

## **NOMINEE BIOS – CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

***C12.02 The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for three years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin on the date the Congregational Council is installed, as specified in the By-Laws, and shall end when their successors are installed.***

***C12.03 Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual business meeting. If less than three months remain until the next annual meeting, the Congregation Council may choose to allow the vacancy to remain, and the Congregation shall elect a member to fill the unexpired term.***

***Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting with the prior consent of the nominee.***

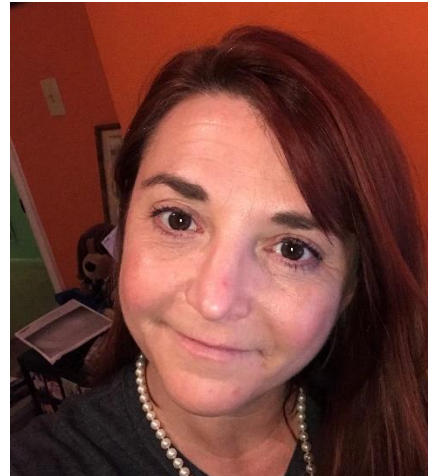
**This year, all Council nominees are presented in the order of the month in which they were born.**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**  
**TERM: 2021-2023**

**Name:** Lori L. Brown

**A Little About My Family:**

My son, Zachary, is a senior at Winthrop University. He wants to be a college history professor. My daughter, Madelynne, is a freshman at College of Charleston. She wants to be a neurosurgeon or a neuroscientist. My mom, Karen, is also a member here at Grace.



**How I've been involved at Grace in the past 18 months:**

I serve on the Alter Guild, as a Communion assistant, a tabulator and on the New Member committee. If you're an 11 o'clocker, you might recognize me from lesson readings or offering the Prayers of Intercession. I volunteer with Family Promise and GYM. Recently, I joined the WELCM Advisory Board.

**Why I Would Like to Serve on Congregation Council:**

I feel as if Grace's congregation is on such an exciting path. Even while separated these past 8 months, the energy and passion to serve God and the Church has been evident. Serving on Council would provide me with the opportunity to use my knowledge, skills and talents to help Grace continue on the path of growth and giving.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**  
TERM: 2021-2023

**Name:** Melissa Tucker

**A Little About My Family:**

I'm a widow and mom to two sons.  
We've been members at Grace since 2004.



**How I've been involved at Grace in the past 18 months:**

I've served on altar guild, milestone ministry (quillows), Sunday School teacher for grades 5-6, worship (lector, petitioner, Communion assistant), GYM volunteer, and Confirmation volunteer (former teacher).

**Why I Would Like to Serve on Congregation Council:**

Recently, I stepped back from helping with Confirmation because my youngest began his Confirmation process. I realize that stewardship is a way to honor and support what Grace has given me. I have previously served on council, and I encourage more members to add their voice on Council.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

TERM: 2021-2023

**Name:** Katherine Schwandt

**A Little About My Family:**

Larry and I retired in Fort Mill after his (our!) 36 year career in the Air Force. I am from Minnesota and he is from Wisconsin, having met at St. Olaf College. Our son's family is in Roswell, GA and our daughter is in Minneapolis. We have 2 wonderful grandchildren! We are both from Scandinavian/German stock. Larry's father was an ALC pastor. Many of our family members are still in Minnesota and we see them whenever possible. I am a retired Home Economics teacher and also had the pleasure of teaching English as a Second Language overseas.



**How I've been involved at Grace in the past 18 months:**

I have always been involved in our church communities wherever we lived. It was natural for me to find a church in which I could be an active member and where I would form friendships with those who are also on a mission to do God's work. I participate in choir, altar guild, new members, property/beautification, and the race and reconciliation group.

**Why I Would Like to Serve on Congregation Council:**

Since joining Grace, I have learned of the dedication and commitment of those who started this congregation. I have seen several changes and have been pleased and encouraged to see the ongoing caring and concern for Grace's initiative to reach out to the communities in Rock Hill. Moving forward to create a hospitable environment for all, to welcome others, and share with the community is important to me. I believe in "God moments" every day! I need the personal support that I receive from my Grace family and would like the opportunity to be a part of Council to continue to fulfill God's mission here at Grace and beyond.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**  
**TERM: 2021-2023**

**Name:** Sabrina Blanks

**A Little About My Family:**

I'm married to Chris and our 15-year-old is Lou.

**How I've been involved at Grace in the past 18 months:**

I started attending Grace last July and joined the choir and started playing handbells as well. I've also helped out with some Youth and GYM events. During the pandemic I was one of the people who made masks.



**Why I Would Like to Serve on Congregation Council:**

I feel that one of my strengths is finding the way I can work as a part of a team to help accomplish goals. I want to help Grace continue to serve the community, and I think the skillset I've developed working as both a theatre stage manager and an entrepreneur (organization, problem-solving, and determination), along with the characteristics that being a mom has enhanced in me (patience, caring, and kindness) will enable me to fit in to the Council team and provide value that will help accomplish those goals.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

TERM: 2021-2023

**Name:** John Grogan

**A Little About My Family:**

My family, wonderful wife Cyndie and 4 kids - Sean, Sarah, Caitlin, and Meagan joined Grace in 1997. We found Grace to be a warm & welcoming congregation as our family moved to a new state where we had no friends or relatives. It was God's answer to prayer that provided us a solid foundation in a very difficult time.



**How I've been involved at Grace in the past 18 months:**

For the past 18 months my primary involvement at Grace has been as a member of our Council, serving in the role of Council President.

**Why I Would Like to Serve on Congregation Council:**

My experience as a member of Council has been powerful and I would like to continue the journey that I've been part of these past 3 years. The opportunity to work closely with our staff and lay leadership, as we discern where God is moving us and then how to get there, has been a very rewarding and educational experience for me. I hope that sharing what I have learned over the past 3 years will help to make our new Council stronger.