

Officer Nominees for 2024–2025

Nominees for Session

Nicholette Andrews became a member in 1997. She was baptized, confirmed, and married at Fourth Church. Nicholette has served two terms on the Deacon Board, most recently rolling off in 2024. She has also served on the Nominating Committee, sung in the choir, taught Confirmation for ten years, and sat on the Pastor Nominating Committee for Shannon Kershner. Nicholette has been teaching Sunday School and has been a Senior High Leader for the last nine years. She sits on the Children and Family Ministry Committee and has been committed to the children, family, and youth programs since returning from college. Nicholette is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab and is currently raising her seven- and eleven-year-old daughters in the church with her husband, Jim. Fourth Church is a second home.

Kay Brungs Laud became a member in 2015. Kay grew up in the Presbyterian church, having gone to preschool, Sunday School, and Confirmation at Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Kay has served as an usher, a five-year Deacon, a Chicago Lights tutor, a member of Discover Fourth, and a member of the World Mission and Social Justice Committee. Kay was also fortunate to join Fourth Church's 2017 mission trip to Havana, Cuba, and will ever be grateful for the fellowship of Fourth Church's sister church there. Outside of the Fourth Church community, Kay enjoys travel, hikes in nature, trying new restaurants, reading, and Peloton. She is also the proud mom to two rescue dogs, Heidi and Albert.

Teddy Chong (*Youth*) became a member in 2021. Fourth Church is a special place for his family. Teddy was baptized here and returned to this church after he moved back to Chicago in 2018. As a member of Fourth Church, he is inspired by the positive impact that we as a congregation can make on the larger community. As a disciple of Christ, his faith reminds him to use his talents to help others. He is a junior at St. Ignatius College Prep, and he lives in Lincoln Park with his parents, Suzanne and Sam, and his two younger siblings, Lucy and Raoul.

Karin Gambell became a member in 2015. Karin grew up in the Lutheran church and upon moving to Chicago joined Fourth Church. Along with her husband, Tony, and their three children, Karin is involved in the children and family programs that Fourth Church has to offer. She is a violinist and performs in and around the Chicago area. Karin and her family reside downtown, just a few blocks from Fourth Church.

Kerry Grady became a member in 2001. He has served on Session, Board of Trustees, Small Group Ministry, Arts Council, Chicago Lights, and as a Confirmation Leader. As a commissioner, he represented Fourth Church at the Chicago Presbytery. Kerry has participated in Fourth Church-led mission trips to Honduras, Guatemala, Africa, Cuba, Greece, and Northern Ireland. He met some of his closest friends and his beloved wife, Kim, at Fourth Church, where they were married and where their daughter, Mia, was baptized. In his free time, Kerry runs a branding company called Grady Campbell and enjoys a wide range of interests. He is inspired to help take on the challenges that we face as a church at the crossroads.

Cynthia Joho became a member in 1994. She is a former Chicago Lights tutor, served as a Deacon, and co-chaired the Gala of Hope for two years. She served on the Chicago Lights Board for six years and is currently a member of the Racial Equity Council. Cynthia attended the youth choir mission trip to Cuba with her daughter Helena, who was raised at Fourth Church, as well as the Civil Rights Movement Trip in 2019. Cynthia is grateful for the many friends she and her daughter have made through the years at Fourth Church and for her personal development as a Christian and as an advocate for racial and social justice.

Carl Lingenfelter became a member in 2002. He and his wife, Stacia, have four teenagers who were baptized here and grew up in Fourth Church Sunday School and choirs. Our youth ministry and music programs are critical areas of focus. Carl served previously on the Session and its Personnel Committee. Carl and his family live in Oak Park, and he works in financial services technology.

Theresa Mintle became a member in 2021. A retired public servant, after thirty-five years in government and nonprofit civic leadership she now devotes her time to volunteering, nonprofit board service, and pro-bono clients, where she serves in various volunteer leadership positions. She also serves on the UW Robert M. La Follette School Board of Visitors, is on the Board of Chicago Lights, and holds memberships in the Economic Club of Chicago and the Chicago Network. Theresa lives in Chicago with her husband, Michael.

