

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW 2023 OFFICERS

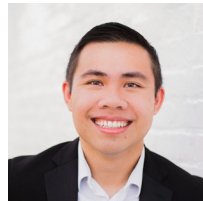
GOVERNING ELDERS



PARISH ELDERS



DEACONS



TRUSTEES



THE PROCESS FOR NOMINATING OFFICERS

Beginning in January 2022, the Nominating Committee encouraged congregational nominations for those who might serve in the offices of elder, deacon and trustee. The Committee met weekly for several months to consider the needs of Parish ministry for Parish Elders and Deacons, and for Governing Elder and Trustee.

Throughout this process, the team sought the Lord's leading through the gathered nominations to present the following nominees for church office for 2023 and beyond. Please prayerfully consider each candidate for each office and ask the Lord to complete his guidance for discerning those who would lead us at Third.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

All covenant partners are invited to review the bios of our nominees here and be prepared to vote for the incoming class of officers at our congregational meeting on **Sunday, November 13** following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. They will then begin their roles in January 2023.

2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We appreciate the work of the nominating committee over this past year as they have pursued the Holy Spirit's guidance in this process. At the congregational meeting in November, we will dismiss with thanks:

Parker Hale, *elder*
Beth Sprinkle, *elder*
Patrice Foster, *deacon*
Bill Edwards
Tracie Meadows
Dana Moore
Emilie Phillips

ROLE DEFINITIONS FOR OUR LAY LEADERS

ELDERS are elected by the congregation to lead the church in life and mission. They are mature followers of Jesus who together seek to understand and do God's will by equipping, teaching, and encouraging all the members of the church. There are two kinds of elders, **GOVERNING ELDERS** and **PARISH ELDERS**.

GOVERNING ELDERS

GOVERNING ELDER NOMINEES ARE LISTED ON PAGE 2

GOVERNING ELDERS serve for a short term (three years) in overseeing and leading the direction of the church. Acting in unity together they are called "the Session," trusting that God gives wisdom and direction to the gathered body of elders beyond what he does with them as individuals. They guide the church in strategic planning, stimulating generosity, leadership development, and oversee finances and personnel.

PARISH ELDERS

PARISH ELDER NOMINEES ARE LISTED ON PAGE 3

PARISH ELDERS focus on nurturing the faith and life of the congregation in their Parish area, helping new Covenant Partners get involved in using their gifts and walking alongside Parish members as they navigate faith and growth issues.

DEACONS

DEACON NOMINEES ARE LISTED ON PAGES 4-6

DEACONS are elected by the congregation to lead the church in service and love. The Deacons are mature followers of Jesus who assist the elders by encouraging and stimulating the connection and care between people in the church and the extension of that to the community. They chiefly do this through Third's Parish Areas and Parish Groups. They also lead the church in cultivating hospitality (greeting, ushering, and fellowship gatherings), and development ministry (financial assistance and mentoring, Jobs for Life classes, and practical assistance).

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE NOMINEES ARE LISTED ON PAGE 7

TRUSTEES are elected by the congregation to help manage and care for the facility and grounds and the organizational life of the congregation. They employ wisdom to ensure the care for and best use of the resources that God has given to the church. They are concerned with maintenance, improvements, matters of security and safety, good financial management, and policies that help use the church resources well.

GOVERNING ELDERS



MARK MENDEZ

Being ordained to new office
Class of 2025

Back in 2005, a friendly looking guy (Andy Burgess) pulled up to the University of Richmond in a bus, offered a ride to some church, and I've been part of the family at Third ever since. My wife, Kate, three energetic boys (James, Charlie and Ben) and I live in the Lauderdale parish where we try our best to engage and invest in parish life. We love our neighbors and feel called together for the renewal of the west end. Professionally, I lead a team of designers and software developers to re-imagine an old industry (insurance) by creating new products, listening to our customers, and learning from our failures. I've served in a few capacities at Third: pastoral intern for Corey, deacon, strategic planning, Parish Elder, and now on Session. I'm grateful for Third's witness to God's goodness and faithfulness over the years.



