

## 2026 Nominating Committee



### **Cathy Close – Chair**

Cathy and her husband, Tom, were married at SBPC in 1985 and have been attending ever since. They live in Del Mar and have three grown daughters, three grandchildren (who live in LA), and an 18-month-old Whippet. Cathy committed her life to Jesus at a Young Life summer camp at age 15 and was actively involved in Young Life High School Ministries through her early 30s. At SBPC, Cathy served extensively in the Children's Ministry in the 1990s and early 2000s, including serving as Interim Director for a brief period. She has also served as a ruling elder and participated in Come Build Hope for several years, and currently supports Foster Care Ministries and CASA. Cathy recently retired after a 50-year career in education. She began as a public school teacher and principal, and later served as a professor in the teacher-training programs at San Diego State University. Cathy shares, "God has been so faithful to this church body. I am eager to see whom He will call into leadership in the coming year. I am deeply grateful to all who have served on the Nominating Committee, especially Marguerite Walker, who has faithfully served as chair for the past four years. I look forward to continuing their legacy of prayerful discernment as we identify the next leaders for our church."



### **Heather Creighton – Vice Chair**

Heather and her husband, Jeff, have been members of SBPC for over 25 years. They value the SBPC community and feel blessed to have raised their three kids in this church. Heather continues to enjoy serving and supporting the ministries here. She is currently singing in the choir and has served in a few meaningful ministries: Come Build Hope, founding co-chair of MOPS, and later a MOPS Mentor, and participating in Community Serve Day each year. Heather is excited to serve as the Vice Chair on the 2026 Nominating Committee. She hopes to discern and affirm the direction of Christ's leading for this church and looks forward to seeing whom God is next preparing to serve in a leadership role.



### **Diana Ambrose – Deacon Representative**

Diana is a California native raised on a citrus farm near Yuma, Arizona. She grew up in the Presbyterian Church and lives in Del Mar with her husband, Don, whom she met at SBPC. Married by Pastor Mike in 2011, Diana has been active in SBPC since 1992, serving in ministries such as Shipmates, Divorce Care, Deacons, Community Serve Day, Come Build Hope, and leadership roles in Community Bible Study. She loves her small group "family" of 19 years, holds an MA in education from San Diego State University, and taught English in the Grossmont School District for 17 years. Diana looks forward to discerning God's will as a member of the Nominating Committee.



### **David Southcome – Session Representative**

Baptized as an infant, David has known Jesus for as long as he can remember, and his faith became personal during his church's Confirmation program. He married Ericka in 1997 after meeting at Wheaton College, and they have three kids: Hopelyn (CCA), Lia (Wheaton College), and William (Point Loma Nazarene). They have attended SBPC for 23 years. Prior to SBPC, David was involved in programs at Wheaton College, Willow Creek, and First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights, focusing on small groups, Alpha, young adults, and young couples. At SBPC, David has served as CSD site leader, small-group facilitator in men's ministry and triad groups, Sunday Bible Study, Next Steps, Come Build Hope, Creation Care, MOPPETS volunteer, APNC, CPNC, choir, and Session. He looks forward to continuing worship with the choir and serving another term as elder, seeking God's calling for SBPC and the community.



### **Judy Cours**

Judy has been a Christ-follower since birth and joined SBPC approximately 20 years ago after moving to Solana Beach. She was actively involved in creating, developing, and running KidsGames from its inception, has volunteered as a site leader for numerous Community Serve Day projects, and recently served two consecutive terms as a Deacon for Memorial Services. Over the past 15 years, Judy has served as a co-leader of an All-Women, All-Ages small group. She embraces the SBPC concept that this congregation is a mission outpost for the kingdom of God. Our spiritual development should emphasize practicing hospitality toward all, acknowledging everyone's need for God's grace, and making this mission evident throughout our community. Judy has taken the SHAPE survey several times and has consistently scored highest in Administration, Helps/Service, and Giving. She would be honored to serve on the Nominating Committee.

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### **Jason Kruger**

Jason lives in Solana Beach with his wife, Danielle, and their three daughters, Quinn (13), Everly (11), and Vale (7). The Krugers have been active, committed members of SBPC since 2012. Jason has been active in a men's group at SBPC and has served in various ministries, including Border Ministries, Community Serve Day, and Foster Hope Ministry, while also supporting Danielle in her leadership roles as the Chair of our church's foundation, the Kingdom Builder Foundation, as well as her role on the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee. Jason has degrees in Finance and Accounting from the University of Arizona. In 2008, he started an outsourced accounting and CFO advisory firm that was acquired in November 2024 by Citrin Cooperman, based out of New York. He is currently a Partner in Citrin Cooperman's Advisory practice. Jason is humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve on the SBPC Nominating Committee.



### **Valery Melkonian**

Valery was raised in a Christian family and attended a small Presbyterian church in San Jose, CA, where she came to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior at a young age. Through teaching VBS and serving the elderly, God planted within her a desire to serve others. While at Westmont College, Valery completed a Leadership Development Program, participated in student mission work in Ensenada, and earned her BS in Chemistry. An engineering job at HP brought her to the area in 1989, and she joined SBPC shortly after. She served on the leadership team for the Young Adults group before marrying her husband, Mark, in 1992. Valery spent many years in overseas Christian ministry and leadership. For the last ten years, based in North County, she has served SBPC through CSD, OLT, KidsGames, Foster Youth Ministry, Small Groups, Afghan refugee relief, and Ginny's Sewing Fellowship. She and Mark have three grown children who also participated in many SBPC activities. Passionate about Biblical discipleship and passing on faith to the next generation, Valery seeks to serve the Lord and SBPC's future by prayerfully joining the Nominating Committee.



### **Christine Peterson**

Christine is blessed to come from a family with generations of Jesus followers. She made her own decision to follow Him as a child. After moving with her family to San Diego as a teen, she started attending SBPC during the summers when she was home from college. She met her husband, Doug, at Wheaton College, and they married at SBPC. They have been here ever since, raising two sons and growing closer to Jesus. Christine has served in many ways over the years: high school small group leader, on local mission teams, on El Salvador and Ethiopia trips, on hospitality teams, and in adult small groups. She also served in Children's and Preteen Ministries for 12 years, including 8 as co-director/volunteer coordinator for KidsGames. This position brought great joy as she recruited, equipped, and encouraged hundreds of volunteers each year. Christine is looking forward to prayerfully listening for the Lord's leading on this team.



### **Travis Vining**

Travis has a rich history with SBPC and is grateful to still call this church home. He was baptized at SBPC, and then moved with his family to the Bay Area in elementary school. Returning to San Diego for college, Travis met his wife, Stephanie, and together they resumed attending SBPC in the early 2000s. In 2015, Travis, Stephanie, and their sons, Tyler (now 16) and Matthew (now 12), moved to Texas, then to Australia, before returning to San Diego in 2021. God has remained steady and faithful throughout their many journeys. The Vinings felt at home upon returning and value the opportunities to serve, share faith, and love neighbors through SBPC's many service options. Travis recently finished a three-year term as Elder and is eager to help the Nominating Committee in this season of transition.