Justin Myers became a member in 2016. He has served as a Sunday School teacher and is completing terms as both a Deacon and a member of the Racial Equity Council. He is driven by the church's mission to be a light in the city by serving in ways that create welcoming spaces, foster meaningful communities, and let others know they are valued and loved within God's Beloved Community. Justin lives in Lincoln Park and enjoys hiking and cooking in his down time.

Mark Nelson became a member in 1991. He is currently Treasurer and a member of the Chicago Lights Board. He has previously served on Session, as President of the Board of Trustees, on the Mission and Nominating Committees, multiple associate pastor nominating committees, as a Senior High Leader, and an interim role on staff. His most meaningful experience was serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Shannon Kershner, followed closely by his participation on multiple adult and youth mission trips. He is married to Ruth Gallagher Nelson, whose Catholic faith has helped Mark develop a stronger sense of ecumenism. The couple lives in the West Loop. Mark is a die-hard baseball fan (Cubs and Guardians).

Kaylyn Patterson became a member in 2011 on a cold January Sunday so long ago the Bears won their playoff game that day. She has spent the past three years on the Fourth Church Board of Deacons and especially likes getting to know other members. During the week, Kaylyn works as Senior Environmental Microbiologist at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. In her free time, Kaylyn adores making memories with her three young children — Ellie, Everett, and Edmund, and her husband, Bill.

Andréa Schwartz became a member in 2013. After a distinguished twenty-five-year career at Macy's, Inc., Andréa now dedicates her time to civic and philanthropic pursuits in Chicago, including serving as a member of Shirley Ryan Ability Lab's Keystone Board, the Chicago Fashion Incubator's Executive Board, and president of her condo association. She also actively supports the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, PAWS Chicago, Grant Park Music Festival, and Gold Coast Neighbors Association. Andréa is a graduate of St. Norbert College. Andréa and her husband, Dr. Steve Stryker, a retired surgical oncologist and emeritus professor at Northwestern University, live in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood.

Vera Tax (*Youth*) became a member in 2021.

Barton Tretheway became a member in 1978. From baptism, he grew up in the Presbyterian church in Sacramento, California. The good Samaritan story resonated with him on day one and continues to guide his actions. He has served as the Deacon's Moderator, a Trustee, and a member of the Chicago Lights Board, Officer Nominating Committee, and numerous ad hoc committees. In 1978 he was asked to show up in a morning suit one Sunday and has been ushering ever since. Ushering is a very gratifying experience, welcoming people to worship each Sunday. He and his wife, Jennifer, were married in Blair Chapel in 1991. They spend their time equally between Chicago (Lakeview), Lake Tahoe, and Tucson. Their son, Bowen, lives in San Francisco, and their daughter, Kelly, lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with her family.

Nominees for Board of Deacons

Barbara Charlson was raised in the Presbyterian church, becoming a member of Fourth Church in 2022. Barbara is a volunteer with Sunday Night Supper and a member of the Center for Life and Learning and enjoys that very much. She and her late husband, Stuart, were married in Stone Chapel sixty years ago by Pastor Paul S. Allen. Barbara is retired and her hobbies include learning languages, reading, writing, and traveling.

Jim Garner became a member in 1989 and married his wife, Lies, in the first Blair Chapel two years later. Since then he has been a member of the Deacons, Session, Nominating Committee, Children and Family Ministry Committee, Sunday School, and the Adult Education Committee. He was Chair of Adult Ed for two years as everyone navigated COVID and instituted many remote study and fellowship opportunities during that time. He is a writer by profession, penning satires, novels, plays, comic books, and baseball doggerel, among who knows what else. The ministry he enjoys the most is the Meals Ministry but feels his special calling is making ministers laugh in meetings. He and Lies live in the North Center neighborhood.