BUCK ROSENBERGER

Being ordained to new office
Class of 2025

I moved to the Richmond area with my wife Connie from southern New Jersey at the end of 2014. We have a long association with our area as Connie taught business classes at Freeman High School when Buck was attending T.C. Williams law school at UR in 1975. We are blessed with two daughters, Camp and Tess and four grandchildren. My law work was very diverse including criminal and civil litigation, municipal and government law, insurance law, personal injury, real property, wills and estates, trusts, and family law. I have worked as both a prosecutor and defense attorney and represented many municipal governing bodies as well as administrative agencies and boards. When living in N.J, we were members of the Woodstown Presbyterian Church where we served many terms as church officers and traveled on diverse mission trips including Romania, the Dominican Republic, New Orleans, and West Va. I enjoys woodworking, bike riding, exercise, volunteering for various nonprofits, and have restored two British sports cars. At Third, I have been a Deacon, Parish Elder, and Parish Group Leader.



BETSY POLLARD

Being ordained to new office
Class of 2025

Our family originally came to Third because of its strong biblical teaching and commitment to discipleship and missions. What an amazing blessing Third Church has been to us over nearly 20 years! My husband Speaker and I and our children, Anna and Henry (who are now grown and living in other cities), have been deeply loved and nurtured by our Third family. Over time, I've had the privilege of serving in various ministries including women's ministry, Immigrant and Refugee Tutoring, Jobs for Life, VBS, and most recently as a Parish Elder. My vocational experience has been in non-profit resource development. I enjoy music, walking, studying Scripture, playing games (ping pong is a favorite), caring for our home, and spending time with friends and family. Speaker and I have extended families who all live in Richmond so we are often with them! I am excited to step into a new role as Governing Elder and look forward to what God has in store for us and through us as we move to a new location for a time.



JERA NELSON CUNNINGHAM

Class of 2025

My husband, Carl, and I joined Third in 1999 before we were married. We were drawn to Third because of the faithful commitment to teaching scripture and because of fellowship. Our two sons, who are 16 and 13 years old, have grown up in this church. Carl and I have been involved in Student Ministry in some form since we joined. We teach high school Sunday school and have helped lead mission trips to Mexico. I love to be a part of fostering spiritual growth in teens and watching the Lord work in their lives. I was involved in developing a marriage ministry at Third and served on Session previously with a focus on Christian Education and marriage ministry. In my professional life, I am a Clinical Psychologist and work with families and children, where my areas of specialty are attachment and trauma.



DIANE ATKINSON

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

I am married to Frank Atkinson, and we recently celebrated 35 years of marriage. We have two adult sons, Robert and Paul who also live in the Richmond area. Frank and I started attending Third in 2013. At the time we were living in Hanover County and had been members of New Hanover Presbyterian Church where I served as an elder and the Clerk of Session. We stayed with them as we sought dismissal from the PCUSA and joined the EPC as Restoration Church. While at New Hanover, I served on the Children’s Team, the Nominating Committee, the Preschool Board, as well as the Human Resources Team. We joined Third’s Covenant family in 2015 and Frank and I were involved in our Parish Group while in Hanover. We moved from Hanover to Henrico in 2020 and have attended a number of the Mooreland Parish gatherings. I have had a long history of volunteer work, from our local PTA when our sons were still in school, to two consecutive terms as a member of the State Board of Education, to my current role as the secretary of a charitable board since 2016: Hope for Families Worldwide. I feel so honored to have been asked to serve as a Parish Elder for my Third Covenant family. I humbly pray that the Lord will equip me to serve in this role.



