

2025 SPC ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 9:45 a.m.

Report of the Nominating Committee

RULING ELDER NOMINEES

Class of 2029

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

Coddington,

**Keri Mahoney, Julie Slonaker*

DEACON NOMINEES

Class of 2027

(one-year term):

**Mica Martin*

Class of 2029

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

*Carol Arnold, *Donna Dettling,*

**Diana Eldridge, Keith Loudermill,*

*Connie Ross, *Lynne Wiseman*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

NOMINEE

Class of 2029

(three year term, non-renewable):

Rie Wilson

TRUSTEE NOMINEE

Class of 2029

(three year term, non-renewable)

Jim Crawford

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:

LYNN CODDINGTON

1. I first attended SPC with my parents and partner Pat Hamilton for a Christmas Eve service in 2003, and then started attending regularly in 2013. My desire was to connect with a wider community, and to reconnect with a spiritual past. My first impressions included feeling genuinely welcomed from SPC members I already knew and others I did not; the quality of the choir and music generally, and the invitation to be in true communion with God while learning to be in true community with others.

2. I grew up in and became a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Michigan and then after moving to New York years later for work, I joined Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church.
3. In addition to being in community with others, SPC also offers me a place through which to act on behalf of those on the margins.
4. What SPC does well is to strive to be inclusive and provide care for those struggling both in and outside the church, as well as continuously working to create channels of communication throughout the church and outside the church walls.
5. SPC should never stop examining what We Choose Welcome and Radical Hospitality means to us as a congregation and the world we now live in.
6. Pat and I enjoy traveling internationally and exploring the history and food of the countries we visit.
3. I believe that we are all yearning for a sense of connection and a church is a place where this can and hopefully will occur. I want to be a part of something bigger than me—a place to feel peace, hope, love and light. A place to give back to my community and to grow spiritually.
4. Always striving to promote love, acceptance and kindness throughout the community and world.
5. As we work through “coming back together” in person, maybe make sure that new faces in the crowd are welcomed, someone says hello/greets them, even for a brief moment. It’s tough to walk into a space when you are new and may not know anyone there. If someone comes to you, just to even say hello, it makes you feel welcomed.
6. I’ve devoted myself to the children of our community as an educator for 25 years. I come to this church, standing on the shoulders of the amazing women before me—my grandmother, who was a deacon in the Presbyterian church, my great Aunt, the wife of a Presbyterian minister and my great-grandmother, my mom and aunt who have assisted me along the way on my spiritual journey. Their faith and wisdom have inspired and taught me throughout my lifetime and I am grateful to each of them.

***KERI MAHONEY**

1. I first attended SPC after attending a wedding officiated by Randy Tremba in the 90’s. I then “re-discovered” SPC through the pandemic and began “attending” online about 2 years ago. As I listened and learned through the sermons and services, I discovered a like-minded group of people who shared my beliefs about acceptance, kindness to the earth and one another and a loving space to further my spiritual growth. I feel as though I was always meant to be at SPC; it just may have been more of a meandering journey. ;)
2. I attended Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida as a child and then Charles Town Presbyterian Church as a teen/young adult.

JULE SLONAKER

1. Summer of 2013. Invited by Dena Hill
2. Welcoming and inclusive
3. Pikeside Methodist
4. Community and serving others.
5. Music, involvement of children in the service, adult education, meaningful service. More activities for the youth.
6. Not really.

DEACON NOMINEES:

CAROL ARNOLD

1. I first attended SPC approximately 2 years ago. I was searching for a Church I felt comfortable in. I found the Church to be warm and friendly.
2. Previously a member of a United Methodist Church.
3. I look to the Church for spiritual growth, support and friendship.
4. Inclusiveness and makes everyone feel welcome.
5. Perhaps a bible study class.
6. I'm a mother of two sons and a grandmother to three girls, ages 3 to 7. I moved to Shepherdstown three years ago to be close to my son in Sterling, VA. My other son lives in MT. I have a dog, Harper, who is my constant companion.

