

Pastor Nominating Committee

Liz Adams started teaching Sunday School at Fourth Church in 1997, when her youngest child was in kindergarten. She continues to this day, now teaching with her grown daughter Annie as her co-teacher. Liz is extremely grateful to the parents who make the effort to bring their families to church on Sundays, and she loves and cares deeply about Fourth Church, which has been her spiritual home since becoming a member in 1983. Liz also serves as a Trustee for the chapel in her family's summer community in Rhode Island and has held leadership positions on several nonprofit boards in Chicago, several of which have community outreach initiatives.

Jeanne Bishop, who sings in the Morning Choir, has served Fourth Church as a Deacon, Elder, and Trustee and co-led with John Boyle a retreat on forgiveness. The author of two books on mercy and redemption, Jeanne has also spoken to groups and classes at Fourth Church. She is the mother of two sons who grew up in Fourth Church: Brendan, a graduate of the US Naval Academy, and Stephen, a student at Temple University. When she was a law student at Northwestern University in 1989, Jeanne joined Fourth Church. Today she is a felony trial attorney with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender and an adjunct professor at Northwestern Law's Trial Advocacy program.

Lloyd Culbertson has served Fourth Church as an Elder, Deacon, and Trustee and is currently chair of the Investment Committee. Since joining the congregation in 1986, he has also been a member of an Executive Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and the Stewardship, Joint Finance, and Project Second Century Steering Committees. Lloyd is retired from a forty-seven-year career in business and finance, which included roles as Director of Operations for two churches, and presently serves as a Board Member and Secretary for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. He and his wife, Janice Michel, live in Lake Forest and are parents to adult daughters Maddie and Samantha.

Beth Davis has served Fourth Church as an Elder and Trustee as well as Chair of the Nominating Committee and of the Steering and Building Committee for the Gratz Center. Since joining the church in 1987, she has also taken part in mission trips to Honduras, New Orleans, and the Middle East. Beth retired in 2020 after twenty years of leading the Corporate Real Estate Department for a global consulting company. Prior to that she was a Senior Designer and Project Manager in the commercial design industry. Currently, Beth sits on the Board of Directors of Third Coast Percussion and continues to travel and trek in interesting parts of the world.

Heather Gallenbeck recently served Fourth Church as an Elder, chaired the Youth Ministry Committee, and currently is a member of the Personnel Council. She also served two terms on the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Heather and her husband, Jeff, who is presently a Deacon, joined Fourth Church in 2018, and their children, Logan (17) and Kira (15), are actively involved in youth group and mission trips. Their family resides in Glenview. Heather is currently a Consulting Team Senior Manager at Boston Consulting Group, where she is responsible for staffing decisions, learning and development, and career development for more than a hundred consultants.

Kerry Grady has served Fourth Church as an Elder and Trustee and as a member of the Worship, Music, and the Arts; Small Group Ministry; and Nominating Committees. He has also been a member of the Chicago Lights Board, co-chaired the Gala of Hope, and served as an usher, Sunday school teacher, community garden volunteer, confirmation leader and Fourth Church commissioner to the Chicago Presbytery and to the Covenant Network. Kerry, who joined the congregation in 2001, 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 and design company called Grady Campbell.

Elizabeth Hurley is currently a member of Session and will serve on the Board of Trustees beginning next year, her second time serving Fourth Church as a Trustee. She has also been a member of two Associate Pastor Nominating Committees and along with her husband, Mark, ushers at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service, as they both feel called to the ministry of hospitality. Having first joined Fourth Church in 1987, they were members of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church while living in New York City from 2013 to 2018 (where Elizabeth also served as Trustee) and rejoined Fourth Church in 2018. Elizabeth is Deputy General Director of Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Jared Light currently serves as Co-Clerk of Session. In addition to having served as a Deacon and Elder as well as on the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee and the Associate Pastor for Evangelism Nominating Committee, he has also been involved with Meals Ministry, Volunteer Ministry Council, Refugee Resettlement Committee, and Discover Fourth. Jared grew up evangelical, found his faith home visiting Fourth Church in 2006, and joined the congregation in 2011 with his wife, Katie Truesdell. Jared and Katie live in River North. During the day Jared is the Chief Technology Officer of ACT Building Systems, a small pre-engineered metal building software company.

