



# Candidates for Boards and Lay Leadership

To be presented to the congregation at  
the Annual Meeting,  
June 17, 2018

*Brief self-introductions to our leadership candidates, who were selected by the Nominating Committee. Find descriptions of Boards, Deacons and the Leadership Council at the back of the booklet.*

## **BOARD OF COMMUNITY LIFE NOMINEES**

### **Kelcie Hoes, 2-year term**

Kelcie grew up an Army brat with North Dakota roots. She moved to Minneapolis, by choice, in 2003. She lives in North Minneapolis with husband, Nick, children, Caleb (6) and Meme (Amelia, 4) and dog, Lilly. Her family was introduced to Plymouth by long-time members the Hills-Bonczyks when Kelcie was pregnant with Caleb. Kelcie found comfort at Plymouth, and she and her husband joined the church in 2012. She enjoys running, biking, reading and traveling whenever she can. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and currently puts it to use as a stay-at-home mom. Kelcie volunteers at both of her kids' schools, at Plymouth and throughout the community. She looks forward to offering her insight and being more involved throughout the Plymouth community.



### **Lily Johnson, 2-year term**

Throughout my years at Plymouth, I have been involved in many facets of the church. I was a part of youth programs growing up and served as Assistant Director of Youth and Children for two years following high school. I also work in outreach at



Save the Boundary Waters and as a YMCA summer camp counselor, and I am pursuing a degree in Environmental Education and Communication. Through these experiences, I have become well-versed in communication, organization and specializing my skills to different programs and communities. I hope to bring these skills and a new perspective to the Board of Community Life!

### **Heidi McCallister, 3-year term**



I've been a member of Plymouth since 2012. With two school-aged daughters, much of my service has been focused on supporting activities related to children and families. I have been a Church School teacher for several years in classrooms ranging from pre-school to 5th grade. I've served on the Sharing the Ministry Committee, working to engage members in volunteering. I also love being a member of the Chapel Singers. Being part of the Plymouth community is a blessing in my life, and I look forward to helping grow and nurture it through serving on the Board of Community Life.

### **Francis "Fran" Neir, 3-year term**



Francis Neir is retired and stays active with numerous not-for-profit activities. A major focus of these activities is affordable housing. He has been on the Alliance Housing, Inc., Board of Directors for 10 years and currently serves as their Secretary. He has also been deeply involved with the Great River Landing project of Plymouth/Westminster/Beacon, which is building housing for 72 men coming out of incarceration. He has two sons and two daughters: Scott lives in the Indianapolis area with his wife and three sons and one daughter; Alex lives in Denver with his wife and daughter; Cassie lives in Plymouth with her husband and two daughters; and Olivia lives in Los Angeles.

### **Collin Smith, 1-year term**

Collin was born and raised in Florida and went to school at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. After working in Utah, Washington and the Florida Keys, Collin moved to Minneapolis to

be closer to family. Shortly thereafter, Collin started attending Plymouth in February 2017 after being taken with the music, ministry and warmth of the church. Collin currently organizes a young adult group at Plymouth and teaches Church School. He works in marketing at Twin Cities Public Television and lives in Uptown.



### **Brad Wieman, 1-year term**

I became a member of Plymouth Congregational Church in January



2017, after having attended services here for around 8 months. I am especially drawn to Plymouth's commitment to social and racial justice and to the role that music and the arts have in enriching our spiritual lives here. I have participated in the Personal Lenses Racial Justice Workshop and a Racial Justice Talking Circle, and I have volunteered in the annual spring and fall cleanups of the rain

garden. I also volunteer for the Sunday Hospitality Service and recently accepted the position of overseeing that service each week. I'm very excited for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Community Life and look forward to working with other members to help further strengthen our sense of community at Plymouth. I live in the downtown Minneapolis area and love the diversity of my neighborhood. I work as a healthcare analyst/project manager at Hennepin County Medical Center, and, in my spare time, I enjoy cooking and baking, landscaping, live music and theater and spending time outdoors. I am grateful to have found Plymouth and am looking forward to exploring additional opportunities here!

