



**CHRIST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 2026 Elder, Deacon, and Deaconess Candidates

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### Cool Springs Candidates

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#### Cerian Bearl | Cool Springs | Deaconess



**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I was raised in a Christian home, and attended weekly church and children's ministry. At the age of 12, I attended a Franklin Graham crusade with my church and felt the Lord prompting me to take the next step of making the faith that I was raised in, my own. It has been a sweet journey that the Lord is taking me on. As I've matured in my faith, I've seen how He has been holding on to me and drawing me closer to Him despite my desire to walk the other way.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

As a woman, I am called to the role of deaconess. Through learning more about the roles in the church, I have noticed that I have been caring for the congregation in small ways already. I am gifted in listening to others' concerns, providing support, and advocating for their needs. I also enjoy taking care of the church in tangible ways, such as driving donations to Graceworks, filling in as needed in VBS, kids ministry, and the host team.

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## **David Bearl | Cool Springs | Elder**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I was baptized as an infant at New Hope Lutheran Church in Minnesota. I grew up in the Lutheran church, regularly attending with my parents. We had a confirmation class that was an opportunity to dive deeper into my faith before I could take communion. It wasn't until after my freshman year of college, though, that my faith became tangibly my own, when I spent a summer working with Youthworks in Juarez, Mexico. It was a grueling summer, scorchingly hot, but filled with more blessings, both for the people I encountered and for me. I learned to spend time alone, truly talking to and listening to my Lord in prayer, praising Him for the small things like cold water, ice-cold Coke, and families sharing literally everything they had. In short, I've always been a Christian because Christ first called me, but it took me some time to answer that call.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I have a sense to serve where there is a need within the church. I heard a rumor that I was nominated to be an elder, and I think I could serve in the role well, really as an extension of the service I try to provide already to the church community, including as a small group leader, Kids' Church volunteer, and intermittent substitute for both the Host and Worship teams. I often recall Isaiah 6:8, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"



## **Caleb Bumbaugh | Cool Springs | Elder**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I grew up in a Christian home, and my family was very active in church all of my life. One of the incredible parts of my faith story really starts with my grandfather and his coming to Christ at an age where my dad knew and saw that he was a changed man. This one life, changed by the power of the Gospel, is responsible not only for my dad

and his side of the family finding Jesus, but also for my mom and her siblings coming to Christ. God used my grandfather to bring so many of his family and everyone around him to Christ, so much so that by the time I was born, almost everyone in my extended family had come to Christ.

In my own faith journey, I grew up in a context that very much emphasized a sinner's prayer and "asking Jesus into your heart." For me, that moment came sometime around the summer after kindergarten at a local summer camp, sitting on an inner tube, talking to one of the camp directors. I wouldn't say there was pressure involved in any of it, but it was definitely one of those "if you died today, do you know where you're going" type conversations. At the end of the day, though, I had been seeing faith lived out and modeled in my home and extended family, as discussed above, and I knew and felt deeply that Jesus loved me and had a plan for my life. So that day, I made what I had always felt in my heart-of-hearts official.

From that point on, my walk with Christ has been consistent in the sense that there really hasn't ever been a period of my life that I have walked away from pursuing Christ and His church. I was always active in the youth group in my teens. In college, I was president of RUF and consistently attended church. In my early post-grad years, I joined CPC and have been involved in a variety of ministries and committees since day one. I am deeply grateful for God's consistent presence throughout my journey.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

For as long as I have been involved in the PCA (I was introduced to the PCA through Belmont RUF in 2009), I have always felt drawn to and a sense of calling to the office of elder. When I received an email last year indicating that someone (still unknown to me) had nominated me for officer candidacy, I was flooded with emotion. It felt as though God had seen this deep longing to serve the Church that I've had my whole life, and that it was time to pursue it. I will be honest in saying that when I received my nomination, I had some bits of self-doubt creep in because I am young, but I also recalled the words from 1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Going through this training has been such an honor, allowing me to see the workings of the church and to watch so many elders I have respected for so long lead this church through a particularly difficult season with both humility and strength. Attending session meetings and seeing how deeply the elders care for the church and its members has solidified my desire to join in that work.

