

## DCPC Officer Nominees – Bios and Photos

### ***ELDER class of 2026 – Bonita Beeken***



Bonita Beeken has been a member of DCPC for 24 years, and along with her husband, John, raised their three grown daughters in the church, all of whom were active in youth group. Over the years, she has served as parent volunteer in many school leadership roles, lead Girl Scout troops, served on homeowners' associations, coordinated fundraisers, performed in traveling children's theater plays, and remained active as a church member. At DCPC Bonita has served as Elder and chair of Youth Ministry Committee, Sunday School teacher, Deacon and chair of

the Congregational Care Committee, as reading tutor with the Blythe Elementary partnership, participated in a variety of retreats, workdays, and Room in the Inn efforts. She has treasured her involvement with Presbyterian Women, lead her Circle for many years, and served as PW Moderator. Bonita is passionate about the DCPC youth program and has served in various capacities over the past few decades. A native Midwesterner, Bonita earned an undergraduate degree in Journalism, with emphasis in public relations from the University of Kansas and worked in sales and human resources. Before landing in Davidson, she and John lived in Kansas City, Atlanta, Naperville, IL, and Jackson, TN. Her hobbies include tennis, gardening, cooking, travel, hiking, enjoying her family and learning new skills.

### ***ELDER class of 2028 - Arthur (Art) Gooray***



Art moved to Charlotte in March of 2023, after retiring from The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Prior to this, Art worked for Xerox and Kodak, in Rochester NY for 25 years and then Dayton, OH, for 9 years. Art is a retired engineer with a PhD in engineering and over the years has supported many HBCUs. Currently, supporting NC A&T (HBCU), providing technology commercialization mentoring. Art grew up in Guyana, South America! His parents were Presbyterian, and Art has embraced the polity and connectiveness of the Presbyterian faith through his participation with various Presbyteries (Rochester, Dayton, Columbus), where he has served on many Presbytery committees such as the Committee on Ministry,

Administrative Commissions, and Delegates at large. In addition, Art is an Ordained Elder in the PC(USA) and has served three churches over the course of 40 years (7 terms Elder). He has chaired Christian Ed, Stewardship, and Budget committees and has also served on many Pastor Nominating Committees. After visiting a few churches in the Presbytery and reviewing DCPC's website and its affirmations in the Sunday's Bulletin, Art Joined DCPC. These DCPC affirmations are aligned with Art's Presbyterian values. "The Matthew 25 vision calls for the members and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be actively engaged in their communities by working toward building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. At DCPC, we are grateful to share in this welcome, affirmation, and celebration of our LGBTQ(IA)+ siblings. Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LGBTQ(IA)+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world." Art has three adult daughters who live in Richmond, Atlanta, and Savannah has two grandchildren. He is looking forward to being a part of our DCPC family and being active on Session and with the Charlotte Presbytery. On occasional Sundays, Art visits and worships at selected Churches in the Presbytery and enjoys conversations with the various church members.