LIZ EBEL

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

After being nurtured for many years in the Metamorphosis Sunday School class and Ridge Parish Group, I’m enjoying helping with 4th grade Sunday School and STEP tutoring. Leadership with Community Bible Study has been another source of rich spiritual growth and fellowship. My husband Tom and I have been blessed with over 40 years of marriage. We have two grown children, Chad Ebel and Genevieve Embler, a wonderful son-in-law, Brew Embler, and two grandchildren, Harvey and Sophie.



JODY LYLE

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

My husband Bryce and I became covenant partners at Third in September 2019. With our three children, Claire (11), Benji (7) and Julia (5) we jumped right in, attending City South Parish, family ministry events, adult Bible study classes, serving as Sunday school helpers in the kid’s classes, and connecting with others. We were only 6 months in when the pandemic swept across the world and all of our lives changed significantly. It was important for us to continue to grow those newly formed relationships at Third, so we looked for intentional ways to make that happen, despite the lockdown and isolation caused by the pandemic. Connecting with our church family during a time of such disconnection in the world was immensely fulfilling, spiritually. I am honored to serve as Parish Elder because I look forward to how God will use me in this role to love, connect and pray with people in our community even more.



LILA HILTZ

Being ordained to new office
Class of 2025

I have been at Third for about a decade and from the start loved the church’s heart to support a variety of missions throughout the world and here in Richmond, as well as, the desire to build communities of faith. I have previously served as a Deacon and Nominating Committee member and am currently a Parish Group Leader, along with many other roles and opportunities along the way. I work as an Elementary School Counselor in Henrico County during the weekdays, and chase around a toddler while singing nursery rhymes during evenings and weekends. My husband Patrick, daughter Charlotte, and I live in the City North Parish and have been so blessed and excited with the community and our neighborhood. I am excited to serve in a new way in the Parish!



AMBER ANTHONY

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

My husband, Drew, and I moved to Richmond in 2019 with our son, Foster (3). We became covenant partners at Third in 2021 and welcomed our daughter, Emery Ann (1), later that year. When we moved to the area, we knew no one, but quickly found the church to be a place of belonging for our entire family. The Three Chopt Parish has been a delightful group to share faith and fellowship with and has been especially encouraging to our young family. I am the wife of a football coach and a stay-at-home mom. I am humbled and excited to serve as Deacon at Third and look forward to being a part of the continued spirit of love and Christian hospitality that has made Third feel like family.



MIKE BRINSON

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

My wife, Lauren, and I grew up in the Short Pump area and went to Godwin High School. I grew up in a secular home and didn't have a relationship with the Lord for most of my life. After meeting and marrying my wife Lauren, her love, patience, faith, and steadfast conviction began softening my heart, and I noticed my perspective on Christianity and the Gospel begin to shift from an antithetical viewpoint to a neutral one, and from neutral to a desperate acceptance. Through the process of becoming covenant partners at Third, I was blessed to be baptized beside my three month old daughter in 2017. Our daughter Emma (5) began kindergarten at Veritas School this year, and our son Henry (2) will continue to exhaust his mom and dad for the foreseeable future. I'm excited for the opportunity to serve the church and to see what the Lord has in store for me.



WANDA BASS

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

In late August 2018, my husband and I decided to visit some other churches. We chose to visit Third Church first. At the conclusion of that service, we knew we had found a new church home. I joined in early 2019 and since then, have looked for ways to serve and to plug in to various ministries here. I served as a champion in Jobs for Life, an usher, an active participant in the Chesterfield/Powhatan Parish group, a member of multiple Bible studies, a nursery helper and a part of the refugee resettlement team for the Veremchuk family. I also work as a year-round media relations volunteer for Operation Christmas Child, that collects and delivers shoebox gifts in the name of Christ to children in more than 170 countries and territories around the world. My husband Robert and I live in Midlothian and have two adult children, Caroline and Robert Gates. I earned my degree in mass communications at VCU and follow Rams basketball and Washington Redskins (sorry, I cannot call them the Commanders yet) with a lot of passion. In my "day job" I work in advertising as a Senior Media Director. I feel honored to serve as a deacon at Third and can't wait to begin!



