

ELECTION OF RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS

Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. See the following definitions as listed in the PC(USA) Book of Order:

Ruling Elders: The Ministry of Discernment and Governance of Session (G-2.0301) Congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament (or Pastors), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.

Deacons: The Ministry of Compassion and Service of the Board of Deacons (G-2.0201) The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Hispanic Fellowship Deacons: Individually commissioned to serve the Hispanic Fellowship (G-2.0202) Deacons may be individually commissioned...under the supervision and authority of the session. Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation, such as caring for members in need, handling educational tasks, cultivating liberality in giving, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, overseeing the buildings and property of the congregation. Deacons shall assume other duties as may be delegated to them by the session, including assisting with the Lord’s Supper.

RULING ELDERS



Jay Bass — Elder, 2025–2027 (second term)

Jay was born in California and has lived in San Diego since 1980. He and his wife, Valerie, are 30+ years members of SBPC. Now empty-nesters, they raised their children, Jamie and Ryan, as part of the SBPC community. As part of Jay's continual preparation for God's latest callings, he graduated from Fuller Seminary in 2021 and is excited by the spiritual growth and service endeavors happening within the SBPC community. Although many know Jay through his service as a greeter for Sunday worship services, he has long been involved in small group leadership, usually handling the spiritual side. Throughout his service on Session, nominating committees, and PNC, he has always tried to listen to God's urging and guidance so his people might best understand his desires. Jay is looking forward to serving SBPC in a second term as Elder.



Lani Curtis — Elder, 2025–2027

Lani grew up locally with deep, multi-generational roots in San Diego. Her parents began taking her to church at North Coast Presbyterian in Encinitas when she was in Jr. High School. During that time, she met her husband, Joe, at a YoungLife camp. Joe and Lani have been married for over 20 years and are raising three teenage boys in Del Mar: Cole, James, and Rees. Lani is passionate about generosity and stewardship. She works full-time as a fundraiser at the San Diego Museum of Art and founded a non-profit in Del Mar that cultivates strategic, next-generation philanthropy. She has been attending SBPC since 2016 and actively serves on the Come Build Hope leadership team.



Allison Long Pettine — Elder, 2025–2027

Allison has been a member of Solana Beach Presbyterian Church since 2014. She lives in Solana Beach with her husband, Spencer, and two children, Riley and Pippa. Allison's parents taught her about Jesus when she was very young, and she has carried a deep relationship with the Lord ever since. She was introduced to the Presbyterian church when living in New York. She attended 5th Ave Presbyterian and was involved with their Meals on Heels ministry. At SBPC, Allison has been involved with the MOPS ministry, providing her with a community of other moms with young children when she needed it most. She enjoys getting to know the future generations of Christ followers by volunteering at Fuel and on Sundays in the children's ministry. If approved, Allison would be honored to continue to serve the SBPC members as an elder.



Gail Steel — Elder, 2025–2027

Gail has been a believer for as long as she can remember, but her faith has grown immeasurably during her twenty-plus years at SBPC. A previously ordained ruling elder, she has led small groups, participated in the Discipleship Pathway team that eventually resulted in the Reveal assessment, served as a MOPS mentor, was on two APNCs, and most recently, on the Pathways to Citizenship Board. She and her husband, John, felt led to Solana Beach from Minnesota, and both are incredibly grateful for this community of faith and the leadership, values, and mission lived out consistently. They have two sons and five adult grandchildren who have visited SBPC their whole lives and genuinely feel at home here. Gail is particularly grateful to serve on Session at this time of transition and eagerly anticipating the future God has for all of us.

DEACONS



Claudia Bell — Grief Ministry, 2025–2027

Claudia lives in Encinitas and is retired (after 31 years working for the County of San Diego as a social worker), but she is still a social worker at heart. She loves hiking, reading, music, working out, the beach, traveling, hanging out with friends and laughing, and doing art with her sisters. Claudia is involved with the Foster Family Ministry at SBPC and loves the friendships that have developed and the community she is involved with through that ministry. She is also a Bible study and small group leader and has served on the Nominating Committee. Claudia is grateful for the opportunities God has given her to serve in her life and is looking forward to this new opportunity as a Deacon.



Terri Carter — Moderator, 2025–2027

Terri has been a dedicated member of the SBPC community for over 40 years and a follower of Jesus from the time she was a young girl. Her deep commitment to serving is evident through her extensive involvement in various roles within the church. In the past, as the mother of young children, Terri served as a Sunday School Teacher, coordinator, and teacher of the Bible portions of Vacation Bible School, Sports Jam, and KidsGames. More recently, she worked on staff at SBPC in Adult Discipleship and Hospitality, helping to create and implement the Party on the Patio experience and facilitating the small group ministry. Terri is currently a mentor mom for the MomCo ministry (previously MOPS) and a core group leader for Community Bible Study. She also serves on committees for Community Serve Day and Kingdom Builders. Terri lives in Encinitas with her husband, Steve. They have two adult daughters, Jennifer and Lauren, and a new son-in-law, Dylan, who married Lauren in May. Terri is enthusiastic about embodying the spirit of service as a deacon. Being the hands and feet of service means actively supporting and caring for the SBPC congregation, which is a vital and fulfilling role.



