



VANDERBILT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH * 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOMINATIONS

Nominees for Elder – Class of 2022:

ADAM COTA

Adam grew up in San Juan Capistrano, CA and is a graduate of UC Berkeley (B.S. Molecular & Cellular Biology) and Harvard University (Masters in Public Policy). Adam has worked as a molecular and cellular biologist at a biotech company before becoming an Associate Partner at McKinsey & Company. While at McKinsey & Company, Adam's focus was on strategy and operations for a diverse set of large organizations – from Fortune 500 companies to state governments, universities, large urban school districts and international non-profit organizations. Adam met his wonderful wife Marla in 2008. They have two kids, Matthew (age 6) and Ilana (age 4) and will celebrate their 10 year anniversary in 2019. He currently works as an independent consultant and entrepreneur.

PATRICIA FORS

Pat was born, raised and educated in Western New York. After graduating college, she was licensed and worked as a Dental Hygienist in New York State. She married Richard Fors in 1959. During 1960-1990, most of her time was spent raising her three sons and doing volunteer community work. Today she is the proud Grandmother of 14 grandchildren. Since moving to Florida on a full-time basis and joining VPC in 2002, Pat has become an active volunteer in Habitat for Humanity in Immokalee. She has been involved with the Women's Association and The Seekers. She served as a Deacon in the mid 2000's. Of very special interest was the opportunity to create the Prayer Shawl ministry. The program has been very successful involving many people participating in volunteering materials or knitting services. Pat is very honored to be asked to serve as an Elder at VPC.

HEATHER MIKES

Heather currently serves Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church as a member of the Education Ministry Team, a committed volunteer to EMT outreach events like VBS, liaison to the Learning Center and chairperson of the pre-school parent team. She is a full-time mom to four beautiful children - Riley (12), Carter (8), Evangeline (6) and Hattie (2). She and her husband, Jason, have lived in Naples for 16 years and are faithful Sunday school teachers. Heather also serves as a member of the Endowment Trust, but will resign as required when appointment to Session is official. Professionally, she is director of communications at Hamilton Mikes, PA, a Florida law firm established by her husband and veteran attorney, Jason Hamilton Mikes, JD MBA. Heather is part of the strategic planning team at the firm and responsible for corporate imaging, branding, media relations, website development and social media marketing. A native of Florida, Heather graduated Cum Laude from The Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications.

JOHN MILES

John was born, raised and completed high school in South Portland, Maine. He went on to receive a B.S. degree in Engineering from Lehigh University and a MBA degree from NYU. John had a series of expanding executive positions with Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Rhone-Poulenc. The last nineteen years of his career were at Dentsply Sirona where he was Chairman and CEO. Dentsply Sirona is the world's largest manufacturer and marketer of professional dental products. He also served on many public, private and not-for-profit Boards of Directors. Personally, John and his wife reside in Bonita Bay in the winter and Linville Ridge, NC in the summer. His hobbies include golf and very fast boats.

JIM MUIR

Jim joined VPC in 2005 with his wife, Sally. He was born and raised in Oak Park, IL. They are Naples residents eight months and Ludington, Michigan residents 4 months. They have two sons and four Michigan and two Massachusetts grandchildren. Jim was a suburban Detroit Oldsmobile and GMC Truck dealer for 25 years. He is finishing his second term as Deacon at VPC. He has enjoyed being part of the VanderReaders for the last five years. He presently is on the Collier County Habitat for Humanity Selection Committee and serves as a finance Teacher/Mentor. In an earlier life, Jim was Chairman of the Foundation at First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Michigan. He also was Vice-Chair of Detroit's Forgotten Harvest food rescue organization. He enjoys Sally, travel, photography and family activities.

JACKIE WOODRING

Jackie has been a member at VPC since arriving to Naples 12 years ago. Over the years, she was ordained and served as Elder, and served on the Vision, Education and Personnel committees, Pastor Nominating Committee, and as a representative to the Peace River Presbytery. Additionally, Jackie served on the Deo Gloria construction project committee. Professionally, her career was in strategic marketing and event production. She earned her Master's degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh from where she originates. Jackie and her husband, Steve, are proud parents to current youth deacon, Zachary.