Patricia Kendall became a member in 1993. Of the various activities she's participated in over the years, she has found greatest joy and meaning in teaching four-year-old Sunday School, interfaith engagements, and volunteering with Chicago Lights Food Pantry/Share Shop. She enjoys traveling, walking Chicago neighborhoods while listening to audiobooks, and an occasional yoga class.

Joan Leech has been a resident of Chicago for twenty-six years and a part of Fourth Church for ten years. Prior to joining, Joan was a member of Old St. Mary's Catholic Church in the South Loop. She lives in Old Town with her husband, Bruce, and her thirteen-year-old daughter, Fiona; she also has three grown (step) children, Bryant, Todd, and Adrienne. She currently works for Blue Cross Blue Shield as the Senior Director of Benefit Document Administration. She is particularly passionate about working with participants in the many outreach programs, serving and packaging meals or helping in the food pantry.

Andrew McMillan (*Youth*) became a member in 2021. All sixteen years of his life he has been an active part of the Fourth Church community. He is a Presbyterian who was confirmed in his eighth-grade year. His favorite ministry would be the community ministry. He loves serving those in and outside his community. Whether it be through Sunday Night Suppers or volunteering at a soup kitchen, Andrew loves doing anything to help his community. It truly makes him happy seeing the impact volunteering has on our community. His whole family are members of Fourth Church, and they all live in Bucktown. Andrew is a junior at DePaul College Prep.

Susan Meade became a member in 2007.

Kevin Reome became a member in 2021, but he has been attending Fourth Church and has been active in the Tutoring program, fundraising, and volunteering with the food pantry and the Mission Benefit/Gala since 1999. Kevin has two daughters, who were baptized and confirmed in the church and were active in youth group and Children's Choir. Now one is a theology major, and the other is a chorale education major. Connecting with other members and families through the years with Family Camp, the Mission Benefit, and Coffee Hour have been some of the most fulfilling parts of Kevin's life. As a second year Fourth Church Senior High leader who also chaperoned trips to Memphis and to Paris, France, Kevin has found

this current activity gives back to him more than he ever anticipated; it is the best part of his week. Primarily Kevin has been a stay-at-home dad all while teaching and performing improv at the Second City Training Center over the past nineteen years. His hobbies include writing, cooking, teaching, improvising, platform tennis, travel, art, and fitness classes.

Barbara Psimoulis became a member in 2018 after she and her husband, Sam, retired and moved to the South Loop. As a former member of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights, she served as a Deacon and was actively involved with their homeless ministry and youth programs. Currently she assists with the lunch ministry and coat drives at Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Barbara volunteers as a Chicago Greeter where visitors sign up to “see Chicago with a local.” Barbara and Sam enjoyed the Music Mission Trip to Cuba in early 2020. She is looking forward to becoming more active in our congregation’s outreach ministries and participating in our in-person classes and programs.

Judy Schwartz became a member in 2018. She has been happily married to Dennis Schwartz for fifty-seven years and resides in Plymouth, Wisconsin, where they founded Schwartz Photography. Judith oversaw the business while Dennis, a Master Craftsman photographer, did the photography. She and Dennis raised two amazing daughters, Andréa and Laura, who married their wonderful spouses at Fourth Church — Andréa to Dr. Steve Stryker, and Laura to Susan Santiago. Prior to the photography business, Judith was an RN at Sheboygan Memorial Hospital. She and Dennis frequent Chicago between their travels and enjoy being part of the community.

Harrison Stracks (*Youth*) became a member in 2013. In his time at Fourth Church he has participated in Sunday School and youth groups, gone through Confirmation, and been on mission trips to Detroit and Paris. He sings in the Youth Choir and frequently serves at Sunday Night Supper. Harrison is the son of John and Lisa Stracks and the brother of Anneke Stracks. He is currently a junior at Evanston Township High School.

