

# 2024 Officer Candidates

## Nominees for Deacon

### **Bryan Bass-Riley**

Bryan Bass-Riley has been a member of FCPC since 2020. He grew up Southern Baptist in Kentucky and has been a Presbyterian since 2001. Bryan is a licensed professional counselor and works with Allegheny County overseeing substance use disorder treatment programs funded by Medicaid. He also sees counseling clients and teaches Clinical Pastoral Education at Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. Bryan is married to Pastor Lori Bass-Riley and has one daughter who recently graduated from Pitt and another who is a sophomore at Penn State. Bryan previously served as a deacon at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Monroeville and is humbled to be asked to serve at FCPC.

### **Don Boyd**

Don Boyd, his wife Ann, and their family are long time members of FCPC. Their focus has always been on mission. They have experienced Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, and most recently, Kentucky as members of FCPC teams. Don sings in the choir and works with our hunger ministry at the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Sharpsburg. He has served on Session several times and taught Sunday School for many years. He loves gardening, travel, reading, and spending time with family. He is looking forward to being a deacon.

### **Brenner Brown**

Brenner Brown grew up in Crafton, southwest of Pittsburgh. After college in Indiana, she worked as a writer-editor at the U.S. Department of Justice and several social justice nonprofits in Washington, D.C. and New York City, where she and her husband, Chris Chamberlain, started their family. They moved to Fox Chapel in 2009. Last year, Brenner became an assistant preschool teacher at Shadyside Presbyterian Church Nursery School. She knows that God has called her to this work.

Brenner, Chris, and their three children have been members of Episcopal and Anglican churches for 18 years. They began attending FCPC in 2022 when they were seeking an inclusive faith community and became members last April. They are so grateful to have found the wide-open hearts and arms of this congregation. Brenner has decided to serve FCPC because she and her family felt immediately at home here. She wants to be a part of building the congregation by extending that same warm welcome to others who are seeking to learn more about Jesus in a loving, accepting Christian community.

### **Toby Eberhart**

Toby Eberhart lives in Fox Chapel with his wife Megan, son Will, and daughter Violet. They have been members of FCPC since 2016, after moving to the area and looking for a church where they could grow in their faith and raise their children - both of whom were baptized here. Toby currently works at KPMG as an IT management consultant; sits on an executive committee for the United Way; leads a volunteer relationship with a local elementary school; and is an avid Pittsburgh sports fan.

After having served on the Membership Committee for the last three years, Toby was excited to be approached to serve as a deacon; and with some thoughtful guidance from Pastor Rebecca (along with some prayerful deliberation), he agreed that this is a great next step in his faith journey. As our congregation moves forward, Toby is excited to be a part of the growth that will define the next chapter of our church's story. He will strive to set a positive example for his children and for all members of our amazing FCPC community.

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### **Brenda Karas**

“My name is Brenda Karas. I live with my husband, known by all the FCPC Preschool children as ‘Mr. Chet,’ in Fox Chapel. Together we have 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren, ages 2 and under. We are loving all the babies and spend as much time with them as we can. I am a registered nurse and after 27 years at the bedside, I am retiring soon to be a full-time Nana.

I have been a member of this church since 2013. From the very first time I visited FCPC, I felt very welcomed and loved here. This is my 3rd opportunity to serve the congregation as a deacon. I look forward to being the hands and feet of Christ as we carry out the important ministries of this church and show God’s love to our community.”

### **Fay Powell**

“I am a retired RN who has been a member of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church since 1975. My husband has been a member of FCPC since 1956, and our adult children were raised in this church. I have served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and am currently on the Harvest Fair leadership team. I am grateful to serve as a deacon. I hope to promote unity between the different worship services to move forward together as a compassionate body of Christ.”

### **Kim Power**

“My husband, John, and I have lived in the Fox Chapel area for over 30 years. With the help of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, we raised 3 children who are now adults. I have previously served as a deacon and an elder. When asked this year to serve as a deacon, I agreed because I have spent the last few years recovering from treatment for ovarian cancer. I am grateful for the prayers and support of our church community and I am ready to respond in kind.”

### **Katie Walker**

“My name is Kathryn "Katie" Walker, I currently reside in O'Hara Township and work as a nanny/entrepreneur. I was lucky enough to grow up at FCPC, involved in Sunday School, Youth Group, Mission Trips, Harvest Fair and Confirmation. I am excited for the opportunity to serve as a Deacon and give back to the church. My goal for FCPC and its congregation is to get younger adults more involved in fellowship and service.”

## Nominees for Ruling Elder

### **Cindy Frohlich**

“I grew up just down the street from FCPC. My best friend was a member here and I came with her to youth group and the Harvest Fair. You could say that organized religion wasn’t something that I grew up with but observed from a distance, so my beliefs have grown organically through life. I have, however, always had a sense of the Holy Spirit in my life, I just didn’t know what to call it when I was young. In all honesty, the Harvest Fair lured me into attending and volunteering for all kinds of things at FCPC, including serving on the Preschool Committee; participating in the Harvest Fair in many capacities; managing the Harvest Garden; serving as a deacon during the pandemic; and serving as a Stephen Minister, among other things.

My husband, Bill, and I were married here 33 years ago. We currently own our own business, where I help him with accounting and other areas, and I am also a partner with my brothers in retail development in the city. My passions, however, are gardening, organizing events, and feeding people! My 3 children, Erin (Grove City College, Miami of Ohio graduate studies), Billy (John Carroll Univ, graduate) and Ryan (current 11th grader at Shady Side Academy), attended

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preschool here at various times. They were all baptized and confirmed at FCPC and have participated in ministry at the church.