Nicole Hamilton — Care Visitation, 2025–2027

Nicole was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, where she grew up with faith as an integral part of her family. Nicole moved to San Diego with her husband, Brent, in 2017. Together, they have Avery, who is five years old in kindergarten at SFC, and Hudson, who is three years old in preschool at SBPP. Nicole found community at SBPC through the MomCo program (formerly MOPS) when her daughter was six months old. She then joined a small group and ultimately became a church member. She is currently serving in her second year as MomCo Coordinator, has led Community Serve Day sites, and actively delivers meals as part of the meal ministry volunteer program at SBPC. Nicole has a true passion for the intergenerational aspect of our church and loves raising her children here. She looks forward to her new role in giving back to a community that has provided so much to her.



Debbie Inada — Communion, 2025–2027

Debbie feels God led her to SBPC in 1986, and she has worshipped here since. Her daily prayers thank our triune God for his endless love, incredible sacrifice, and wonderful help. She is ever grateful for Jesus's sacrifice on the cross that paid the price for our sins and allows us to be with our Heavenly Father. Debbie loves God and this church and feels called to humbly serve as a deacon, especially in this time of transition for our church. Debbie served on the Alternative Christmas Market Committee for 30+ years and on the most recent Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. She serves on the Pathways to Citizenship and Kingdom Builder Foundation boards. Debbie is grateful that her sons Dustin and Noah are nearby in San Diego and enjoys hiking and reading in her free time.



Sharon Lao — Cards of Encouragement, 2024–2026

As a teen, Sharon traveled to Honduras on a mission trip and was captivated by the combination of sharing the good news of Jesus and learning about other cultures. For the last 17 years, she's provided end-of-life spiritual care as a chaplain to those facing terminal illness. Sharon and her husband, Gin, are a blended family with three boys, ages 15 to 28 (David attends One Youth), and they are committed to following Jesus. They participate in Community Serve Day and attend a small group. Creating a welcoming and encouraging space is a vital part of Sharon's ministry, and she looks forward to using her skills and love for Jesus to fulfill the call to serve as a deacon at SBPC. Written letters may be a dwindling art form, but Sharon is excited to utilize inspiration from the Word of God and an array of prayerful volunteers to bless our community through encouragement cards.



Kim Peterson — Memorial Receptions, 2025–2027 (second term)

Kim has been attending and became a member of SBPC in 2009. Since then, she has been involved in various volunteer positions, including being a Steven Minister, a tutor for Casa de Amistad, and a Come Build Hope participant building homes across the border. She also served as a deacon of Prayer Ministry from January 2022 to January 2024. Her family life is one of her greatest joys, sharing life with her husband Randy, her three children, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, and three grandchildren, and she needs to mention their adorable Cavapoo, Auggie. Kim's faith journey began 35 years ago when she became a Jesus lover and devout follower, growing in her faith through Bible study and regular church attendance. Her Christian friends are a great source of inspiration and examples of lifting concerns to the Lord in prayer. She is blessed to have two mentors in her life, one bringing the knowledge of a saving faith to her early on and the other instilling in her the love of reading God's Word and the importance of Christian fellowship.



Cathy Pritchard — Memorial Receptions, 2025–2026 (*two-year term*)

Cathy was born in LA, raised in El Cajon, and now lives in Carlsbad. She has been married to Bob for 35 years, and they have two daughters, Lyndsey and Ellie. Although Cathy grew up in a Christian home, she would tell you that a YoungLife camp was the moment of deepening personal commitment. Cathy is involved with several ministries outside of SBPC, serving as a children's teacher and core group leader at Community Bible Study. Still, recently, she felt God's call to be more involved in serving her church. She feels that having experienced the love and support of the church during the loss of her parents planted the seeds in preparation to come alongside others in the same way. 2 Cor 1:4 "...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others." Cathy feels humbled by God's leading and is grateful to be part of such a welcoming church!



Valerie Tuck — Weekly Prayer Focus, 2025–2027

A member of SBPC for over 20 years, Valerie resides in Solana Beach with her husband of over 35 years, Brad Tuck. Their daughter Victoria has recently married and is living in the UK. Valerie is so grateful for her small group and believes her participation has made a large church small. She has served SBPC as a Stephen Minister, a past Deacon of Communion, an SBPC Hospitality team member, and a Community Serve Day and Foster Hope Ministry volunteer. Valerie believes she grows in her faith most when she spends time with God. As, first and foremost, a child of God, Valerie looks forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will work through her and grow and guide her as the Weekly Prayer Focus Deacon.

HISPANIC FELLOWSHIP DEACONS



Cruz Saldivar — Deacon, 2025–2027 (*second term*)

Cruz es uno de los miembros fundadores de la confraternidad hispana y ha sido parte de la comunidad SBPC durante más de 25 años. Cruz ha participado extensamente en muchos ministerios, incluido el liderazgo de un grupo pequeño, Desayuno para trabajadores diurnos, Come Build Hope, Día de servicio comunitario, Mercado navideño alternativo, Caminos hacia la ciudadanía y el Equipo de liderazgo hispano. Cruz vive con sus tres hijos adultos en Solana Beach. Su pasión es compartir el Evangelio con todos sus amigos, vecinos y familiares.

Cruz is one of the founding members of the Hispanic fellowship and has been part of the SBPC community for more than 25 years! Cruz has extensively participated in many ministries, including leading a small group, Breakfast for Day Workers, Come Build Hope, Community Serve Day, Alternative Christmas Market, Pathways to Citizenship, and the Hispanic Leadership Team. Cruz lives with her three adult children in Solana Beach. Her passion is to share the Gospel with all her friends, neighbors, and family members.