For the past two years, I have also been involved in the churchwide Finance Committee, which has grown my understanding of the church and its operations while utilizing my vocational gifts as a CPA. In that experience, I have learned so much about

balancing finance and operations with a measure of grace and sensitivity for the intangibles involved and the particular situation that the church has been in over the past 18-24 months. This experience on the finance committee has been an important training ground for the very practical oversight that elders have in the church.

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## **Brian Eytchison | Cool Springs | Elder**

### **Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I became a Christian at the University of Virginia through the ministry of Campus Crusade and a fraternity brother who is a believer. I grew up in a nominally Christian (Presbyterian) home. As a Navy family, we moved every couple of years, and our church involvement was sporadic. I went to a Communicant's class at age 13 and passed the class, although my understanding of the gospel was limited to a vague sense that God loved me as I was.

Growing up was difficult for me because of frequent moves and the absence of my father, who served in the Navy as a submariner during the Cold War. I struggled with depression beginning in high school and turned to alcohol abuse, which continued into college. There, a fraternity brother began to witness to me, and I was confronted by the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" In the workings of God's providence, I happened upon a Campus Crusade tract in the fraternity house entitled "How to Be Sure You're a Christian." I read it in my room, knew immediately that the gospel was true, and I prayed to receive Christ.

I have known the Lord now for 45 years, and He has held me fast. The ministry of the local church has been central to that journey, and I've been in PCA congregations for almost the entire time. I met my wife through the singles ministry at Perimeter Church in Atlanta, and we've been married for 39 years. I have come to cherish the PCA's focus on the Word and Reformed doctrine, and small groups in various formats have played a consistent role in my spiritual growth and development.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I sense a call to serve the church as an elder. Through age and experience, I have "been around many blocks." I have a heart for the public worship of the Lord, for the

right teaching of the Word, and the Lord's work in families. I believe the combination of the Lord's spiritual gifting and my life experience has given me wisdom, Biblical insight, leadership abilities, strategic and critical-thinking skills, and concern for the work of the church and the well-being of its members. I believe those align well with the office of elder.

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## **Paul Holder | Cool Springs | Deacon**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I was raised in the Church of Christ/Christian Church (the branch that allows instruments in worship) and responded to an altar call at camp around the age of 12. Around 1997, at the age of 33, I realized I had been taking my faith for granted and began a journey toward a deeper understanding and faith. This journey has led me to where I am now. I had resisted Reformed Theology, thinking God would not choose me. I have at times been tempted to walk away from the church, but I knew Jesus to be the sole source of truth. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You

have the words of eternal life." I have come to embrace the freedom of not having to depend on anything I can do, but on the Grace and Mercy of Jesus Christ.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I have served as both a deacon and an elder in several Church of Christ/Christian Church congregations. I have served as Chairman of the Board of one congregation. I never thought I would be nominated or be willing to serve as an officer again. When nominations were opened this past year, I had a sense in my spirit that I would be asked to step back into this. I have obeyed. I love to teach the Word of God. I have a heart for the friendless, those who seem to linger at the edge of the room. I seem to have been given the spiritual gifts of discernment and encouragement. I will submit to leadership regarding what they see my role or calling to be.

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## **Will Munsil | Cool Springs | Deacon**

### **Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I became a believer in Jesus Christ as a child. As the child of believing parents, I can't remember a day when I did not know Jesus Christ. In my teens, I made a public profession of faith and was baptized according to the custom of my church at the time. At many points, the Lord has been faithful to call me to repentance and away from the things of the world. He is faithful to me still, and I hope to spend the rest of my years becoming more like Christ, to His greater glory, and for the good of the church and my family. I feel deep assurance that God is real, and still moves in our hearts, that He made and called me, and that the world waits in expectation of Christ's return to make all things new. My imagination is entirely converted, yet I remain in the already-but-not-yet of daily life, and need the daily reminders of Scripture and the Spirit, and the weekly Table to continue to sanctify me.

### **At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I am willing to be called or not called. In either case, I am committed to the Church and its people and will serve in whatever ways I can.

I do not have an entirely clear sense from God of what His call is in this particular time—or this particular stage of family life—and would appreciate the discernment of the Christ Presbyterian leadership alongside mine.