### **Returning Members**

**Emi Bennett Vo, serving as chair, returning for a 1-year term**

**Remona Weaver, returning for a second 3-year term**

**Matthew Wiandt, 2-year term**

## **BOARD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION NOMINEES**

### **Mike McGettigan, 3-year term**

Mike joined Plymouth in 1997. Originally from Ann Arbor, Mike grew up in the First Presbyterian Church and began attending the First Congregational Church (both in Ann Arbor) while in college. Mike and his husband, Dan Legerski, had their commitment ceremony at Plymouth in 2001 and adopted their daughter, Claire, in 2013. He is a manager at a software consulting company in St. Louis Park. Mike co-chaired the Board of Stewards, served on the Outreach Board and has taught Church School since 2016. Mike enjoys biking, swimming, camping and spending time outdoors with his family.



### **Gary O'Brien, 1-year term**

Gary O'Brien is an Iowa native whose family relocated frequently due to his father's work with Pfizer and Revlon. Gary spent his childhood in suburban Chicago, Des Moines, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Long Island before relocating yet again to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he finished high school. In Gary's words, "I learned that I had to make friends quickly or not at all." After earning an engineering degree at Iowa State, he worked in New York City for two years before moving to Minneapolis. For the past 23 years, he has arranged corporate mergers and acquisitions for mid-sized private companies. Gary is a co-founder and Managing Director of Hennepin Partners. He lives in the Kenwood neighborhood of Minneapolis with his wife of 35 years, Mary Howard O'Brien. They have been members of Plymouth Church for 20 years.



## **Returning Members**

**Todd Aldrich, 1 year**

**Jen Glaeser, 2 years**

**Jill Hennesen, 2 years**

**Rick Neville, returning for a second 3-year term**

**Eric Olsen, chair, returning for a second 3-year term**

**John Schenk, 1 year**

**Melinda Wellvang, 2 years**

## **BOARD OF FINE ARTS NOMINEES**

### **Cyn Bloom, 3-year term**

My husband, Tom, and I joined Plymouth in the late 1990s. The two of us deeply appreciate the arts at Plymouth and in the Twin Cities, and I look forward to serving on the Fine Arts Board. I have been on the Board of Member Care and the Board of Outreach and I currently serve on the Flower and Memorial Services committees.



### **Diane Hallberg, 1-year term**



### **Elizabeth Hannaher, 3-year term**

Elizabeth's focus is on the visual arts. She earned a bachelor of arts in Art Education and an MA in Art Administration. After 30 years working for arts organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead area, she now is retired. She serves as an advisor to the Minnesota Arts Board, the Lake Agassiz Arts Council, the West-Central (Lake Region) Arts Council and the American Association of Museums.

### **Brent Stahl, 2-year term**

## **Returning Members**

**Lynnette Black, 2 years**

**Eric Hugunin, 2 years**

**John Kulstad, continuing as chair, 1 year**

**Rachel Walker, returning for a 2-year term**

**Amanda White, 1 year**

## **BOARD OF OUTREACH NOMINEES**

### **Sally Cassellius, 1-year term**

Hi, I'm Sally Cassellius. Some of you may know me as the one with the nose ring. My family and I joined Plymouth about 10 years ago, and we've loved it here. One of my favorite things about our church is our social justice tradition. To really follow Jesus as a teacher, we must reach out to the community.

### **Mary Jordan, 3-year term**

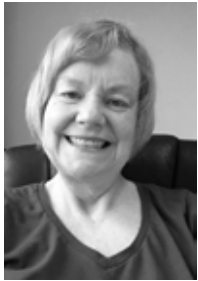
My name is Mary Jordan and my family—wife Jeanne Witzig and our three kids Tim, Claire and Jonathan—have been active members for the past 10 years or so. Over that time, I've served in several different capacities supporting our church youth. I also was a member of the search committee for our transitional minister upon Jim Gertmenian's retirement. I'm excited to join the Board of Outreach as this is a passion of mine. Prior to having children, I was active on the board of PRISM, a local food shelf and general assistance faith-based organization in Golden Valley.

I am a pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in adolescent health and am currently working to improve the health of the young people of north Minneapolis.



