



Elder and Deacon Class of 2022 Nominees

The Church Officer Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for deacon and elder officers to be submitted to the congregation for their approval on Sunday, November 17, in the Sanctuary following the service at 10:30 a.m.

All Eastminster members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting.

ELDER NOMINEES (THREE-YEAR TERM)



Rod DeKoning

I have lived in Wichita since 1987, and have been married to my wife, Marcy, since 1990. We have raised three sons, becoming empty nesters this fall. I am a semi-retired computer engineer having focused primarily on strategic technical direction setting for NetApp until this last July. I became a follower of Jesus in sixth grade during an Awana program in my hometown, Newton, Iowa. Marcy and I have been attending Eastminster since early 2016 after spending 24+ years at another Wichita church. During our time at our previous church home, I enjoyed volunteering and teaching with middle school ministry, participating in various small groups/Bible studies, and serving as a deacon and trustee. During our time at Eastminster, we have enjoyed the fellowship of the Marriage Oneness Sunday Grow Group and serving at various Eastminster events. I am currently serving as a part of the IASIS team, the Balkans Team and the World Missions Council.



Jean Ann Ebright

Our family has attended Eastminster for around 15 years. My husband, Charlie, is a teacher and baseball coach at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. Our daughter, Lily, is a high school sophomore and son, Jack, is a freshman in college. I'm a project manager for Koch Ag & Energy Solutions, doing projects in fertilizer plants. I particularly enjoy the teamwork aspect of projects. I've served in Sunday school, Kids' Worship, and two terms as a deacon. I have an interest in missions and have been on short-term trips to Nicaragua, Joplin, Houston, Minneapolis and Puerto Rico and am on the Regional/National Outreach team. For fun, I like to read and hang out with our two Siamese cats. I look forward to the opportunity to serve in a new way. Philippians 1:27, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel."



Bryan Heinz

I grew up in the western Kansas community of Grainfield and have attended Eastminster since July 2017. My wife, Heidi, and I have two daughters Lauren, 12, and Sydney, 7. I work as a human resource leader at Koch Industries. The Lord has opened my heart and guided me to engage with and minister to Muslim background believers. He directed my Heidi and I to co-lead the Middle East/North Africa Missions Team (MENA). It is encouraging to see God working in and through our team as we partner with and support faithful brothers and sisters in this region. What a glorious time it will be when “every knee shall bow ... every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” - Philippians 2:10/Isaiah 45:23. May God grant us wisdom through the Holy Spirit to fulfill his objective.



Tom Lasater

I grew up attending First Presbyterian church in Dodge City. After a long search, I was blessed by my marriage to Carla in 2001. We have two adult children, Ronnie and Courtleigh, and three younger boys John, Charles and Henry. We have been attending Eastminster since 2007. Carla and I serve as second grade shepherds on Sunday mornings, and the boys and I serve as ushers for the 11 a.m. service. John, Charles and I have served on Eastminster mission trips, and I have previously served Eastminster as a deacon. I enjoy family time, riding my bike(s) and listening to Bob Dylan.



Todd Mestepey

Not many people know this, but my first name is actually Philip. When I was born, my folks thought going through life with a last name like Mestepey wasn't challenging enough so they decided to call me by my middle name. My wife, Jodi, and I have been married for 35 years. We have two children Ashley and Matthew (Woods regulars know him as Maintenance Matt). Both Ashley and Matthew graduated from Goddard High School and Pittsburg State University. Jodi and I grew up in Ohio and graduated from the University of Cincinnati. GO BEARCATS! We have lived in Wichita for 25 years and attended Eastminster for 17 years. Jodi and I both serve with first grade on Sunday mornings. Outside of church I work for Holly Frontier Corporation as a Capital Project Manager. I enjoy working on projects around the house and spending time at Range 54. Earlier this summer, we spent a week as adult guests at Crooked Creek Ranch Young Life Camp. It was one of the best weeks of my life. In closing, while I'm not focusing on a particular Bible verse at this time God, is working on me to consider the heart issues we are seeing in this country, in particular, the lack of respect for life from conception to natural death.