John Stracks became a member in 2013. John previously served on Session and was the Chair of the Children and Family Ministry Committee. He has taught Sunday School, run a discussion group for parents, participated as a group facilitator in Adult Education, and volunteers regularly at Sunday Night Supper, both as a server and as a medical professional. John currently lives in Evanston with his wife, Lisa, and his children, Anneke and Harrison, all of whom have also served as Deacons and Elders. Lisa and John run a medical practice in Chicago together focused on integrative and holistic healing.

Janet Tobin became a member in 2022. Janet lives with her husband, Richard, in Streeterville. They have two grown children and seven grandchildren. She attended services at Fourth Church and tutored at Chicago Lights for several years before making the decision to become a member in 2022. Since then she has enthusiastically participated in volunteer activities—processing donations for the Share Shop, cooking for Sunday Night Suppers, and now assisting at the Medical Services at Sunday Night Supper. She also joined the Benevolent Guild and the Coffee Hour Hospitality Committee. Janet describes her time at Fourth Church as a reawakening of her spirituality. She is grateful to have the opportunity to be surrounded by so many wonderful people and feels that she has finally found a church home.

Darcy Traynor became a member in 2023. Darcy enjoys the Meals Ministry program and is a regular volunteer helping with various aspects of it. Other hobbies include walking, pickleball, Pilates, golf, and travel. Darcy and her husband, Carl, live in the Gold Coast with their dog, Holly. Their oldest son, Jack, lives and works in New York City; their youngest son, Andrew, is a PhD candidate in Ottawa, Canada.

Charlotte Wager became a member in 1996. She was baptized and married at Fourth Church, and the church soon became an important part of Charlotte's life. As an immigrant from England, Charlotte's early involvement was primarily through the children, youth, and family programs. She has raised four children (now adults) who all regularly attended Sunday School and choir and went through the Confirmation and Senior High programs. During this period, Charlotte volunteered regularly with the Cherub and Children's Choir and other family programs. Charlotte continues to work closely with children at Fourth Church—for the past five years, she has been a Sunday School teacher.

Lee Zacharias became a member in 2022. Her father was a Presbyterian minister for more than fifty years, serving churches in New Mexico and Texas. Lee's faith was strongly influenced by that of her father's faith and the way he lived that faith. Lee joined Fourth Church because of its strong commitment to community outreach, social justice, and its care for those both within its walls and out. Lee spent her career in health care, both in the clinical and policy arenas, and has a master's in social work. She is also a trained facilitator and focus group moderator.

Nominees for **Board of Trustees**

Joy Anderson became a member in 2006. She has served as a Deacon, Elder, Stephen Minister, and member of the Nominating, Adult Education, and Michigan Avenue Forum Committees. A longtime volunteer with Meals Ministry, she is happy to be part of Fourth Church's commitment to feeding those who are hungry. Now retired, Joy spent her career in the health care/biotech industry in a variety of research, business development, and marketing roles.

Steve Block became a member in 2013. Steve currently serves on the Property Committee. Previously he was an Elder, Chair of the Discipleship and Small Group Council, and has led several small groups. Professionally, Steve is a chemical engineer and consults in the field of biochemicals and sustainable materials. He lives in Lincoln Park with his wife, Cindy, and enjoys cooking, reading, traveling, and playing tennis.

Don Brettmann became a member in 2012. Has been an usher at the 11:00 a.m. service since 2012. Don led an IT consulting firm for more than thirty years. He served on the Board of Directors for two nonprofit organizations. Don volunteered at the Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and March of Dimes Foundation. He enjoys sailing, skiing, biking, traveling, exercise, and cooking.

Armon Haagen became a member in 1985. He is enthusiastic about the mission ministries of Fourth Church. He has served in numerous ways: Deacon, Elder, Trustee, Chair of Joint Finance, Pastor Nominating Committee, usher, and Communion server in worship services. Armon is a retired sales and marketing hospitality executive. He is married to Beth Truett, and they have two adult children and five grandchildren. Armon and Beth reside in Oak Park.