Nominees for Deacon – Class of 2022:

MARLA COTA

Marla was born and raised in Guamo (Tolima) in Colombia in 1980. Her Dad was a high school math teacher who died when she was 19 years old. Her mother used to be a preschool, technology and language teacher back in Colombia, but now she is a foster mother in France where she currently lives along with Marla's sister. Marla finished high school at the age of 16 years old, and immediately started her studies in law. While studying for the bar exam, she earned 2 masters degrees in Colombia (administrative law and financial law) then she became a Lawyer in 2003. She worked for a year at a municipal Criminal Court in Colombia. In 2004 she moved to France with her mother and sister. Marla completed a master's degree in International Law at the Sorbonne University with honors in 2007. After living in London, England, Marla moved to the United States on March 1st, 2008, to study English. She met her beloved husband Adam on May 31st 2008 thanks to an online dating website. They got married on June 24th, 2009 in San Diego, California. Currently Marla is a full time stay at home mother to their kids Matthew (age 6) and Ilana (age 4). In addition, she works as a Body Combat fitness instructor at the greater Naples YMCA.

CAROLINE HALLIWELL

Caroline has been a member of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church for 4 years. She is currently a Deacon. Caroline is an usher, the Home Communion Coordinator and Vanderbilt's "unofficial photographer". Her professional career includes Publisher and Editor of Rhode Island Magazine, a writer for two newspapers in South-eastern New England and a Financial Consultant. She served on the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ and was on the financial committee and the pastoral care ministry committee. She has been involved with many volunteer organizations.

JIM HAWKINS

Jim and his wife Deane joined Vanderbilt in 2006. He retired from Linsly School, which was his alma mater, in 2006 after 44 years of teaching, coaching, and as an administrator. Jim and Deane were members of Vance Memorial Presbyterian in Wheeling, West Virginia and raised their children Connie and Ed there. They have five grandsons that are in college all over the country. At Vanderbilt, Jim has ushered and Deane has been in the choir.

TONI KEEFER

Toni has been a member of VPC for only a short time. She moved to Bonita Springs in May 2016, but was on an extensive search to find a church that welcomed all and served all. She found that here. Since coming to this congregation, she has worked for over a year on the Misión Peniel. She is on the Usher Team, and works with the backpack mission and the Café of Life team. She thought that one of the most impressive things about this congregation was that it was active and serving the community, even though it was without a permanent pastor. That speaks volumes about our commitment and vision. Toni has 2 children, and 6 grandchildren. Her son Nickolas, his wife Ciara, and their 3 children live in New Castle, PA. Her daughter Ashley, her husband Jim, and their 3 children live in Glenside, PA. Nick is an army veteran who works in Insurance, and Ashley is Associate Pastor of Carmel Presbyterian Church. Toni is retired from Seneca Valley School District,

where she was a choral director. She graduated from Westminster College, with time also spent at Duquesne University, and Indiana University of PA. She has been an organist, and choral director at many different churches, since she was 14. Raised Baptist, and being Lutheran for most of her life, she embraced different worship styles and teachings. She looks forward to new adventures and responsibilities with the congregation of VPC.

ELIZA NEVIN

At the Presbyterian Church in Sewickley, PA, Eliza was a deacon and an elder, chair of the world missions committee and stewardship chair with husband Hugh. Much of her volunteer work came out of the church directly: refugee resettlement and tutoring, bi-weekly fellowship with adults with mental challenges, teaching Sunday school (first, third grade and confirmation), chairing Women's Association, working with the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Malawi partnership, helping AID's care partners, Habitat for Humanity projects, a wide variety of feeding programs, board chair of Bethlehem Haven (a homeless women's shelter), the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, Planned Parenthood of WPa, etc. In Bonita Springs, Eliza's days revolve around the Cafe of Life food pantry (mostly serving migrant families and distressed people) and the New Horizons Super Kids Club (after school tutoring for fifth grade children of migrant workers). At Vanderbilt, she is on the Stephen Ministry team and on the Mission Committee and tries to get to Misi3n Peniel whenever led.

Her husband is a local lawyer specializing in international tax planning. Their son and his family live in Boston. They like to kayak, paddleboard, bike, hike - and she participates in the Naples Garden Club.

SARAH SMITH

Sarah joined Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in January 2016. Since becoming a member, I have participated in serving at Misi3n Peniel and helped organize the Heifer Fair in December for the past two years. Her career in agriculture brought me to Naples four years ago. She really enjoys living in Southwest FL and the beautiful weather. She looks forward to serving the Vanderbilt congregation as a Deacon.