Jeremy Rauch

I have been married to Larissa for 18 years and we have three children—a daughter in seventh grade, a daughter in sixth grade and a son in third grade. Since coming to Eastminster, I have enjoyed serving the congregation as a deacon and Sunday Kids teacher. My wife enjoys being in the choir. Outside of church, we enjoy many activities. I particularly enjoy serving our kids in the community as a coach for my son's baseball and flag football teams. I am employed by Airbus where I work as a repair engineer, and my wife works part-time for Bethel College in the admissions department. My favorite verse is Jude 1:24 because it is a verse of hope and praise.



John (Jack) Schurman

My religious foundation was laid in my childhood in a Christian household and through my training in Christian schools. I professed Jesus as my savior and joined the Christian Reformed Church as a college student. I hold the belief that God has chosen me as his child, that my sins are paid for by the blood of his son Jesus and that my purpose in life is to honor him above all and promote his kingdom in this world. I was an elder in my church in Detroit until we moved to Wichita in 1998. I have been married to my wife, Mary, for 43 years and we have four married children and seven grandchildren. My family is the joy of my life. My previous job as a surgeon gave me the opportunity to show my faith daily in my work environment. This gave me frequent opportunities to share my faith with patients in a way that gave them comfort and allowed me to show them the foundation of my character and life. The marriage ministry team at Eastminster allowed me to show others how spousal relationships reflect and honor God's relationship with us. I was honored to be a part of the process to select our current pastor. I look forward to being used as an elder by God in the life of Eastminster Church.

DEACON NOMINEES (THREE-YEAR TERM)



Greg Atkins

As a child, I was in the First Presbyterian Church youth program in downtown Wichita. There are several Eastminster members I've known since I was a young child. As a young man, I volunteered as an usher at First Presbyterian Church. I joined Eastminster in 1991. I have two grown, married daughters and three granddaughters. Over the years, I have served as a deacon multiple times at Eastminster. I've attended many Grow Groups and our daughters were active in the youth group. Over the last 34 years, I've been an aircraft engineer at Beech, Cessna, Boeing, Precision Pattern and Custom Engineering Design. I currently work at Kan-Am Products which is a wholesale distributor of windows, siding and doors. My spare time is spent with my kids, grandkids and occasionally filling in as a drummer for a local band. The whole chapter of Proverbs 4 speaks to me with verse 23 especially standing out. I even had my daughter make a large sign of this verse to hang prominently in my living room.



Jeff Clark

I am married to Sarah, and we have three children—Benjamin, 4, Graham, 2, and Kennedy, born in August. We have attended Eastminster for eight years with involvement in the Intimate Allies Sunday Grow Group and 242, the church's former young adult ministry. Sarah and I met through 242 and were later married at Eastminster. I have attended a weekly men's Bible study—including several guys from Eastminster—for the past 10 years. I have worked for Koch Industries for 12 years in various commercial and strategy/business development roles and have served on the United Way of the Plains board for six years. My interests include time with family, travel, reading, investments and running. A verse that has been on my mind lately is "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." – Matthew 6:33



Courtney Darrah

I was born and raised in Wichita. In 1996, I moved to Santa Barbara, California, for high school. I completed my Bachelor's degree at the University of Portland then received my Masters at the University of Kansas where I reconnected with my childhood friend and neighbor Will Darrah. We have been married 13 years and have four children; Ella 13, Rowan 10, Genevieve, 7, and Friedrich, 4. Eastminster has been my church home since I was a child and it is a joy to watch our children make it their church home as well. I am a licensed social worker and devote most of my free time to the Wichita Botanica Gardens. I have been on the Board of Trustees since 2014, and I am currently sitting as a past president. I love gardening, baking and tennis. I lost my father, Dr. Don Malzahn, in May. His favorite verse was Matthew 19:26 "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." This verse comforts me on days when going on without him seems impossible. I hope that I will not only glorify God by serving our church as a deacon, but also pay tribute to my dad who was so very proud of my nomination.