I do have a desire to teach the faith and to shepherd it faithfully, yet think at times that desire from God also appeals to my pride. I am trained as an attorney, and work in public policy, and have felt since I joined the PCA an interest in the governance of the institution, and the history of the church. I appreciate the way the PCA is governed (especially compared to less organized non-denominational churches I have attended), and am interested in participating, over time, in an institution that faithfully teaches the Word and shepherds souls. The theological reading and discussion in the training sessions left me eager for more, and I believe wholeheartedly and with great affection in the local church generally, and our local congregation specifically. To be called to serve would be a great gift.

Yet I am well aware of my own flesh and how I am proud and self-absorbed rather than continuously focused on the things of God and the needs of others: I would consider leadership to be service, and I would need to be continually in prayer to serve well.

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## **Michelle Peake | Cool Springs | Deaconess**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I am a follower of Jesus, and I believe that Jesus is my only path to the Father and the forgiveness of my sins. I strive to give my life for Jesus, since I know there is no way to repay Him for the work He did for me on the cross. I need the help of Jesus, plus the help of His gift of the Holy Spirit, to do this daily. I asked Jesus into my heart at my church's VBS in 4th grade, but have spent the rest of my life learning and growing deeper into the Christian that God intended for me to be. I am still growing and changing, but continue to see the Lord's kindness in the

ways that he grows me towards Him over time.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I believe becoming a deaconess is the right path that the Lord has for me at this time. I am looking forward to another way I can serve our church, after all the ways the church has supported and cared for my family and me over the last 10 years.

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### **Ryan Ridley | Cool Springs | Deacon**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I was born into an Italian catholic family and attended a Catholic school from Pre-K through High School. My faith was always a part of my life growing up, but it wasn't until college that I really trusted in Jesus for my salvation. I don't have a specific point in time, but many core memories that, in one way or another, happened through RUF at the University of Tennessee.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I feel most called to the role of deacon. I love being involved with the church and helping out as the hands of the church. I really enjoy helping out with A/V, men's Bible study, and wherever I can, helping Abbie (Ryan's wife, who is the Children's Ministry Coordinator at CPC Cool Springs).



### **Sandy Young | Cool Springs | Diaconal Assistant**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I grew up in a Christian home and can't remember a time when I did not know Jesus and want to follow him. We were in an Arminian church, and I was baptized at 12. God very gently drew me and grew me through the years, and after we married, we moved a number of times, and at each church, I grew more and gained perspective on the gospel until I came to hold a more reformed position in my faith. My relationship with Jesus is that I know I totally rely on him for my salvation. I have no other hope.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I was nominated to be a deaconess, but as we went through the BCO, I come to believe that my call is to be an assistant to the diaconate. God has given me a heart for prayer and for encouraging others to pray. (It has been my joy to be a part of prayer teams and groups in the past and to encourage/facilitate others to pray.) Though I know prayer happens here, I have wanted our church to be more of a praying church. I was delighted to learn that our church seeks to be prayer-driven, and I want to be part of that. Since I have a more singular focus, I believe I should seek to serve as an assistant to the diaconate rather than as a deaconess.

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## **Music Row Candidates**

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### **Jess Ivy | Music Row | Deaconess**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I am a sinner in need of grace—in desperate need of preaching the gospel to myself daily. By the grace of God, He has adopted me as His child, paid for my sins on the cross, and bestowed on me His perfect righteousness.

I did not grow up as a Christian, but I was raised in the Episcopal church with an awareness that something was missing. Church was an activity, a line item on my resume, a box I checked weekly. But under the hood, I was going through the motions—standing up at the right times, reciting the right lines.

Late in high school, I entered a period of depression and despair, but I didn't have anyone in my life who was speaking truth. I know now that the Lord was working on the muscle of my heart, tending the soil to receive His gospel and have it take root. Between meeting a sweet girl that God put in my life the summer before college and stumbling in the door of RUF (timidly, begrudgingly), I became aware of the surgery God was performing to prepare my heart for Him. My world turned upside down when I realized the things I looked to for definition were dangerous at worst and fragile at best.

The impact RUF had on my life cannot be overstated, and I count myself tremendously fortunate to have received such sound theological teaching at a time my heart was so vulnerable. After college, I went on to serve as an intern with RUF at TCU in Ft Worth.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I believe I am called to serve as a deaconess at CPC Music Row. I have heard the role of a deacon described as a “shock absorber” for the church body, enabling the elders/pastor to teach, disciple, and equip. I believe this is a gift I have, and I would be honored to continue embodying it.