Elizabeth Hurley became a member in 1987 and previously served on the Board of Trustees. While living in New York City from 2013 to 2018, Elizabeth was a member of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, where she was also a Trustee. Elizabeth and her husband, Mark, rejoined Fourth Church in 2018 and are ushers at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday morning. They both feel called to the ministry of hospitality.

Alison Thomas became a member in 1999. Alison is deeply committed to actively engaging in the community of the church and living out our mission to be a light in the city, particularly as we serve our neighbors in need. She has worked on all parts of Fourth Church's feeding programs, from supervising suppers to coordinating bakers and sandwich-makers to chairing the Meals Ministry Steering Team.

Alison has also been a Deacon, Elder, and Chicago Lights Board Member and has served on the Adult Education, Mission, and Nominating Committees. Retired from a career in advertising and strategic planning, Alison lives with her husband, Larry, within walking distance of Fourth Church.

Nicholas (Nick) VanDerSchie became a member in 2010. He is global head of strategy and execution for Morningstar's Wealth group, responsible for strategic planning and organizationwide execution agility. Nick married his wife, Stephanie, at Fourth Church in 2006, and they now live in River Forest with their three children, Henry (13), Edda (11), and Willem (10), all of whom were baptized at Fourth Church. Nick served as a Chicago Lights Board Member from 2017 to 2023, including stints as treasurer and president.

Nominees for 2024–2025 Nominating Committee

Justin Epps became a member in 2002. Justin previously served as a volunteer liturgist during church services and serves as a Daily Devotions author. Justin is currently Vice President of the Board of Directors of Chicago Lights and Co-Chair of the Chicago Lights Resource and Development Committee, which supports board member efforts in raising funds for the nonprofit. Justin is Managing Director and Head of Hotel Asset Management for Barings, LLC., a Charlotte-based firm that owns and invests in commercial real estate on behalf of institutional clients. Justin, his wife, Michelle, and their daughter, Jordan, reside in the East Village neighborhood of Chicago.

Anthony Hipp joined Fourth Presbyterian in 2016. He participated in sandwich making and was elected as Deacon in 2018. After being Moderator of Deacons, he was elected to the Session in 2021. A lifelong Presbyterian, Anthony was ordained as an Elder at Starmount Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC and served two terms on Session.

Christiane Knapp-Andrews became a member in 1984. Christiane has been an active member teaching Sunday School for many years, been part of many committees, served on Session twice, and has also been a Deacon. Christiane is most passionate about, and grateful for, being a Sunday Night Supper supervisor, preparing delicious meals for our guests, as well as serving Communion. Christiane is from Germany and grew up Lutheran. She has three daughters, all of whom have since birth been a part of Fourth Church, where they were baptized and confirmed.

Carrie Stern has been a member of Fourth Church since 2012. She has been an eighth-grade Confirmation group leader and a Senior High youth group leader, attending the Justice Journey in 2015. She ran the Chicago Marathon in 2017 and 2019 with the Chicago Lights Charity Team. Carrie has been a Deacon, serving on the Executive Committee in 2023. Outside of church, Carrie is a Chicago Public Schools fifth-grade teacher. She lives in the Uptown neighborhood with her husband, Ben, and son, Sawyer.

Kent Stevens became a member in 2018. Kent is an active member of the Men's Bible Study and is currently serving as Co-Moderator of the Racial Equity Council. He has previously served as an active Elder at Georgetown Presbyterian and in various roles with the National Capital Presbytery. Kent is married to Liz Gilbert, semi-retired, and proud parent of goldendoodles Payton and Banks. He loves to grill and garden and is a little too passionate about the Bears and the Cubs.

Katie Truesdell became a member in 2011. Over the years she has served as a supervisor for Sunday Night Supper in the Meals Ministry program, been involved on the Refugee Resettlement Committee, and served as a Deacon and an Elder. Outside of Fourth Church, Katie enjoys traveling with her husband, Jared Light, and spending time with their nieces and nephew.