

NOMINATIONS – MARCH 29, 2020

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Kristen Benway

Kristen has been a member at FPCB since 2010. She has two young children who were baptized at the church and now regularly attend the Sunday School program. She has been involved with the Sunday School program and active in the worship service through reading scripture and serving communion. She joined Session as an elder last year. Kristen writes, "It has been a joy watching the growth of this congregation over the past two years and I am blessed to be part of such a great community."

Richard T. Gorton

Rich has been involved at FPCB for 43 years as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, K-group member, usher coordinator and serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee. He and his wife Becky live in Lower Macungie Township, and have two adult children who grew up at FPCB. Rich has over 50 years' experience as an educator: he is a retired school principal, teacher and consultant, and served on school accreditation teams in the U. S. and abroad. He has also volunteered as a mountain host at Bear Creek Mountain Resort. He says, "We need additional help in order for FPCB to fulfill its mission - both to our larger community, and hopefully to an expanding FPCB membership."

George Maunz

George's family joined FPCB in 1977; he taught 8th grade Sunday School for close to 20 years, and was active in Kirk Camp for ten years. He and his wife Irene, who live in Bethlehem, have four adult daughters who grew up and were actively involved in First Pres church activities, and are now living in distant communities. Their family includes six grandchildren. George is a retired Bethlehem Area School District teacher, having taught ESL for 34 years. He also served on the Board of Northeast Ministry for eight years, and another eight years on the board of Kairos School of Spiritual Formation in Lancaster. George writes, "Having a good leadership team is critical for the growth and sustainability of all organizations. I see myself as serving humbly, listening diligently to others' voices for us to discern who the appropriate candidate will be."

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Don Robertson

Don and his wife Linda live in Bethlehem, and they've been involved for 32 years at FPCB; Don has been engaged as an elder, usher, greeter, youth educator, K-group and men's group member, and mission work volunteer. Their son Christopher has been involved as a trustee and elder at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Don currently serves as a part time adjunct faculty member for Northampton Community College in leadership and organizational development. He writes, "Just as Christ's leadership is the foundation of our faith, effective ministry leadership is foundational to the church's ability to accomplish its mission."

Blaine Sheppard

Blaine lives in Saylorburg with her mom Doreen and two cats; she is a senior at Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts. She is currently working as a host at a local restaurant, and looking forward to attending Susquehanna University in the fall for pre-med or pre-law. Blaine's affiliation with FPCB began with her joining the Chancel Choir about 18 months ago, and she's since been involved as a reader, speaker, and with youth activities. She writes, "We've had a rough couple of years but with the help of FPCB and some close friends, we've been able to build parts of our lives up again. I would love to serve FPCB in this capacity in order to give back to the community. FPCB has done so much for my mother and me that I want to be able to do one last thing before I leave for college in August."

Froy Thompson

Froy's family joined FPCB in 1963, and she has been involved in many capacities: as a deacon, elder, Sunday School teacher, communion server, greeter, and currently as a volunteer receptionist and member of the Mission Committee. She has also been active in a church housing group, Hi Neighbors, youth groups, and a K-group. Froy, a Bethlehem resident, has a grown daughter Jennifer, who lives in Kentucky. She writes, "As a long time member, I hope I can add some perspective to our conversations."

Gail Watts

Gail, a Bethlehem resident, has been affiliated with FPCB for over 40 years, and has taught Sunday School and been involved in Koinonia groups and Presbyterian Women. She currently serves on Session and chairs the Discipleship Committee. She is married to Daniel Watts, an artist; they have two adult sons and four grandchildren. Gail enjoys a career as a mental health counselor, and management and employee consultant. She writes: "I continue to feel called to serve First Pres as we move through this next significant step in our history."