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## Old Hickory Blvd Candidates

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### **Thomas Bailey | Old Hickory Blvd | Deacon**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I grew up in the Southern Baptist tradition with Bible-believing parents who faithfully raised me in the church. I was baptized in the fourth grade after professing faith in Christ. Although I believed the gospel from a young age, it wasn't until college, through a campus ministry and the influence of strong Christian friends and mentors, that I truly began to walk with the Lord. That season ignited a desire to grow in my understanding of Scripture, prayer, and theology. My relationship with Christ is something I seek daily. Though I have walked through many seasons

of faith, I love the Lord and know Him as my Savior.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I believe I am being called to serve as a deacon. I love the church, and I believe I can faithfully serve CPC in this role in a way that reflects Scripture's calling for deacons. I have a genuine desire to serve the people of our church and to contribute to the ministry and mission of CPC.

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**Martha Greenwood | Old Hickory Blvd |  
Deaconess**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.  
When and how did you become a Christian?**

When I was 5 years old, I attended a Backyard Bible School my parents were leading, and I realized my need for Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I have had a consistent relationship with Christ with growth along the way through teenage years, attending college, marriage, and parenting. Parents, along with others, have modeled for me what it means to walk daily with the Lord: quiet times in the morning, prayer, gathering with believers, and showing my faith in business and friendships.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

Since retirement in 2021, along with dealing with breast cancer, I'm in a season of my life to serve the church as a deaconess. Deaconesses are called to be worthy of respect, sincere, and to keep the truths of the faith with a clear conscience. I'm honored to be called to serve during this time in my life as a believer at Christ Presbyterian Church.

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## **Josh Gregory | Old Hickory Blvd | Deacon**

### **Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

While this could be a long answer, I'll answer it with a couple of hymn references from "In Christ Alone": I know that I am His and He is mine. "Come Thou Fount" also captures that I am prone to wander, and I'm constantly asking God to take my heart and seal it and help me to desire Godly things over worldly things.

It took me a long time to understand grace, and although I was raised in the Baptist tradition, said a prayer at age seven that I believe was genuine childlike faith in Christ to save me from my sin, I don't think I truly understood grace until my sophomore year at Ole Miss through the process of understanding I didn't and couldn't earn God's favor. This led me down a path of a much deeper faith and made my faith my own. I was baptized at age 7 (dunked 😊!) as a part of making a public profession of faith at The People's Church in Franklin, TN. It was an important moment for me, and even through this training, my growth in college, and as an adult who has seen all of my children baptized as infants, it brought me to really think through my faith in much greater depth.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I do believe I am called to serve. I've been discussing a great deal with my wife about this, the timing, the commitment, etc. I feel led to serve as a deacon. Being above reproach, hospitable, managing a household well, not a drunkard, etc. These are all noble desires I have. I like the idea of serving in the background with other men who are leading families and committing to the church. This gives me energy and spurs me to be a better leader and a better man for my family, and hopefully for the church as well.

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### **Tim Henry | Old Hickory Blvd | Deacon**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I grew up in the Baptist Church; my dad was a Deacon who taught Sunday School; we were very active in the church. My mom played the piano in that church. I came to know the Lord when I was 10 years old; I was saved, baptized, and have been walking with the Lord ever since.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

As I continue my walk with Christ, along with prayer and discernment. I am feeling the draw to use my spiritual gift of serving, to follow God's command as the theme in Romans 12:7, "If your gift is serving others, serve them well." Thus, I feel that my calling is to the role of Deacon.



### **Randy Hill | Old Hickory Blvd | Elder**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I was raised in a Christian home, and we went to church weekly. I grew up in a small United Methodist Church in Franklin and attended youth group there. It was not until a new youth/choir director came and taught us what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus. While I was in college at Vanderbilt, the Billy Graham crusade came to Nashville and to Vanderbilt, and our church took several carloads on the first night. After hearing Billy Graham preach and give the invitation, God called me to himself and I made a public profession of faith at age 19. I have

been a work in progress ever since. I have been so blessed to be at CPC since 1987 and have had great Bible teachers and preachers through the years, and I continue to have great teaching!