Marcy DeKoning

A job opening as a first grade teacher brought me to Wichita in 1987. It has been a great place for Rod and I to raise our three boys! We just took our youngest son to K-State this fall and are learning what it means to be empty nesters. I am currently involved with both the Seniors Team and Congregational Life Council at Eastminster. It has been great fun and a good way to get to know people helping coordinate Chili Christmas and the Independence Day Celebration as well as helping with the seniors with seniors brunch. Our church is full of wonderful people to walk through life with. I was saved by grace through faith in junior high. It seems the older I get, the more I depend on that grace day by day.



Greg Dickman

I grew up in Grinnell, Kansas, and was raised Catholic. I attended Kansas State University and God led me to Ichthus University Ministries which had a huge impact on my faith. After moving to Wichita, I became a volunteer leader with Young Life where I met my wife, Laura. We began attending Eastminster after getting married and became members in 2006. We have been involved with Wednesday night kids ministry, and I served as a deacon from 2015-2017. Laura and I have five children—Kassidy, 11, Aliyah, 9, Noah, 7, Olivia, 6, and Henry, 1. I work at Wolters Kluwer as a manager of tax software development.



Ken Graf

My wife, Janet, and I were both raised in the suburbs of Akron, Ohio. We met at the University of Akron. We lived and raised two daughters in the same area. Both daughters are married and now live in Columbus, Ohio. We have three grandchildren. Janet and I were members of several churches in Ohio, and an Independent Christian church in Wichita. Janet and I have been married for 40 years and have lived in Wichita for 14 years. I am a chemical engineer with a small company owned by Koch Industries. Janet and I enjoy and participate in classical and choral music and enjoy attending amateur theater and musical theater. We have attended Eastminster for more than two years, and have been members for about 15 months. We are both in the Chancel Choir and in various Grow Groups.



Cindy Heady

A native Kansan, I grew up in Salina and became a Christian at age 14 when I attended church with friends. I grew in my faith during my college years, surrounded by strong believers. In 1985, the Lord led me to attend Eastminster where my faith deepened and my love for God flourished. In 1995, my husband, Kent, and I were married at Eastminster by Pastor Bob Henley. Life's journey called us to South Carolina and then Texas for Kent's training and then most graciously back to Kansas with family and friends. We returned with two daughters, Sarah and Jana, who were baptized and raised in the ministries at Eastminster. In 2013, Eastminster once again ministered to my family, this time my parents who came to live in Wichita after an accident. After visits by two Eastminster pastors and three deacons, my dad came to faith a short time before his death at 81. My mother, already a Christian, was welcomed and loved at Eastminster by many during her four years in Wichita. She loved crocheting washcloths and doll clothes for Operation Christmas Child. God has been abundantly gracious to me and my family and has taught me what having a church family like Eastminster means. It is a place to search, learn, grow, connect and journey in good times and bad and always and forever know God's love through its members. I've been involved in Thursday night ladies Bible study, Operation Christmas Child team, IASIS team, Thanksgiving/Christmas box delivery team, 2014 Nicaragua team, and formerly served as a deacon on the homebound team. I am looking forward to serving as a deacon and sharing the good news of Jesus wherever that may be.



Ted Johnson

My wife, Jennifer, and I have celebrated 36 years of marriage and have two children. Our daughter Bethany and her husband, Greg, have two children, Trysten and Symon, and live in Salina. Our son Dane lives in Wichita. We have attended Eastminster for three years and became members in 2019. We normally attend the 8 a.m. service and greet at the 9:30 service. We participate in IASIS work days and a 9:30 Grow Group. I am semi-retired—I still farm in Saline county and remodel houses. I also attempt to play golf whenever possible. Before moving to Wichita, I was a member of First Covenant Church for more than 30 years where I was a deacon and served twice on the church council. I was on the board of directors for United Way along with volunteering for various charitable organizations and coaching youth in Salina, KS. A verse that is working in my life is Acts 20:35 NIV, “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than receive.’”