### **Kim Lutes, 1-year term**

Kim Lutes is a 20-year member of Plymouth Church and has family roots at Plymouth dating back to the 1930s. She has served two terms on the Board of Member Care and the Board of Outreach in the past and acted as the coordinator of the Third Sunday Meal for seven years. She was also a member of the Great River Landing/Beacon Interfaith Housing collaborative task force. Kim works as the program manager of Mental Health Minnesota, an advocacy and education organization. Kim's job involves public speaking and policy work related to mental health and stigma in hopes of improving mental health care delivery in Minnesota. She lives in the Midtown/Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. Kim enjoys traveling and spending time with her life partner, Sarah.



### **Virginia "Gingie" Ward, 3-year term**

Gingie Ward was raised at Plymouth, confirmed here, then moved south for her career. In 2010 she moved back to be closer to her mom, Jinny Humphrey. Gingie started volunteering at Nicollet Square just before it opened, and she also spent time volunteering at Lydia, Whittier school, Groveland Emergency Food Shelf and



Night on the Street. She and her husband, Mike, started the bikes program that is offered in conjunction with Third Sunday Meal. She loves the opportunity to serve that the Outreach Board offers.

### **Returning Members**

**Birdie Cunningham, 1 year**

**Peter Eichten, serving as chair, 2 years**

**Sue Moses, 2 years**

**Jared Swanson, 1 year**

**Peter Vitale, 2 years**

### **BOARD OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION NOMINEES**

**Lindsey Alexander, 3-year term**

Lindsey joined Plymouth in the spring of 2017 and is happy to be joining her first Plymouth board! Lindsey was raised in northeast Iowa, attended Iowa State University for her undergraduate degree and the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs for her master's degree. She is a project manager for ReThink Health, an initiative foundation that helps leaders and cross-sector teams tackle regional health and healthcare redesign. She enjoys being active, reading and spending time with her family and friends. She lives with her husband, three children (Eleanor, 12; Charlie, 9; and Will, 4) and dog (Maizie) in the Lynnhurst neighborhood.

**Henry Bubula, 1-year term**

I'm Henry, and I've been going to Plymouth ever since I was born. I'll be a senior at Breck for the 2018-2019 school year, where I have been going for three years. I enjoy drawing, acting, reading and doing Third Sunday Meals here at Plymouth!

**Corbin Dillon, 3-year term**

For the past seven years, Corbin has assisted his wife Katherine in teaching the junior and senior high youth. It's been a particular joy for him to be part of the spiritual growth of this crucial group of the Plymouth Church family! Their son, Cooper, enthusiastically participates in Little Lights and Young Voices. Corbin has taught music in public schools and privately since 1998. He and his family enjoy



spending time together outside, camping, gardening and biking. As a member of this board, Corbin is passionate about retaining new families, supporting spiritual exploration activities and continuing to strengthen youth programs.

**Johanna Schussler, 3-year term**

My husband, Chris Bohnhoff, and I have been members of Plymouth for over a decade. We value that Plymouth welcomes, nurtures and encourages a diversity of personal faith experiences and that it encourages the participation and contributions of everyone. I deeply appreciate that the Plymouth congregation is on a journey of exploration of what kind of church we will be today and in the future, while we honor our past. I'm excited to help further that work as a member of the Board of Spiritual Formation. During the week, I work as a Process Improvement Advisor with Hennepin County. Chris and I live in South Minneapolis with our son, Heiko, and cat, Pineapple.

**Stacy Yoakiem, 3-year term**

I enjoy learning about where religious and spiritual beliefs come from, which has led me to an understanding of politics and economics in history. I have been concerned with understanding how humans are drawn to blind absolutism and associated effects, which led me to seek community where I can become involved in impacting positive social changes. I have attended Plymouth since the late 1990s and became a member upon the birth of my first child in 2011. I love the way children are taught at Plymouth. My favorite day of the year is Confirmation Sunday. That the youth are free to think and express their thoughts in church is something rare and precious. I would be very happy to have the chance to learn and serve at Plymouth.

**Returning Members**

**David Astin, 2 years**

**Becky Dougherty, returning as chair, 2 years**

**John Humphrey, 1 year**

**Josh Scharback, 1 year**



## **BOARD OF WORSHIP NOMINEES**

### **Jamie Bonczyk, 1-year term**

Jamie Bonczyk, MA, is a mother, wife, and change-agent. She became a member of Plymouth Congregational Church five years ago. She is finishing her second year as Church School teacher in the Big Lights classroom. Jamie is drawn to the church's commitment to social justice and the family-friendly environment. Both of these characteristics are essential to her work as an educator in and an advocate for the field of early childhood education. Jamie is the Executive Director of Hopkins Early Learning Center. She lives in Richfield with her daughter, Sylvie, and husband, Jeremy.