LIZ FORMAN

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

I was blessed to grow up in a home where Jesus was embraced and made known. I cannot remember a time in my life when I didn't know him, and he has drawn me closer and into deeper relationship with him throughout my life. I joined Third as a Covenant Partner in June 2021, after months of praying for discernment about where the Lord wanted me to be. The small Anglican church where my family had worshipped for years had relocated to Midlothian, which was far from my home just off River Road. As the mother of adult daughters (Elizabeth and Anne) who were on their own, and as a recent widow (my husband Greg died in 2017), I felt the Lord leading me to connect more in the community where I lived. Baptized into the Presbyterian church as an infant, I was raised in the Anglican (Episcopal) church and have served in a variety of churches both in Charlotte and Richmond. Women's Groups and Children's Sunday School are where my heart is, and I have so enjoyed being a part of those ministries at Third!



PAM DOUGLAS

Being ordained to new office
Class of 2025

I am so happy to join a wonderful group of folks as a deacon with Third Church. I grew up in church, receiving a Biblical foundation from my parents, and my church in Lynchburg, which has given me a life long grounding in Jesus Christ. Through my work in the mental health field as a psychiatric nurse for over 50 years, through my marriage and raising two boys, and through navigating continued spiritual growth at Third Church, I have seen God's provision for me. I became a member of Third Church in 1978, when a member invited me to join the choir. At that time, I realized that my husband was not going to join me in participating in church activities, so I decided that being a choir member was a comfortable way for me to join with others in a church. It also provided me with a community to give my children a Biblical foundation like my parents had given me. I have continued to be an active member of our musical program, developing close relationships with others in spiritual growth. Being a deacon will be another avenue to grow spiritually, and be a witness to others of our great God through his gift of hospitality to me.



SANDIE MARSTILLER

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

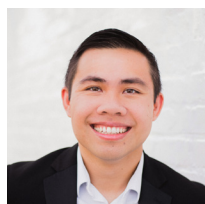
I have been attending Third since 2001 when I reluctantly showed up with my new husband at the invitation of a Third member. I realized immediately that my husband felt right at home and so I begrudgingly left my Baptist roots and we moved into the pews at Third. It didn't take long before I realized what a great choice it had been. I found the teaching and the fellowship to be more uplifting and gospel centered than I had ever experienced. Both my daughters Joy and Suzanne were born into this church family and brought up here. I have been active over the years in Vacation Bible School, children's choirs, nursery work, women's ministry, Jobs for Life, tutoring and organizing furniture pickups for our Christian Arabic Church friends. I have a heart for immigrants and for care-givers.



JULIA MATTINGLY

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

I've proudly attended Third since 2016 and became a Covenant Partner in 2017. When I'm not teaching our sweet first graders during Sunday School, I serve as the Executive Director of Celebrate RVA and work as a philanthropy consultant for small and medium-sized businesses. My husband Justin and I were married at Third in April of 2021 and live in the Grove Parish where we can often be found walking our beagle, Sadie. We both feel blessed to attend a Jesus-centered church and be part of Third's rich community. I look forward to serving our church family in this way!



TIM NGUYEN

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

I came to Richmond in 2018 and felt called to stay here after seeing the powerful work of God in the lives of those who attend Third Church. After taking the plunge to become a covenant partner in 2019, I've served in Third's Delta ministry for young adults as well as our immigrant and refugee tutoring ministry. I've also been blessed to participate in men's discipleship groups and men's ministry events, where Godly men have profoundly shaped my development as an image-bearer of Christ and given me a vision for what a gospel-centered life can look like. I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the role of Deacon and excited to see where I can serve God and neighbor in this beautiful community.



