



Council Nominees

2023



Dear Lagrave congregation,

The time for electing and choosing new elders and deacons is fast approaching. On April 16, at the congregational meeting between the services, you will have a chance to cast your vote for new members of council. We will choose six new elders (2 administrative and 4 visiting) and six new deacons (2 administrative and 4 visiting) for three year terms. The names which get the most congregational votes will go into a hat, and in the evening service, after seeking the Spirits' guidance, we will draw the names of our new office bearers. We are so thankful for all these men and women who let their name stand in nomination. As you can see, it is a diverse and talented group.

This booklet is an opportunity for you to get to know the nominees. We wanted to give you a brief thumbnail of their experiences and their gifts as a way to help you make your choices.

Special thanks to Jared Mulder, our Communications Director, who put this booklet together.

May the Holy Spirit guide the church as we choose a new group of leaders.

Administrative Elder Nominees - 2023



Chuck Damon

Occupation: Lawyer
Service: Elder, Spiritual Formation Committee, Trustee & Director at Mel Trotter Ministries
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Discernment, Wisdom

Reason for accepting: I recognize the importance of willingness to serve when asked. I consider serving to be an honor & responsibility.



Jack Vande Guchte

Occupation: Accounting Consultant (Semi Retired)
Service: Council Member (former church), sub-committee for Sheldon property planning and design
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Discernment, Wisdom

Reason for accepting: I enjoy the process of helping to manage an organization's current goals and developing strategies and goals for the future.



Jason Reiffer

Occupation: Realtor
Service: Soloist; LaGrave Communications Committee; Ada Christian School Board
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Learning, Mercy

Reason for accepting: I am eager work alongside council members and staff to embrace and navigate the challenges and opportunities for our church.



Jim Krol

Occupation: Finance (semi-retired)
Service: Treasurer at 12th Avenue CRC, Sunset Association Board, Unity Christian Foundation Chairman
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Service, Leadership

Reason for accepting: Prayer and listening to God.



Jolene DeHeer

Occupation: Public Speaker
Service: Elder at LaGrave, Prayer Mobilizer, Chairman of Spiritual Formation Committee
Gifts/Skills: Prayer, Leadership, Teaching

Reason for accepting: Desire to use God given gifts to serve others and grow God's Kingdom.



Kevin Scholten

Occupation: Engineering Project Manager (Retired)
Service: Kids Hope tutor, Greeter, Security, Bowens Mills Chapel Treasurer and Board member
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Leadership, Teaching

Reason for accepting: I am thankful for LaGrave's history and role within the CRC. My Family spoke positively about serving on Council.



Kim DeStigter

Occupation: Architect
Service: Calvin Alumni Choir, Architect for non-profits, live & work in Heartside Area
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Discernment, Leadership

Reason for accepting: Love for LaGrave and its contributions to its downtown neighborhood. LaGrave Church's venerable Godly mission obliges all its members to serve as God calls.



Kristin Ponstein

Occupation: Human Resources
Service: Middle School Youth Leader, Search Committees, Nursery
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Service, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: A love for this church & a want to use God given gifts to guide the church through difficult times.

Administrative Elder Nominees - 2023



Larry Bos, Jr.

Occupation: Financial Advisor
Service: LaGrave Deacon, President of GRCS Board of Trustees, Board member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Service, Leadership

Reason for accepting: Desire to further serve LaGrave.



Micah Watson

Occupation: Professor
Service: Teaching in prison, serving on hiring search committees, Colossian Forum Training
Gifts/Skills: Learning, Discernment, Teaching

Reason for accepting: To be open to God's possible call to serve in this way.



Paul Ondersma

Occupation: Business Owner
Service: Christian Education Committee, Deacon, Kids Hope
Gifts/Skills: Learning, Service, Prayer

Reason for accepting: Desire for church unity, service.



Paul TenBrink

Occupation: Pfizer (retired)
Service: Stephens Ministry, Chancel Choir, Men's Bible Study
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Leadership, Teaching

Reason for accepting: I was taught early in life that God's most desired ability is availability.



Pete Clover

Occupation: Facilities Manager
Service: Deacon, Usher, Co-Chair Henry Beets Mission Society
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Service, Wisdom

Reason for accepting: A love for the church.



Reggie VanderVeen

Occupation: General Dentist (Retired)
Service: Henry Beets, Cub Scouts, Pre-marrage Mentor Program Coordinator
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Discernment, Leadership

Reason for accepting: The past three years have been challenging for LaGrave. I feel it is no longer appropriate for me to turn down another nomination.



Rob Bosma

Occupation: Science Teacher - Unity Christian High School
Service: President of the Deacons at Hillcrest CRC, Coach, Teacher
Gifts/Skills: Leadership, Teaching, Wisdom

Reason for accepting: After being a member for two years, I feel the Spirit prompting me to discover how He might be leading me to contribute to LaGrave's ministry.