REBECCA WHEAT

Rebecca Wheat is a resident of Stonebridge and lives in Braeburn. Becky grew up in Cincinnati. She was a member of Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, where she taught Sunday School and sang in the choir. Rebecca has two sons and is the grandmother of six. Her grandchildren range in age from 3 - 16 years old and live in Indianapolis and Atlanta. At Vanderbilt Presbyterian, Rebecca works with Power Packers, is an usher, and serves on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. She also volunteers at the Reception Desk.

Nominee for Deacon – Class of 2021:

LOIS ANN FOLLIARD

Over the years, Lois has served church in several capacities, notably through music, in work with youth ministries and in social outreach. A half-century "veteran" of church choirs, she has also served as a choir mother and a summer choir school volunteer for children from third to eighth grade. She wrote publicity for the church concert series and was the educational liaison in the music ministry's outreach to children in her town's public schools and their families. She has also taught Sunday school, worked as a tutor in after-school programs, participated in inter-church and inter-faith fellowship, hosted international students, provided food for her church's hosting of the homeless. She has served on membership and care committees and served as an usher. At VPC, she has participated in Bible study (Friends in Faith, the Sunday Seminar and other educational programs), the Vanderbuilders small groups, sung in the choir and currently serves on the Membership and Involvement Committee. She has also assisted at Vacation Bible School. Her other volunteer outreach has included teaching English to young mothers at Grace Place and serving at Misi3n Peniel.

Nominees for the Congregational Nominating Committee

Representing the Session:

KAY BEERNINK

Kay was born, baptized and raised in the Presbyterian faith in her native state of Minnesota. She has served the church as an Elder, Commissioner to Presbytery, Preparation for Ministry Committee, and Commissioner to GA in 1987. Kay and her husband relocated full-time to Florida in 2009. She has participated at VPC in the choir, attended Circle and Bible Study, served on the Mission Committee, served as a Stephen Minister and Leader and on the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. She was trained as an RN and worked part-time for several years. Kay was widowed in 2016 after 54 years of marriage and has three children and two grandchildren. She's been serving VPC as an elder and she will serve the congregation to the best of her ability.

JACKIE WOODRING

Jackie has been a member at VPC since arriving to Naples 12 years ago. Over the years, she was ordained and served as Elder, and served on the Vision, Education and Personnel committees, Pastor Nominating Committee, and as a representative to the Peace River Presbytery. Additionally, Jackie served on the Deo Gloria construction project committee. Professionally, her career was in strategic marketing and event production. She earned her Master's degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh from where she originates. Jackie and her husband, Steve, are proud parents to current youth deacon, Zachary.

Representing the Board of Deacons:

JIM HAWKINS

Jim and his wife Deane joined Vanderbilt in 2006. He retired from Linsly School, which was his alma mater, in 2006 after 44 years of teaching, coaching, and as an administrator. Jim and Deane were members of Vance Memorial Presbyterian in Wheeling, West Virginia and raised their children Connie and Ed there. They have five grandsons that are in college all over the country. At Vanderbilt, Jim has ushered and Deane has been in the choir.

Members-At-Large from the Congregation

JO RIST *(third year)*

Jo was born in Phoenix, AZ, but grew up in Clearwater, FL where she met and married her husband, John. She is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University with a degree in Social Science/Social Welfare. She and John retired to Bonita Springs in 1994, and joined Vanderbilt that same year. They now reside in Naples. They have two adult children, and their daughter and grandsons—Leslie, Andrew, and Thomas Loughran—are also members of VPC. Jo is a lifelong Presbyterian, and has been active in this church as an Elder and member of Session, as chair of Mission and Stewardship, as a member of the Visioning Team, and is currently serving on the Congregational Nominating Committee.

PRISCILLA KUTLER *(second year)*

Priscilla and her husband, Steve, have been members of VPC since 2004 then they became permanent residents of Naples. They came to Florida from Bedford, NY, where they were active in their Presbyterian church for 37 years. Priscilla has been key in decorating VPC for Christmas for many years, and has been active in the women's association, Bible study, Weekend Power Pack Program, Friends in Faith, and for the past 7 years has been a member and Team Leader of our Evangelism and Membership Team. She is presently organizing the new all-church photo directory. Priscilla and Steve have been married for 56 years.