Kash Morgan currently serves as an Elder on Session and as a Senior High Leader. He is also a member of the Young Adult Council and the LGBTQIA+ Widen Our Welcome (WOW) Council. Since joining Fourth Church in 2018, Kash has been particularly passionate about Chicago Lights Tutoring and Fourth Church Meals Ministry. He lives in the Oak Park neighborhood with his husband, Trevis, and enjoys giving his time and resources to bless and help others.

Michael Mirza was a member of Fourth Church staff, as Director of Worship, from 2019 to 2022. Desiring to stay connected to this vibrant faith community and its robust social impact initiatives, he joined the congregation in 2023. Michael grew up in a Baptist church, has worshiped with many different Protestant denominations over the years, and received a Master of Divinity from Northern Seminary. With a professional background blending ministry and marketing, he is currently working as a Senior Experience Innovation Specialist at Pampered Chef. He lives in Brookfield with his wife, Anne, and their two children, Phoebe (6) and Ira (3).

Kent Stevens is currently finishing a term as Elder and service as Co-Moderator of the Racial Equity Council. He has been a member of Fourth Church since 2018 and is an active participant in the Adult Education programs, with a particular enthusiasm for the Men's Bible Study. Kent enjoys a semi-retired life with his wife, Liz Gilbert, in the Buena Park neighborhood. A former practicing attorney with a background in Intellectual Property litigation for both the federal government and private practice, he now serves as a roster mediator for unfair competition cases at the U.S. International Trade Commission. Kent is an avid Chicago Bears fan and enjoys grilling and gardening.

Gretchen Wahl is a cradle Presbyterian who served as a Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly. At Fourth Church she has been a Deacon, Elder, and member of Nominating Committee and two Associate Pastor Nominating Committees. She has also led multiple domestic and international mission trips with youth and adults: her two most joyful calls since joining the congregation in 1994 have been with the youth of Fourth Church and our covenant partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Havana. Gretchen, who lives in the Uptown neighborhood, is the manager of external communications for a large engineering company. She loves to read fiction, swim competitively, and bike for fun.

Jessica Wang currently serves Fourth Church as an Elder, Co-Chair of the Spiritual Formation Council, and a member of the Youth Ministry Committee. She has also served on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. Jessica greatly enjoys the intergenerational fellowship of Women at Fourth, small groups, Deep Listening Dinners, and Widen Our Welcome events as well as participating in the peace walks at St. Sabina and with Breakthrough. Jessica, who lives in Rogers Park, joined Fourth Church in 2019 after a mission trip with the congregation to Cuba that forever changed what it meant to be a global Presbyterian to her.

About the Pastor Nominating Committee

As defined by the Presbyterian Church (USA), a Pastor Nominating Committee represents and is elected by the whole congregation. This committee has the ultimate responsibility for nominating a minister to the congregation for election as the next pastor.

In fulfillment of that role, over a number of months, the PNC works through the pastoral search process, listening for the call of Christ and “participating in God’s own choice” for our next pastor.

Requirements and Expectations of PNC Members

Members of the PNC must be active members of Fourth Church for at least one year, demonstrate faithful participation in both worship and the life of our church, and support the ministry and mission of Fourth Church through financial stewardship by pledging.

Responsibilities of the PNC include, but are not limited to,

- Meeting frequently (potentially weekly) as a committee to conduct activities related to the search process
- Receiving, reading, and evaluating Personal Information Forms (PIF) from pastors in a spirit of prayerful openness to the movement of God’s Spirit
- Narrowing the field of prospective pastors through listening to sermons, checking references (which is done both by the PNC and the Presbytery of Chicago), and conducting phone or video interviews, all while sharing, listening, and praying together
- Traveling as necessary to visit and engage with candidates
- Interviewing face-to-face a “short list” of prospective pastors
- Arranging with the Presbytery of Chicago for the necessary examinations and approvals of finalists
- Providing regular reports to the congregation on the pastoral search progress
- Committing to confidentiality of all discussions and decisions, during and even after the process is complete



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