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I was flattered to be told I had been nominated for the position of elder. However, initially, I had a hard time seeing myself as an elder because I thought all elders had to be able to teach a Sunday school class. Being in front of a large group of people to teach is not a gift of mine. I have noticed over the years that not all ruling elders teach Sunday School classes. I discussed with my interviewer what the difference between an elder and a deacon really means. I think both need to be a calling for the office and a desire to serve. Elders are the spiritual shepherds of the flock, caring for the spiritual needs of members, while deacons care for the more practical needs of the flock and can help with the spiritual needs. Both deacons and elders need to have a shepherding and caring heart towards their flock.

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### **Chad Humbert | Old Hickory Blvd | Deacon**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

Jesus is my Savior, my Lord, the resurrection, life, peace, and joy. I desire to serve him, the church, and to be more like him daily. Submitting my heart to the Word daily and praying reorients my heart to depend on his grace in my desire to emulate Christ in my work and relationships to further the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit continues to remind me that it is through hard times and suffering that God draws us back and closer to him.

I came to know Jesus when I was in high school during the summer of my junior year. I went to First Christian Church's camp, where I heard the Sermon on the Mount and what it looked like to follow Christ.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

The role of deacon. Serving others in the body, both physically and spiritually, is meaningful work of the church and the kingdom. I care about our church body and

want to serve those in need. I am interested in serving on the benevolence committee. I desire to care for those in need in our church and our community. I also sense God calling me to help lead men and dads at our church through Men's ministry.

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## **Emily Mitchell | Old Hickory Blvd | Deaconess**

### **Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

Currently, I would describe my relationship with the Lord as dependent and joy-filled. Specifically, over the past three months, there have been life scenarios and what we can only describe as the Holy Spirit's chosen Biblical devotions, the Holy Spirit picked out Bible devotions that have opened my eyes to my dependence on Him and yet have increased my joy.

Now, if I were to describe the past 37 years of my life, my relationship with Him is that I know I am not my own; I am His. He has watched over me and will continue to care for me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without it being a part of His will.

I had the privilege of being surrounded by and raised by a family with a rooted faith in Christ. My parents raised me in a suburb of Chicago, where I attended a small Lutheran school affiliated with the Church we attended. It was a wonderful community to grow up in and be supported in. Growing up, I always had fear around my congenital heart defects. I grew up having multiple open-heart surgeries to try and fix the defects as best they could. I was raised hearing these stories of my parents passing their baby off to surgeons, yet putting their trust in Christ. They would tell me the story of when I was 2, and there were complications to one surgery with my heart, and their favorite surgeon reporting back, "It's in the Lord's hands now." These stories were not passed down to scare me but to lay the foundation that I am not, and my family was not, in control of the circumstances. We were grateful for what I did have, the brilliant medical professionals and the medical advancements that I experienced. But in the end, I had to put my faith and my concerns in the Lord. Because of the strong faith of those around me, and a health circumstance to remind me that God was in control, my faith foundation was built. I am so grateful that I really haven't known a day not walking with the Lord.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do**

**you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role?  
(Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I do feel a calling to serve and love my church in this way. My passion for loving our church well has really grown since this last time I went through Church leadership training. While I am a woman, and that is not outlined in 1 Timothy 3, I do believe that all over scripture and the BCO 9-7, women are still called to care for the sick, the widows, the orphans, etc. I understand that I would not be able to be ordained - I don't want to be. I want to follow what God and Scripture has outlined for any service. I have a heart and passion for supporting and hospitality, and if there is a way I can use those for service in our Church, I would be thrilled. While I feel called and led to this, I am praying for God to close a door if this is not His will.

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**Jim Murphy | Old Hickory Blvd | Elder**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.  
When and how did you become a Christian?**

I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior near the end of my junior year in college in 1976. The pastor at the church I was attending preached an "evangelical" sermon each Sunday, which ultimately convicted me of my need for Jesus.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I believe that my 25 years on the OHB Diaconate have helped prepare me to serve as an elder. Some of the spiritual gifts that have been manifested in my life are wisdom, service, mercy, leadership, and encouragement.

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## **Clarke Norvell | Old Hickory Blvd | Elder**

### **Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I grew up in a Christian household and regularly attended church in Florence, Alabama. I was baptized in 6th grade, and in middle/high school, I was actively involved in the Youth Group, making a statement of faith to our church's youth pastor.

It has always been a constant in my life. Our family suffered tragedy when my older sister passed away in 2002. We stayed with the church, but I was lost for many years. I went to college at 17 and tried to figure it all out on my own. I never denounced my faith, but I wasn't living the way I needed to. Over the years, my relationship with Jesus has been restored.

