC does well.
5. One thing SPC should do, or could do, better.
6. Anything about you or your family you'd like the congregation to know.

RULING ELDER NOMINEES

SUELLEN MYERS

1. I was asked to sing in the choir. That the music was wonderful and the people welcoming.
2. State Street United Methodist, Bowling Green, KY
3. Because I need that particular community in my life. Because SPC accepts and looks at beliefs from other religious and philosophies it pushed me to really think about what I believe. It's challenging.
4. Including youth and children in services.
5. Perhaps communicate better about small groups within SPC. What they are and why they meet from committee's to men's breakfast.
6. We farm at Shenandoah Junction.

ANNE TERESA

1. I think we began attending in 2011 or 2012. I found the preaching to be very grounded in real life, and the people at SPC very welcoming.

2. Vienna (VA) Presbyterian; First Presbyterian, Bluefield, WV
3. It is a strong network that provides support and friendship. The church has great power to bring us together in our search for the 'beloved community', and in our work to positively affect the lives of those around us.
4. Outreach and programming for children and youth
5. Clearly identified and aligned mission giving.
6. My husband, who is not connected to a specific religion or faith tradition, admires what SPC does and is.

***ADAM WARE**

1. I was drawn to Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church after attending a wedding of a college friend of mine (Rachel Hutchinson Morgenstern) in October 2016. Upon attending a service after that, JB and I felt a strong sense of welcome. We chose this church when we were planning our wedding because of the acceptance we found here.
2. Grew up attending St. Joseph's Catholic Church and then Our Lady of Fatima in Huntington, WV, but I stopped attending when I went to college.
3. I crave purpose, community, structure, and faith in my life, which I get here. Our community is a terrific place to continue growing knowledge and faith.
4. We welcome anyone who walks through the door, and we give an opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves. I am particularly proud to be a member of a church that makes an effort to practice inclusion. With our Social Justice Committee and adult education, we are continuing to grow our understanding of others and take a step towards improving this world.
5. We need to inspire folks to step up and walk the walk. It seems like a lot of our committees are leaning heavily on a few individuals, which leads to burnout.

6. I am obsessed with my dogs Clinton and Gunnar.

***CAROLEE YOUNGBLOOD** (report pending)

DEACON

EVA BARNETT

1. I first attended SPC around Easter 2023. I was searching for a new church home after COVID and I asked a mom's group on Facebook about recommendations for a family-friendly church in the area and several people recommended SPC. Everyone was so welcoming and even more welcoming to my children.
2. a. Boonsboro First Christian Church b. National City Christian Church
3. Church is a spiritual family. It's a place where I can get outside of my own head and focus on how to serve others. It's a place of love, hope, and grace. I also believe in the spiritual power and symbolism of communion and baptism. The rituals of worship service, hymns, and communal prayer are beautiful and provide a sense of order and divinity in a world that can seem chaotic.
4. SPC is a humble and welcoming church with a Christ centered mission. There's a spirit of love and acceptance of everyone at SPC.
5. We could have more outwardly serving missions in the county and state. I know this requires significant time and resources.
6. I think you know us pretty well! A fun fact is Abigail, Atlas, and I LOVE ice cream and fruit. We like going to the source in the summer and pick our own berries and go to creameries and get locally made ice cream from local happy cows.

SIRI MCDONALD (report pending)

LYNNE WISEMAN

1. I have been attending mostly on holidays for

years but have been attending regularly for the past year. First impression and 2. Liked Randy but not enough to get involved. Know many people who attend this church, neighbors and Elaine Hurd.

2. Attend no previous churches.

3. I felt a calling to be more involved after meeting Pastor Gusti and our Deacon, at the time, Debbie Romano.

4. Very warm welcoming group!!
(Congregation)

5. Seems they are doing great!

6. My great grandfather was a Methodist minister in charge of the Troy, NY. Conference where I was born and he baptized me. When I heard Pastor Gusti came here from Troy I took it as a sign that I should join and be more involved in our church. I have served our community as a Realtor for many years and was involved with building and rehabbing homes after Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast and after a devastating tornado in Tuscaloosa Alabama with Habitat for Humanity. I enjoy giving back.

YVONNE FISHER

1. I first visited SPC July 4, 1976. Randy's first Sunday as minister and was given a warm welcome to my family and me from Linda Kelso.