Maribeth Morgan

I have been married to Dave Morgan for 48 years. We have two children. Beth resides in Houston, TX, and Barry lives in Andover with his wife and two boys. We have attended Eastminster since about 1984. In years past, I have assisted with VBS, family retreats, cooked at Westminster Woods, taught Sunday School, facilitated in Ekklesia, helped start Piece Sewers, and read to children in the Oaks Fellowship. I have been a registered nurse since 1974. I worked at Wesley in the NICU for 30 years. I am now semi-retired and work in Employee Health at Wesley. I have been a group leader in Bible Study Fellowship for 20 years. In 1993 the Lord brought me to my knees with a health condition and my eyes have focused on him ever since. I accepted Christ at age 12 but later in life I have grown in the knowledge of the Lord causing my questions to change from why? to Lord I am yours, how can you use me? My prayer is that I am able to serve my church as a testimony to the great God I serve.



Wes Power

I grew up in a strong family of faith in Wichita attending First Evangelical Free Church. I am blessed to have multiple generations of Christians in my family tree forming a legacy of faith and service that I hope to pass on to my children. My wife, Kim, and I began dating in California where I was pursuing a music career. In 2006, we moved back to Wichita where we were married. Around 2009, I joined the 11 a.m. worship team, and we began attending Eastminster. We are active in the Intimate Allies Sunday Grow Group as well as mid-week activities at church. Our sons are Bradley, 6, Brody, 3, and Brett, newborn. Kim does kingdom work at home with them, and I work as an analyst at POET Ethanol Products.



Bob Rice

My wife, Vicki, and I first attended Eastminster on Easter 2017, having moved to the Wichita area from Texas. We became acquainted with Eastminster several years ago when our former senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church Midland, Jerry Hilton, served as Eastminster's interim minister. At First Presbyterian, I served as a trustee and elder. Currently, I am serving as a head usher at Eastminster. Prior to relocating to the Midwest, I was career military and also worked in leadership roles for nonprofits including the American Red Cross and Communities In Schools. Vicki and I are the parents of one son, Robert, who together with his wife, Candice, and daughter, Ainslee, live in Lubbock. Aviation, travel, exercise and reading are among my interests. As I begin my calling as a deacon, I am reminded of Hebrews 13:20-21, "May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."



Erica Shaver

I joined Eastminster Church after moving to Wichita to take an outpatient dietitian job at Wesley Medical Center in 2015. My husband, Ryan, and I live in Southeast Wichita with our cat, Oliver. In my free-time I enjoy cooking, attending Husker football games in my home state (Go Big Red!), hiking, taking fitness classes and traveling to see family and friends. I am excited to join the deacons in serving the members of our church and am looking forward to seeing where God will lead me in this role.



Mike Simmon

Eastminster's emphasis on missions was what first drew my wife, Chelsea, and me here nearly 10 years ago. Not only did we discover a vibrant history of missions but also an active heart for taking the gospel to the ends of the earth, a devotion to the whole truth of God in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, and a dedication to discipleship within a community of believers. We have felt at home at Eastminster ever since. Chelsea and I are active members of the East Africa Regional Missions Team and are small group leaders on Sunday mornings for Middle School. I assist with 11 a.m. worship, and Chelsea helps with RIOT (refugee outreach & integration). We have a son Gabriel, 11, and are licensed foster parents—ask us about fostering (we desperately need more Christian foster homes in Kansas). I have served previously as a deacon, and I am looking forward to serving our congregation in that capacity again. I work in marketing/customer service at Grasshopper Mowers in Moundridge. Psalm 68:5, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."



Jeff Voth

My wife, Carrie, and I have five children—Matt, 25, Justin, 24, Wyatt, 20, Brock, 18, and Amanda, 14. We have been attending Eastminster for approximately eight years. Since attending Eastminster, I have participated in several ministries including the 2019 mission trip to Puerto Rico, Holiday Food Boxes, Hunger Challenge and Love Wichita. Currently, my wife and I are serving as ushers during the 11 a.m. service, and I am on the Regional and National Outreach Team of the Local and U.S. Missions Council. I am self-employed as a real estate appraiser and have been a real estate appraiser for 25 years. Activities that I enjoy include, travelling with my family, especially to the mountains, working with cars, sports and fishing. A Bible verse that God is currently impressing upon me is James 1:2-4, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”



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