MARK ROYAN *(second year)*

Mark is originally from Homestead, FL, has lived in Naples since 1986, and remembers when Immokalee Road was just a road to Immokalee. Mark is a proud Eagle Scout and holds a Bachelor of Science in Systems Analysis from the University of Miami. He started his first business when he was just 16, building computers for local businesses. His hard work paid off; in 2006 he opened a local IT Consulting Company that he later sold in 2012. Currently, Mark wears many hats at Decibels Audiology, including Co-Owner (along with wife, April), Chief Financial Officer, Chief Technical Officer, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Keeping Everyone in Line. In his spare time he enjoys cooking, running, working toward a black belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and spending time with his wife and his two little boys. The Royans have attended VPC since 2015.

RICH YOVANOVICH *(second year)*

Rich and his wife Michele have been members of VPC for approximately 19 years. Since joining VPC, Rich helped with getting the necessary Collier County approvals for the Learning Center. He previously served on Session and as a member of the Personnel Committee.

Please plan to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2019, immediately following the conclusion of the 9:30am Worship Service. Child care will be provided.

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples, FL

ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, March 3rd, 2019 *(immediately following the conclusion of the 9:30am Worship Service)*

VPC SESSION MEMBER

Nominee for Elder - Class of 2021:

MARY THOMPSON

Mary was born in Detroit, Michigan. She and her husband Louis moved to Florida in 2000. She's been a Senior Staff Accountant at WCI Communications since moving to Florida. She has a Master of Science in Finance and Bachelor of Business Administration both from Walsh College in Troy, Michigan. She has taught Sunday School in churches in Michigan and Florida. She was ordained a Deacon at VPC and she served as an Elder for the past two years, filling an unexpired term. She enjoys reading, biking and walking their dog Alexis.

VPC ENDOWMENT TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINEES - Class of 2022

BILL BEYNON

Bill Beynon has been a member of VPC for almost 20 years, serving as an Elder on Session on two occasions. In his time at VPC, he chaired the Stewardship Team and the Personnel team; he also served as a Trustee of the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust. Professionally, Bill is the President and CEO of Capital Wealth Advisors and a Partner of Fundamental Global Investors. Bill is married to Nena and they have an 8 year old daughter, Emily.

GORTON M. EVANS

Buck was born and raised in the suburbs of Detroit. He graduated Michigan State University, with post grad work at Northwestern University. He was married to his first wife Patti for 52 years. They raised three children while living in seven states over the span of his 40 year career in the paper industry. After retiring he moved to Naples, full time in 2000. Having attended VPC as a seasonal resident since 1997 it was a natural transition to join VPC that year. Over the years, in five different Presbyterian churches across the nation, he has served as a Sunday school teacher, Deacon, Deacon Moderator, Trustee, Elder, and Chaired various committees. Buck's education and business background has him well suited to communication and finance challenges. In February 2018 Buck married Victoria Ray, who will become a member of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

L. DENNIS SMITH

Dr. L. Dennis Smith has been involved in higher education for most of his adult life, serving in an administrative/executive position at Indiana University, Purdue University, Univ. of California/Irvine, and the University of Nebraska, where he completed ten years of service as University President in 2004. Dennis has served as a board member or chair of a diverse number of organizations and has been honored with numerous awards and recognitions for his work in education and science. Dennis and his wife, Suzanne, have two adult children and split their time between Naples and Monticello, Indiana. They have been Presbyterians for 53 years and joined VPC in 2006. Dennis has served in many capacities in his years of church service including Sunday School teacher, choir member, and Elder. At VPC, he serves on the Endowment Committee and was a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee and the Deo Gloria Fund Raising Committee.

NOMINEE - Class of 2021

MICHELE YOVANOVICH

Michele is a native Floridian and has been a member of VPC for almost 17 years. She is married to attorney Richard, and they have 19 year-old twins, Elizabeth and Caroline. Michele has served as an Elder at VPC and has chaired the Stewardship Team. In her professional life, she was a founding staff member of Florida Gulf Coast University, where she served as the first Director of Admissions, the first Director of Alumni Relations, and currently serves as Dean of Students. Prior to FGCU, Michele held positions at Edison College, the University of Miami, and the University of Georgia. She was educated at Stetson University, the University of Georgia, and Argosy University. Michele loves spending time with her girls, gardening, music, and theater arts.