### **Andrea Bubula, 3-year term**

My husband, Mark, and I joined Plymouth 15 years ago. The progressive sermons were new to us as two who had been raised Catholic. We have two teenage sons, both now Plymouth members. When my boys were small they came to Church School, and when the early service was new, we participated in that service regularly. Now, as a family, we volunteer at Third Sunday Meal. Being in community with the kind and supportive members of Plymouth has been an important part of raising my family. It's been a while since I served on a board; my younger son (who was just confirmed) was then a newborn baby and sat in on many meetings. I'm excited to serve now on the Board of Worship.



### **Penelope "Penny" Needham, 2-year term**

The year of my Confirmation at Plymouth Church was when I started singing in Senior Choir (with leaves for college, child-rearing or teaching Sunday school music or Confirmation class). I've also served on the boards of Religious Education, Pastoral Care and Membership. A K-12 school music teacher by occupation, I am drawn to Plymouth's exemplary music and arts programs, inspiring sermons, spiritual



growth and thoughtful social actions. As for joining the Board of Worship: “The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet,” from *Wishful Thinking*, by Frederick Buechner.

### **Maureen Tanis, 3-year term**

I was baptized, confirmed and married at Plymouth. The



relationships and activities at Plymouth were central to the life of my family as I was growing up. After college, I served on the Board of Stewards for a period of time before my husband and I moved to St. Peter, Minn. Over the years, I visited Plymouth from time to time, and I started attending regularly again 8 to 10 years ago when I accompanied my parents to church. This was a way to support my parents,

by remaining present and connected with Plymouth in their later years. I loved being back on a regular basis and re-joined Plymouth in 2012. My husband, Paul, and I live in Eden Prairie. We have three grown sons and two granddaughters. I am a Clinical Social Worker/Behavioral Health Therapist with Park Nicollet in Shakopee and Chanhassen. I am drawn to Plymouth for its progressive theology, inspiring worship and music and the commitment to social justice. I have helped to support the work of the Archives, Families Moving Forward and Third Sunday Meals. I am looking forward to serving on the Board of Worship. Plymouth is a unique and special place and feels like home.

### **Returning Members**

**Karen Barstad, chair, 2 years**

**Rossi Clem, 1 year**

**Nancy Geertz-Larson, 2 years**

**Karl Jones, 1 year**

**Jasper Jonson, 1 year**

### **DEACONS**

**Claire Colliander, standing for Treasurer and 3-year term**

Claire Colliander has served on the Board of Finance and Administration and the Stewardship Committee



and sang in the choir for many years. She has spent her career in the field of nonprofit finance and is currently the Director of Finance and Marketing for the Epilepsy Foundation. She and her husband, Greg Steenson, have a daughter and son who participated in Plymouth's youth programs. She is a mentor with Simpson Housing.

### **David Homans, 2-year term**

David C. Homans previously served Plymouth on the former Board of



Deacons, Board of Outreach and as a Church School teacher. He also volunteers with the Third Sunday Meal. A cardiologist, he has served as a medical volunteer in Peru. Canoeing, backpacking, distance running, sailing and reading are among his interests. He and his wife, Meredith, have two children and four grandchildren. He says: "As a long-time member who is extremely grateful for having Plymouth in my life, I am looking forward to serving as a Deacon in order to better support Plymouth's mission and strengthen the voices of liberal theology, compassion and constructive dialogue in our world today."

### **Brian Siska, standing for Moderator (2-year term) and returning for a second 3-year term**

Brian has been a Deacon since 2015 and a Plymouth member

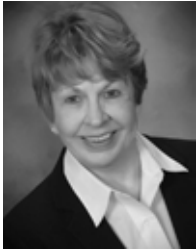


since 1986. He is retired from food and health-care businesses and has devoted his retirement entirely to family and to nonprofit work, having served on boards of organizations like Free Bikes 4 Kidz, the Minnesota Stroke Association and OneVillage Partners. He is passionate about building a prosperous future for Plymouth and believes that, with much love and care, our church will help people live out their faith for generations to come. He and his wife, Nancy, have two grown children who both live in Minneapolis.