As for how I came to the decision to serve as an elder, it wasn't easy. I had been asked before and said no because I had young children and some health issues. The children have grown and my health is still an issue but I kept feeling the tapping on my shoulder that I have learned to listen to. It is my belief that you can't help or change anything if you stay on the sideline. I am a listener. I like to gather all the information before I make a decision or cause an action. But more importantly, I filter it through God's Word. I ask for discernment and guidance to help make simple decisions and tough decisions. With prayers and the support of my family, I accepted the nomination to serve."

### **Howard Havlicsek**

"I am pleased to serve as an elder at this time. I believe that FCPC is in the process of change and growth based on the vision of our pastors. I am excited to be a part of the outreach to our membership and our community."

### **Harrison Lauer**

"I am pleased to be invited to serve as an elder of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. I have been attending FCPC since my parents moved to Pittsburgh back in the mid-1960s. Baptized Presbyterian in Sharon, PA, I joined FCPC as a middle schooler after attending Communicants' class. I enjoyed some of the FCPC camps during my younger years and while attending Fox Chapel High School, and loved getting together Wednesday evenings for religious/social gatherings at FCPC—I think it was called "Young Life". I attended Harvard College and then the University of Pittsburgh Law School and practiced law for several decades. I retired 2 years ago. I have served as an elder twice in the past—roughly 20 years ago, and seven or so years ago. I have been an active member of the Finance Committee for many years and chaired the committee on a number of occasions.

My wife, Karen, and I have three children, Jeanne, Nick, and Adam, all in their early 20s. Jeanne and Nick have finished college and work in New York (Nick, beginning January), and Adam is a junior at Davidson College. All have enjoyed attending FCPC (and ushering not long after they were able to walk). Karen is a recently retired ophthalmologist, and we enjoy our religious experiences together.

I am thrilled to join church management again during these exciting years. It is wonderful to have Roger and Ginger captaining our ship! While these are challenging times in the world, they present great opportunities for us to serve our church community. We have a great future, and I am happy to help make it happen as I am able to contribute."

### **Ralph Miller (Clerk of Session)**

"My name is Ralph Miller. My wife Mary and I have been members of FCPC since 1991. We have two daughters—Lindsay and her husband Kody live in Montana, and Mara and her husband Drew in Philadelphia. We visit our two granddaughters, ages 1 and 4, in Philadelphia as often as we can!

I have worked as a physician in Pittsburgh since 1990. Mary works for the School for Blind Children in nutrition, and also does a wide range of food related consulting including recently for the PA Department of Tourism and with Chatham University.

We first came to FCPC after the pastor who married us suggested FCPC when he knew that we would be moving to the area. Mary was previously a member of Highlands Methodist Church in the Elizabeth area, and I was previously a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Indiana, PA.

I have previously served as an elder and on both the Mission Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee. I am very much looking forward to serving again as an elder and as Clerk of Session. I am hoping to be able to learn from this experience and to contribute in a meaningful way to the life of our church!"

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### Jay Thier

“We joined FCPC in the mid-nineties primarily for the youth group. We wanted our children to have a solid, faith-based set of ethics. I was raised Catholic (and my wife Lutheran), but we quickly made FCPC our church home. I have served as both an elder and deacon, and on the A&P Committee, Mission Committee, and Stewardship Committee. My hope is to keep/make our church community a go-to institution that fulfills people’s human need for acceptance, belonging, and spirituality.”

### David Tupponce

“I was raised in New England as the 3rd of 4 boys. My mother devoted her life to making sure that we all survived childhood while somehow also maintaining her sanity - no easy task! My father worked his entire career as a gauge maker for Pratt & Whitney. While I practiced as a family physician for several years, for the past 14 years I have served in various healthcare administration roles. Currently, I oversee operations of the medical practices of Allegheny Health Network.

I was raised in the Baptist church and accepted Christ as my savior at a young age. I met my wife Jaye (a Pittsburgh area native) while attending college in Washington, D.C. and we married in 1993. We began attending a Presbyterian church in Virginia, and when we came to Pittsburgh in 1999, we joined FCPC - for the first time. After living several places across the country, we returned to Pittsburgh in 2017 and rejoined FCPC.

Despite living in Pittsburgh for the past 6 years, I had jobs that required me to be out of town during the work week and prevented me from participating fully in FCPC. 6 months ago, I was blessed to finally have a job that allowed me to be at home throughout the week. At the same time, I also felt called to more fully contribute my time and talent to the good of this church. My ability to build and organize teams, understand business operations and finance, and plan for the future can be used by God to help guide FCPC to better serve our congregation and those who don’t yet know His grace, love, and forgiveness.”

## Nominees for Nominating Committee

### Marijo Crowe

“I have been a member at FCPC since 1987, when the first Peace and Justice group formed. I raised my three sons in the church and have served as a deacon, an elder, and on the Nominating, Fellowship, and Mission Committees throughout the years.”

### Cristie Good

My name is Cristie Good. We moved to Pittsburgh in 2011 and have been members of FCPC since 2017. Lance and I have been married 25 years and have 3 children. I enjoy reading, spending time in nature, and working out. I’m a small group leader with Community Bible Study and volunteer weekly at Second Harvest.

Over the years I have worn multiple hats at FCPC, serving in various capacities with each role growing and maturing me in my faith. I have served as an at-large member on the Christian Nurture Committee, a member of the student ministries team, and a high school small group leader. I am currently an elder on the Administration and Personnel Committee and I will soon conclude my term as Clerk of Session. I am excited to serve on the Nominating Committee because I believe in the importance of selecting leaders and volunteers who will guide and support the mission of our church.