

2025 Nominating Committee



Marguerite Walker – Chair

Marguerite was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and baptized in the Presbyterian Church. However, she grew up in the Lutheran Church, was confirmed there, and, as a teenager, committed her life to Christ. She and her husband, Keith, married after college and have two married sons and three grandchildren. While at Carmichael Presbyterian in northern California, she became an ordained Elder. After moving to San Diego in 1993, the family joined SBPC. She is a long-time member of the Chancel Choir, a member of a Small Group, a Community Serve Day site leader, and a CBS core leader substitute. She served as Moderator of the Board of Deacons and is starting her third year on the Nominating Committee, serving as the Chair since 2023. Marguerite considers it a privilege to serve on the Nominating Committee and hopes to help discern God's will in calling new leadership for SBPC.



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 Co-Chair on the 2025 Nominating Committee. She hopes to discern and affirm the direction of Christ's leading for this church and looks forward to seeing who God is next preparing to serve in a leadership role.



Travis Vining – Session Representative

Travis has a fun history with SBPC and is blessed to continue to call this church his home. He was baptized at SBPC before his family moved to the Bay Area while he was in elementary school. Travis returned to San Diego for college and eventually met his wife, Stephanie. They started attending SBPC again in the early 2000s. In 2015, Travis, Stephanie, and their two boys, Tyler (now age 15) and Matthew (now age 11), moved to Texas and later to Australia. In 2021, they moved again, but this time back to San Diego. God has been steadfast and faithful throughout his family's many journeys. The Vinings felt immediately at home after being gone and continue to enjoy the many service opportunities within SBPC to share our faith and to love on our neighbors...both near and far. Travis is an active Elder and is excited to help the nominating committee during this season of transition.



Diana Ambrose – Deacon Representative

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



Sue Baker

Sue is a long-time member of our church. Raised in Napa, she grew up in the church and decided to follow Christ in high school through involvement in Young Life. After college, Sue moved to San Diego and joined SBPC, where she met her late husband. In addition to her work as a software executive, Sue helps run a local weekly food charity through 92130Cares. At SBPC, she has served as a Stephen's Minister, a Deacon, and on a previous Nominating Committee. She and her kids, Daniel and Becca, have participated annually in Come Build Hope since 2013. Sue is excited to serve for a second year on the 2025 Nominating Committee.

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Cathy Close – Chair Elect

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 a 7-month-old Whippet. Their youngest daughter, Torrey, has been a part of SBPC since birth. 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. As a member of SBPC, Cathy served extensively in the Children's Ministry in the 1990s and early 2000, including serving as Interim Director for a brief period. She has also served as a ruling elder and participated in Come Build Hope, Foster Care Ministries, and tutors in CASA. Cathy has had a 50-year career as an educator, first as a teacher and principal and most recently as a professor in the teacher training program at SDSU. Her next career step will be retirement at the end of May 2025, so she is anxious to see what God has planned for her future, including participating on the Nominating Committee. "God has been so faithful to this church body. I look forward to continuing in the faithful legacy of the nominating committee and seeing how God will grow me through my service on this committee."



Jason Kruger

Jason lives in Solana Beach with his wife, Danielle, and three daughters, Quinn (11), Everly (10), and Vale (6). 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 acquired in November 2024 by Citrin Cooperman, based out of New York. He is currently a Partner in the Advisory practice of Citrin Cooperman. 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. She came to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior at a young age. From teaching VBS and serving the elderly, God planted a desire in her to serve others. While attending Westmont College, she completed a Leadership Development Program and did student mission work in Ensenada while earning her BS in Chemistry. An engineering job at HP drew her to the area in 1989, and she joined SBPC shortly after. Valery was a part of the leadership team for the Young Adults group before marrying her husband, Mark, in 1992. She also served overseas in Christian ministry and leadership for many years. For the last ten years, while based in North County, Valery 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 activities at SBPC. Passionate about Biblical discipleship and passing on our faith to the next generation, Valery hopes to serve the Lord and the future of SPBC by prayerfully serving on the Nominating Committee.



Robert Nance

Robert was born in Los Alamos, NM, and raised in the United Church of Los Alamos (Presbyterian adjacent). He went to UCSD for college and has been in the San Diego area ever since. In late 1988, Robert bought a house in Solana Beach and shortly thereafter joined SBPC. He met his wife, Paula, through a short-term mission trip to an orphanage in Baja. Not long after their marriage in 1996, they joined the Chancel Choir and are still participating. They also took Stephen's Ministry training and were active there for a few years. Robert has a heart for mission/outreach and has been on a dozen Come Build Hope trips, visited the Afar in Ethiopia five times, Colombia twice, and the Tumutumu Hospital in Kenya once. Robert loves photography and participates in that fashion in several church functions, has been active in the Thursday morning men's Bible study for over 25 years, and has been involved in small groups since they were still called "covenant groups." Robert is always looking for ways to serve and is pleased to participate with the Nominating Committee.