Specifically, ten years ago, I married my wife, Liz, and she created an opportunity to re-engage deeply with my Lord Jesus Christ. Her parents are strong believers. Now, Liz and I are raising our four children in a Christian household, and our faith has never been stronger.

### **At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I was nominated by a friend. Initially, I felt like it may have been premature for me to serve. We have four young children, and there are many reasons this may not be the right time. But after prayerful consideration, I feel called to serve as an Elder.

I'm humbled by the wealth of biblical knowledge at CPC. Memorizing verses and theological debates are not my strong suit. But I am a lifelong learner, and I think I would be a good addition to the team.

My strength is connecting with individuals and families on a personal-level and finding ways to be helpful. I am very organized (attorney & CPA) and appreciate the leadership structure in place, and would be a good addition. I have a talent for making others around me better and more confident, and I think those qualities are central to a strong church community.

I would like to serve the church as an Elder.

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## **Phil Pfeffer | Old Hickory Blvd | Elder**

### **Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I believe all of my sins have been forgiven as Jesus Christ died for me on the cross. I have been saved, and I will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ, our God the Father, the Holy Spirit, God's angels, and all others who have been saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a saved believer in Christ, I will be worshiping and praising God forever in our heavenly home.

I was baptized as a baby and raised in a Christian home. I was confirmed at Hope Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. When Pam and I married in 1965, I joined her in the Methodist Church. We moved to Nashville in 1966 to attend graduate school. My faith was reconfirmed in 1967 while Pam and I attended a Billy Graham crusade.

When we first moved to Nashville, we became members of West End Methodist Church. After six years, Pam and I became members of First Presbyterian Church, PCUS, where I served as a deacon. We left First Presbyterian Church to help form Christ Church with Dr. Cortez Cooper. We have been members of Christ Presbyterian Church, PCA, since the church was organized.

### **At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I believe I have been called to become an elder. I am 80 years old. I am particularly interested in serving in a financial role. I am also interested in helping build our youth ministry so that we have the programs and facilities to keep preteen and teenage youth and their families in our church. We also need to attract new families with our preteen and teen youth programs. Our youth program needs to integrate with Christ Presbyterian Academy (CPA) but serve young people and their families beyond the scope of CPA.

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### **David Watson | Old Hickory Blvd | Elder**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

My relationship with the Lord Jesus began when I was a young 10-year-old man at a revival meeting, when I responded in faith to the Holy Spirit's call to follow Christ. As a lifelong follower of Christ, the beauty of God's love for me and his sacrifice for me are truly transformative. I can attest that I am a child of God.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

For the last 35 years, I have had the opportunity to serve in many ways as a deacon at Christ Presbyterian Church. Serving as a deacon has been a great blessing. I am excited about the next season in the life of Christ Presbyterian Church as we await the calling and arrival of our next Senior Pastor. I feel a strong call to the shepherding ministry of elder in this body.



### **Lydia Wiggs | Old Hickory Blvd | Deaconess**

**Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. When and how did you become a Christian?**

I feel fortunate to confidently say there has never been a day when I did not know the Lord. I was raised in a Christian home and in a Baptist church. Being raised in the Baptist tradition, I was asked to make an individual profession of faith and complete a submersion baptism in front of the congregation. At the age of 10, I accepted the Lord Jesus into my life and was baptized. There have certainly been seasons I would describe as the dark night of the soul, but I have never wavered in my belief in the saving work of Jesus in my life. Today, I would describe

my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as an ever-growing process that seeks to make me more like Him.

**At this point, what sense of call to the church do you have? Do you believe you are called to serve as a deacon, deaconess, elder, or other role? Which role do you have a sense of calling to, and why do you believe you are called to that role? (Consider 1 Timothy 3:1-13.)**

I feel a sense of calling to the deaconess role. Both of my parents were very involved in our local church while I was growing up, so it has always felt like a natural progression that I would serve it wholeheartedly. I distinctly recall when the nominations for the deaconess role came out, feeling a nudge towards it. Since I, of course, couldn't nominate myself, I prayed that if this was something the Lord had for me, my name would be brought to the mind of another member and I'd be nominated. And so it was! Whether it be a formal role, such as deaconess, I desire to serve the people of Christ Presbyterian Church to the best of my ability.

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