2. Deerfield Presbyterian Church in Deerfield, Illinois.

3. Things SPC does well is includes children as part of the service, All are welcome here, Adult Seminars and reflections by members at times.

ELAINE HURD

1. I began attending SPC in the late 1980's. I had moved to Rohrsersville, Md and was looking for a nearby church to attend. I visited several churches in the area. I had seen the church on the corner in Shepherdstown and once I attended there I didn't feel particularly welcomed. A large part of that I'm sure was due to my own reticent nature. It wasn't until I

joined the choir that I began to feel more a part of the congregation. I joined the church as a member in 1990.

2. I've attended several different churches over my lifetime. Two of the significant were the church I grew up in West Hebron, NY and the Silver Spring Presbyterian Church of which I was a member before joining SPC.

3. I am a cradle to grave Presbyterian. As a young person there was an expectation that my family would be in church every Sunday. Although I may not have appreciated or recognized it at the time, I think that gave me an important foundation that has stayed with me. After a few years of rebellion during college and a few years afterward when I did not attend church, I found my way back. I learn lessons about how I want to live my life from the sermons every Sunday. The church family is my chosen family and they have supported me and celebrated with me countless times. Music is very important to me, and it brings me joy to be a part of the choir.

4. Having recently been part of the history project for SPC, I think that acknowledging our history is one thing that SPC does well.

Recognizing that there have been injustices in our church in the past is important. I also appreciate our focus on Trying to address social justice issues in current times and being our in the community. I also think we do strive to be an inclusive community and have become a much more welcoming church than I felt in my initial experience.

5. I don't have the answer to this, but one thing perhaps we could do better, is outreach to new families moving in to the community. With so much population growth going on in the area, are doing anything to introduce ourselves and invite new members?

6. I've already mentioned my love for music. I'm also a fan of traveling and thanks to traveling friends from SPC, I've been places I never expected to visit. I'm also a big fan of the women's basketball team at Shepherd

University. I love books and knitting and doing jigsaw puzzles.

DIANE KRADEL

1. 1996 by a member at that time David Sanders who was a friend of ours.
2. I need the emotional conviction with God his people that I find at SPC. Music in all its forms gives me a spiritual lift and deep satisfaction, which stems from my participation. Living through faith as a Deacon, has helped me share my faith in my life with other members.
3. Outreach is exemplary! We give financially to Missions throughout the world as well as worthy causes closer to home.
4. I believe we could do a better job taking care of our own particularly the older population. When folks are sick or homebound, it would be wonderful to have a visitation team to visit and help them.
5. We need an in-depth Bible study group if we are to call ourselves a Christian community.

***SUSAN LOVELL**

1. My husband, Randall, and I started attending SPC in the summer of 2019 after deciding we could no longer support the United Methodist Church because of policies related to the LGBTQIA community. As parents of four children, including a gay son, SPC being part of “More Light Presbyterians” was appealing to us. We realized SPC’s sign, “We Choose Welcome” is not just a decoration but the genuine representation of the attitude we felt right away.
2. Prior to joining SPC, my husband and I were life-long Methodists, and our most recent previous church was Otterbein United Methodist Church in Martinsburg.
3. I have always appreciated being part of a church family to give and get support from others in my faith journey and to share life experiences with people that have similar values. It is also important for me to have the opportunity to regularly recharge my

relationship with the Lord through worship.

4. One of the things SPC does well is addressing tough issues with an open opportunity to discuss opinions in a safe space. The discussions may sometimes challenge our comfort zones but help us to more clearly identify our understandings and sometimes make us aware of alternate viewpoints. I also appreciate the worship services being online. This helps us stay connected even when traveling.
5. Because I’ve been so pleased with my SPC experience, it is more difficult to identify things that SPC could do better. As I’ve been a part of leadership, I’ve learned that improvement suggestions are usually assigned and accomplished. An example of this is a suggestion to welcome visitors more intentionally. The visitor’s gift bags that are used now are one example of a response to this suggestion.
6. My husband and I travel a lot to Oklahoma to maintain family relationships there. So, we especially enjoy staying connected through on-line worship. Another thing to share with our church family is that Randall has Early Onset Alzheimer’s.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

***FRANCES MARSHALL**

TRUSTEE

***SUELLEN MYERS (see above)**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Session Representative Keri Mahoney, Chair
Session Representative Wanda Stewart
Deacon Representative Jen Jones
At-Large Member Frances Marshall
At-Large Member Rie Wilson
At-Large Member Leslie Williams