

# First Presbyterian Church Chattanooga

## 2024 Officer Candidates

04/22/2024

The Session Nominating Committee has interviewed each of the new candidates for office. In addition, Nominating Committee members participated in the training classes for this group of candidates to better know them. Pastor Dick Cain, who taught the officer training, stated, and the Nominating Committee agrees, that “this is probably the most educated class of new elders to come through training.” All five of the new elder candidates have seminary training and a variety of experience to bring to the Session. Also, each of the new deacon candidates is an experienced businessmen who has demonstrated a genuine desire to use his gifts to serve our church.

Realizing that we have many new church members, and with two services making it hard to get to know people who may be in the other service, the following information about each candidate is offered here.

### New Elder Candidates:



**Tommy Austin** grew up in this church. He came to know the Lord in his youth being raised in a Christian home. Tommy worked at a church after college and then attended Gordon Conwell Seminary before returning to Chattanooga and entering the real estate realm. He was an Elder at Northshore fellowship for several years before coming back to us about two years ago. He and his wife, Jeanne, have four grown children.



**West Breedlove** came to Chattanooga from Knoxville where he was director of music at Cedar Springs Presbyterian. He came to know the Lord in his youth being raised in a Christian home. West graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) Orlando and served at Cedar Springs until deciding to go into Counseling. He moved here to go to Richmond Graduate University and joined our music staff soon after. He is now a counselor full time and is part time at our church as the early service music director. West and his wife, Suzanne, have one child graduating from college and another in high school.



**Hank Wilson** is from Chattanooga. He came to know the Lord in his youth being raised in a Christian home. Hank went to seminary at RTS at Charlotte and served as a chaplain in the military for his career. He then served as a reserve chaplain and pastored a church for a few years before moving back to Chattanooga. Hank is now pursuing a degree in architecture and is working locally for Franklin Associates Architects. He and his wife, Linda, have one child in high school.



**Ben Glick** grew up in New York state and came south to attend Covenant College where he met his wife, Lauren. They have two teenage girls in high school. Through his personal studies, Ben came to the realization of the greatness of God and all that He did to bring salvation to those who believe. As a result of this conclusion, he decided to follow and worship God. He started at RTS Charlotte and was planning to go into the pastorate before the Lord led him to switch to information technology (IT). Ben is now using his IT skills to promote the study of God's work at Precept Ministries here in Chattanooga.



**Joshua Smith** is from Chattanooga. He grew up in a Christian home, and through the ministry of his youth pastor, was drawn into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. Joshua worked in church youth ministry for several years and then started Seminary at Covenant in St. Louis. He also began working at UTC in IT while continuing his seminary studies. He is now working full time for the International Mission Board doing IT work remotely here in Chattanooga. Joshua is also finishing his last two seminary courses remotely and will be graduating from seminary this May. He and his wife, Helen, have three children and a new one to arrive in June.

### **New Deacon Candidates:**



**Chuck Horne** is a native of North Carolina. He came to know the Lord as an adult while going through a challenging time. Chuck is a retired engineer from the nuclear power industry. He has attended both Baptist and Presbyterian churches before coming to 1st Presbyterian. Chuck is a widower and has three grown stepchildren. He is already volunteering his service to our church and is in a small study group.



**Pat Owings** previously served on our Diaconate. Pat was led to the Lord by the late Bill Hartshorn of our church. Pat and his wife, Lynn, have returned to 1st Presbyterian and are active members. They both are retired from a local engineering company and have two grown daughters.



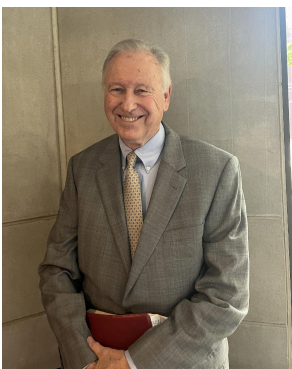
**Adam Tignor** grew up in the Quincy, Illinois area. He was brought up in a Christian home and doesn't ever know a time that he didn't believe that Jesus loved him and that He was his Lord and savior. Adam does tax accounting work remotely. He decided to move to Chattanooga because of all that it offered in its scenic beauty and outdoor recreation. Adam and his wife, Lauren, have a young son about to turn two years old. Adam has already been involved in helping the church through the facilities committee.

### **Returning Officer Candidates:**

The men listed below are intending to return to office after a one-year sabbatical. Each of these men have proven service to our church, have stated that they hold fast to the standards of our faith and of their office, and desire to return to office.



**John Parkhurst** (Deacon) grew up attending 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian church. He served for several years as a deacon before taking a one-year sabbatical for family reasons. He became a Christian as a youth while attending a vacation Bible school program at a local church. John and his wife, Liz, have three young children. For several years, John has worked for TVA and continues to do so. John intends to return to the Diaconate this year.



**Lauch McKinnon** (Elder) is a retired banker. Lauch has served as an elder for five years prior to taking this past year on sabbatical. He is married to Diane and they have four grown children and ten grandchildren. Lauch was raised in a Christian home and came to Christ as an adult at Calvary Presbyterian church in Charlotte, N. C. while attending a church service. He intends to return to the Session after his current sabbatical year.



**Mike Alston** (Elder) has served in several leadership roles at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian including a stint as the Session Clerk during a portion of his years on the Session. Originally from Texas, Mike met his wife, Lynnette, and they have made their home in Chattanooga. They are parents to three young adults. Mike works as a local attorney. His intention is to return to the Session this year after completing a one-year sabbatical.



**Bart Rolen** (Elder) has served on our Session previously including representing our church multiple times at the PCA general assembly. He is married to Kate and they have two children. Bart began living for Christ intentionally at age 25 through the teaching of Mike Milton and the work of the Holy Spirit. Bart makes his living as a financial manager.

The Session Nominating Committee strongly endorses this slate of officers to be elected to serve at our church. Please seek out these men or contact one of the Session Nominating Committee members if you want to learn more about these men.

**Session Nominating Committee:**

Mark Casson

Steve Dowlen

Brad Gruner

Tom Hughes