Ruth Vis

Occupation: Bank Officer & Nonprofit Development Officer (Retired)
Service: Elder, Oversight Committee, Calvin Alumni Choir & past president
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Learning, Service

Reason for accepting: Prior elder experience, administrative abilities, sense of service, particularly to and by women and children.

Administrative Elder Nominees - 2023



Terry Hoeksema

Occupation: Attorney (semi-retired)

Service: Elder at LaGrave (once President of Elders), Deacon at Shawnee Park CRC

Gifts/Skills: Administration, Service, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: After prayerful consideration I felt it was time to let my name stand for nomination.



Tim Post

Occupation: Soon to Retire Consultant

Service: Facilities Committee, Security

Gifts/Skills: Administration, Discernment, Service

Reason for accepting: Retirement will allow time to give back and serve.



Tom Oostema

Occupation: Manager at Gordon Food Service

Service: Elder, Children's worship Volunteer, Security

Gifts/Skills: Administration, Mercy, Prayer

Reason for accepting: I think it is important to follow God's Leading

Visiting Elder Nominees - 2023



Chuck Dykstra

Occupation: Small Business Owner (Retired)
Service: Elder & Deacon, Pastoral Care Committee
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Service, Leadership

Reason for accepting: Congregational requests



Curt Witte

Occupation: Attorney
Service: Chancel Choir, Denominational Boards and Committees, including Synodical Committee assigned to study “gay” marriage, CRC Loan Fund Elder and Deacon at Mayfair CRC.
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Service, Mercy

Reason for accepting: Desire to serve.



Cyndi Post

Occupation: Retired High School education services director
Service: Former deacon, Sunday School teacher, Pastoral Care, Christian Ed Committee, Refugee Committee
Gifts/Skills: Service, Teaching, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: I am eager to use my time in retirement to serve LaGrave church and it's congregation.



Dean Rooks

Occupation: Architect
Service: Elder, Bible study facilitator, teacher mentor
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Wisdom, Prayer

Reason for accepting: I truly enjoyed serving as elder several years ago, and all that God called and blessed me to be involved in.



Debra Nuiver

Occupation: Treatment Coordinator in an orthodontic office
Service: Children's Worship Leader, Deacon
Gifts/Skills: Mercy, Leadership, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: Desire to give back to LaGrave.



Jane Krol

Occupation: RN (Retired)
Service: New Members at LaGrave, Bell Choir
Gifts/Skills: Service, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: A way for me to become more acquainted with members of LaGrave, while serving in many ways throughout my life in the church, this was the first time I was asked to serve on council.



John Rottman

Occupation: Pastor, Professor Calvin Seminary (Retired)
Service: Prison Ministries, Celebration Church
Gifts/Skills: Service, Wisdom, Teaching

Reason for accepting: Desire to serve LaGrave



Marc Hoeksema

Occupation: ICU Physician
Service: Choir, Growing U, Ushering
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Service, Leadership

Reason for accepting: Humbly trying to follow Jesus' instruction to “love the Lord” with all my heart and love my neighbor as myself.

Visiting Elder Nominees - 2023



Marcia Pater

Occupation: RN (Retired)
Service: Worked with refugees, medical mission trip to Rwanda & Search Committee for pastor
Gifts/Skills: Service, Mercy, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: I felt I have the skills to serve and want to be involved.



Maria Uekert

Occupation: Area Advisor, Bible Study Fellowship
Service: Bible Study Fellowship, Spiritual Formation Committee, Henry Beets Mission Society
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Leadership, Teaching

Reason for accepting: After prayer and reflection, I feel compelled to accept the nomination to serve God's church and people.



Mark Mensorides

Occupation: Global Supply Chain & Procurement Executive
Service: Bible Study Fellowship- Assistant Teaching Leader, Henry Beets Missionary Society Board Member, Deacon
Gifts/Skills: Service, Leadership, Teaching

Reason for accepting: Prayer & Prompting by the Holy Spirit and family of faith.



Matt Bonzo

Occupation: Professor
Service: Teaching Growing U, Worship Committee, Small Group Leader
Gifts/Skills: Leadership, Teaching, Wisdom

Reason for accepting: I value LaGrave and I am willing to contribute to its ongoing witness.



Paul Stephenson

Occupation: Professor and Dept. Chair of Statistics
Service: CREW leader, member of the Communications Committee, and previous Elder
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Leadership, Teaching

Reason for accepting: LaGrave has authentically taught God's Word, sincerely worshiped our Savior, and faithfully performed acts of service. It would be my honor to Continue to advance these values



Rich Knoor

Occupation: Portfolio Manager
Service: Chair of Finance Committee, Bible Study Fellowship, Benefactors Trust Fund
Gifts/Skills: Discernment, Leadership, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: Prayer and a desire to serve.