### **Gloria Wallace, 1-year term**

Gloria Wallace has been a member of Plymouth for 36 years, including from 1987 to 1998, when she and her husband George lived in Phoenix. After returning to Minneapolis, she was an active member of the Plymouth Progressive Christianity Committee for

over 6 years. In recent years, she enjoyed contributing as a member of the Spiritual Exploration Committee. In her personal and professional life, she holds a lifelong commitment to human development. She helped launch several community programs, including a tutorial program for students with learning lags and a development program called Design for Family Living, before becoming a program coordinator for the Minneapolis-based parent education program called Minnesota Early Learning Design. In Phoenix, she co-created a Life Design course that promoted self-definition and life leadership. She has held state and national licensures as a psychologist, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, national family life educator and certified professional leadership and transition coach. For 14 years she worked as a coach, trainer and small group leader for the Minneapolis-based Center for Character Based Leadership, where she specialized in leadership development, executive coaching, team building, transitions and small group work. Gloria says: "As an elder, it is my life work and experience that draws me to be a Deacon at Plymouth in this emergent time. This is a remarkable community that fosters relationships and holds inclusive diversity in a large generational and theological container. It is an honor to contribute what I can during these challenging times."



### **Returning Deacons**

**Peg Birk, 2 years**

**Ed Curtiss, 1 year**

**Katie Dillon, standing for Clerk and returning for a second 3-year term**

**Claire Kolmodin, 2 years**

**Greg Zoidis, 1 year**

**Returning Deacon appointee**

**Ray Martin, Deputy Treasurer**

## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OFFICERS**

### **Deb Fowler, returning as Leadership Council Chair, for a term ending June 2019**

Deb Fowler has been a Plymouth member for nearly 20 years. In



her professional life, she helps senior executives and teams create sustainable change with high-impact and results-focused consulting. She helps teams at the top zero in on strategy, lead significant organizational transformations, enhance leadership skills and successfully collaborate with key stakeholders. With an artful balance of intuition and acumen, challenge and support, she helps leaders leverage their strengths and enhance their effectiveness and impact.

### **Sarah Lehman, Leadership Council Chair-Elect, for a term ending June 2019**

Sarah lives in South Minneapolis with her husband Matt Thomas, and children Ellie and Peter. She served on the Board of Outreach for four years, two years as chair. Currently she teaches Church School, organizes 100 Hands and serves on the Transition Planning Task Force. Sarah is very excited to be on the Leadership Council, to support the work of the boards and to explore the church's future during this time of transition.



## **Returning Officers**

**Mike McCallister, Leadership Council Secretary, for a new term ending June 2019**

**Mary Welfling, Archivist**



**The Board of Community Life** includes numerous groups and committees, including new member classes and receptions, support ministries, fellowship groups, all-church events, and recruitment and management of volunteer opportunities.

**The Board of Finance & Administration** oversees the Church's finances (annual budget, investments, endowments and stewardship campaign), building and grounds and general administration.

**The Fine Arts Board's** mission is: *To awaken the Plymouth Congregation to art around us, and within us.* The FAB oversees programs in the visual, performing and literary arts for the benefit of the congregation and the community at large (excluding activities relating to church worship services).

**The Board of Outreach** connects the Congregation with Plymouth's wider community through acts of compassion that address the immediate needs of those vulnerable in our society, and through advocacy for social change that furthers justice as a realization of the Realm of God.

**The Board of Spiritual Formation** is responsible for spiritual exploration, education and enrichment programs offered to members, from babies through adults.

**The Board of Worship** collaborates with the clergy and church musicians in creating worship services that are welcoming, nurturing, innovative and inspirational, and that respect both our love for tradition and our desire to embrace new worship experiences.

**The Leadership Council** is made up of the chairs of the six boards, clergy, three officers and the church archivist. They join in the oversight of boards; with board chairs, consider new initiatives; put into operation the strategic direction set by the Deacons; and more.

**The Deacons** have legal and fiduciary responsibility for Plymouth, set strategic direction for the church, recommend an annual budget to the congregation and develop governing policies and a system of accountability to monitor that goals are being met.

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis

[www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org)