***DONNA DETTLING**

1. Brian and I came to our first service on Christmas Eve of 2019 when we had just moved to Shepherdstown. I am a lifelong Presbyterian, so naturally gravitated to SPC. We were impressed by the warmth and welcome we felt, and how Pastor Gusti came around before the service to greet us. The sense of past spirits moving through the sanctuary took my breath away.
2. I was a 30-year member at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Olney, MD, where Brian and I were married. Before that my family belonged to Warner Memorial Presbyterian in Kensington, MD, and other Presbyterian churches in the various towns where we lived.

3. I value being connected to a family of faith, and sharing a deep love of God and the fellowship of like-minded people. I enjoy supporting the church using my particular gifts, and in turn, receiving the support of the church in times of need.
4. SPC strives to live out its core commitments in all aspects of church life, and makes clear efforts to demonstrate this to the congregation and community.
5. I feel like SPC is embracing this moment in its history to move forward with a stronger framework and increased vitality, and I'm happy to be part of the leadership during this exciting time.
6. Brian and I just celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary, have recently retired, and have called Shepherdstown home for almost six years. We are extremely grateful for our beautiful house, this wonderful church, and the unique community. We share four children and their partners, three cats, and seven grandchildren.

***DIANA ELDRIDGE**

KEITH LOUDERMILL

1. I first attended in Jan of 2025. I was a foster parent and I was looking for an inclusive and welcoming space for my kids. And a place that provided peace and community. I loved the warmth of the parishioners!!!!
2. St Mark UMC, Mt Ennon Baptist
3. Church has been a central part of my life since I was a child. And after attending I grew even closer to that connection and the possibility of liberation thru the gospels and our ability as Christians to

show up as love in our communities.

4. SPC does warmness well and inclusion!!!
5. I think we do an excellent job of nurturing our own, I think there is room to extend that grace and compassion to those outside the doors.
6. I was recently married at SPC to my husband Tim!!! He is a local teacher that has passion that I love to see walk out the door every morning !!!

***MICA MARTIN**

CONNIE ROSS

1. We moved here in August of 2024 and I had been watching services from different churches in the area before we even moved. I kept coming back to SPC mainly because of Pastor Gusti. I first attended in probably February of 2025 and found a very welcoming congregation.
2. Grew up in a Freewill Baptist church in Naoma, WV. Attended Breckenridge Missionary Baptist church Bolt, WV 1982-1993. Attended First Christian Church Disciples of Christ Beckley, WV 1993-2024 where I was very active with the ladies group and a Deacon
3. We are called to gather to worship God, for spiritual growth and to build a church community.
4. All are welcome! I love the Sundays Seminars
5. I feel members are actively working on the issues that need to be improved: new web page, work days for landscaping, recruiting new members on committees.
6. We moved here from Beckley, WV after we retired to be near our daughter and my sister, Jolene who

is now very active in SPC. I am a retired Microbiologist and headed the department at our local hospital for 24 years which included COVID mess and then I retired! I volunteer at the food pantry Shepherd Shares and have taken on the organizer role for the Community Meal in Charles Town. I really enjoy SPC and Shepherdstown. I think I've gotten pretty settled in!

***LYNNE WISEMAN**

1. Years ago. Liked Randy but only came on Holy holidays.
2. No previous Churches.
3. I need God in my life and SPC is like a family and feels like home.
4. Welcoming
5. No
6. When I heard Pastor Gusti was coming from Troy, NY I took it as a sign that I was to join SPC as I was born in Troy, NY (only lived there for 6 months but it was my dad's hometown.) My great grandfather was a Methodist minister in charge of the Troy Conference and he baptized me.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

***RIE WILSON**

TRUSTEE

***JIM CRAWFORD**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Session Representative Suellen Myers, Chair
Session Representative Carol Youngblood
Deacon Representative Jen Jones
At-Large Member Frances Marshall
At-Large Member Rie Wilson
At-Large Member Leslie Williams