Rina Warner

Occupation: Financial Administrator (Retired)
Service: Stephen Ministry, President of Choir, Pastoral Care Assistant
Gifts/Skills: Service, Prayer, Evangelism

Reason for accepting: I love to visit pastoral care. I would like to do more.



Vince Bonnema

Occupation: Christian School Administration (Semi-Retired)
Service: Growing Young, Elder (previous church), Volunteer at neighborhood food bank
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Discernment, Leadership

Reason for accepting: An appreciation for LaGraves ministries and an openness to contributing to those ministries

Administrative Deacon Nominees - 2023



Chris Witte

Occupation: Senior Tax Manager/
CPA
Service: Deacon, Worship
Committee, Organist (all at former
church)
Gifts/Skills: Administration,
Discernment, Service

Reason for accepting: Felt led by the Holy Spirit



Ken Johnson

Occupation: Manufacturing
Service: SERVE, Cub Scouts, and
Bible Study
Gifts/Skills: Service, Leadership,
Discernment

Reason for accepting: God's Timing.



Loren Koeman

Occupation: Lead Economist,
Michigan Farm Bureau
Service: LaGrave Christian Ed
Committee, LaGrave Security
Gifts/Skills: Service, Learning,
Leadership

Reason for accepting: I believe it is always important to give
back and serve, I feel called to use my talents to serve LaGrave.



Matt Alcumbrack

Occupation: Tool & Die
Service: Greeter, Outreach
Committee, Volunteering
Gifts/Skills: Service, Leadership,
Hospitality

Reason for accepting: I feel it is a duty of being a part of a
community.



Paul Speulstra

Occupation: Cyber Security
Specialist / Software Developer
Service: Administrative Deacon,
Fellowship Committee Chair (7
years)
Gifts/Skills: Administration, Service,
Leadership

Reason for accepting: A willingness and desire to utilize my skills
and play a role in service to God's kingdom.



Ryan Hekman

Occupation: VP Wealth
Management Advisor, Merrill Lynch
Service: Security at LaGrave,
Grandville Walker Foundation
Board
Gifts/Skills: Administration,
Discernment, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: I love this church and willing to learn
more by service and help by any means possible.

Visiting Deacon Nominees - 2023



Alex Baumann

Occupation: Business Owner
Service: The Gainey Leadership Retreat, Mission trips to the Dominican Republic
Gifts/Skills: Service, Leadership, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: God's calling to serve & to make greater connections in the community.



Deb Ondersma

Occupation: Attorney
Service: Search Committee for Minister of Preaching, Finance Committee, 2s and 3s Church School Teacher
Gifts/Skills: Knowledge, Leadership, Mercy

Reason for accepting: Desire to serve.



Jill Rosenboom

Occupation: Mom
Service: Leading Mom's Fellowship Group, Volunteering for 2/3s room
Gifts/Skills: Mercy, Teaching, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: I want to make connections with people in church & feel being a visiting deacon will give me that opportunity.



John Schat

Occupation: Real Estate Sales
Service: Christian Ed Committee, Deacon, Usher, Social Concerns Committee
Gifts/Skills: Service, Mercy, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: Desire to serve God & our Congregation.



Pam Mensonides

Occupation: Job coach, art instructor
Service: Intercessory prayer, hospitality, women's Bible study,
Gifts/Skills: Service, Prayer, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: Prayer and input from friends and family. A desire to serve.



Rene Baatenberg

Occupation: LPN (Retired)
Service: Sunday school teacher, GEMS leader, member of the choir and bells choir, two mission trips to Romania
Gifts/Skills: Working with people, Relationships

Reason for accepting: a willingness to serve



Rick Workman

Occupation: Owner of Riverdell Development Corp.
Service: Usher, Visiting others one on one as well as in groups, helping with events
Gifts/Skills: Service, Hospitality, Wisdom

Reason for accepting: To share God's love, not through policies or an agenda, but as I love my neighbor.



Sarah Malefyt

Occupation: Education Ambassador ODC Network
Service: Neighborhood board, working with community groups, Helping families connect with God's creation and community
Gifts/Skills: Mercy, Teaching, Hospitality

Reason for accepting: prayerful consideration and conversations with trusted friends led me to accept the nomination.

Visiting Deacon Nominees - 2023



Tim Clover

Occupation: Construction Foreman
Service: Church School, Usher,
DeGage
Gifts/Skills: Teaching, Leadership,
Hospitality

Reason for accepting: I feel called to serve God's church and further His kingdom at LaGrave.



Vicki Gelderloos

Occupation: Human Resources
Manager for Home Health Agency
Service: Children's Worship leader
for 10+ years, Bible study member
Gifts/Skills: Learning, Discernment,
Hospitality

Reason for accepting: A Bible study I was a part of about Divine Interruptions encouraged me to accept the nomination.