KATHRYN PERRY

Class of 2025

I found my way to Third through the Alpha course offered here in 2006. What drew me in were all the amazing people I met through that process. They all seemed to overflow with peace, love and joy and I wanted in on it. After joining in 2009, this community has walked with me through many joys and several hardships. One of my greatest joys is God blessing me with my loving husband David in 2016 and our two sons, Nolan (13) and Isaac (5). Our family recently moved back to North Chesterfield, which is where David and I are both from. We are excited for this season of transition for our family as we build community in the Chesterfield area and for our church as we move to Regency, providing an opportunity to connect with new people. Personally, one of my passions is rooted in one of my past hardships. I love connecting with women who are struggling in their marriages, dealing with separation or facing divorce. Prior to 2016, I was a single mother in our community for a season. I love speaking life, encouragement and offering hope to these women. This is a gift I received from several women in our community and it is a great joy to now offer this gift to others. I am really excited to serve our community during this transition time and look forward to seeing what God has in store for Third!



BETH ZULAUF

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

I am very excited about the opportunity to serve the Lauderdale family in the role of Deacon. I currently teach at JL Francis in Richmond Public Schools. I work as a reading intervention teacher, grades K-5. My husband Lee and I started attending Third in 2017, after attending our daughter and son-in-law's wedding at the church. We immediately felt at home here! I was really "inspired and moved" when Lee had surgery last winter, and our Parish members were so generous with love and support (which played into my decision to accept my nomination!). Our granddaughter is now attending Third, which of course is a grandparent's dream! I look forward to enjoying making many new connections, and moving forward in the calling that God has on my life. I enjoy theater, traveling, hiking, and reading.



ROBERT BASS

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

My wife Wanda and I tried Third in the Summer of 2018 and have enjoyed attending ever since. We joined the church in January of 2019. We have been Presbyterians for decades and have served the church in various capacities. We raised two children in Midlothian, and we are natives to the Richmond area. I am a Civil Engineer. I have designed roads, utilities, and commercial sites all over the area and I enjoy fixing things and making them last. I am excited to join the Trustees at Third. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, and working on my old truck.



ELIZABETH MASSIE

Class of 2023

My husband Jimmie and I have been members of Third since 1986, and have been blessed by the teaching, discipleship, and fellowship at Third, for both ourselves and our four children. With an engineering background but a hospitality mindset, I have been fortunate to serve at Third as a deacon, teacher, and usher, along with the Transition Committee and various other support roles. In addition, Community Bible Study (and its leaders, many from Third) has fed, deepened, and nurtured my spirit and faith walk. I am thankful for my weekly small group (meeting for over 30 years) born out of teaching at Third. I am excited for our church body as we face the challenges and growth opportunities together in moving out of our beloved building and into a temporary “new skin” at Regency!



ROSS LITTLE

Not previously ordained at Third
Class of 2025

I have been covenant partner of Third since 2010, although my wife Heidi grew up in this church. Heidi and I are grateful that Third is in our lives and the lives of our 11-year-old son Walker and 9-year-old daughter Ruthie. Over the years I have served as a Deacon (particularly on the Newcomers team), a third grade and sixth/seventh grade Sunday school teacher, a member of Third’s Architectural Review Committee, and an active participant in men’s small groups and the Three Chopt Parish. I have over 18 year’s experience in commercial real estate development and corporate real estate including elements of asset and property management. I look forward to using my professional knowledge to serve Third as a Trustee during this time of transition and improvement for our church facilities.



IAN WOIE

Being ordained to new office
Class of 2025

I first started attending Third as a college student at UR nearly 20 years ago. Within the walls of the church, I am proudly known as “Andrea’s husband” as my wife, Andrea, is on staff. Third has been a part of many milestones for our family. Andrea and I were married at Third in 2009 and our daughter, Hannah, was baptized at the church in 2016. Previously, I’ve served as a Deacon and volunteered for 12 years with the Student Ministry. I look forward to serving as a Trustee, especially as Third is in such a period of growth and change.

THIRD CHURCH

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