



# Village Church

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FOLLOWING JESUS FOR LIFE

## **NOMINEES FOR ELDER, DEACON & NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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### **OCTOBER 2017**

The Nominating Committee of The Village Church will place in nomination the following individuals for election to the office of Elder, Deacon, or member of the Nominating Committee at the October 22 meeting of the Congregation. For your information and prayer, each has answered the following four questions:

1. Describe how you came to faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
2. Describe some of your recent service in the life of the church.
3. Describe why you believe you are called to service at this time.
4. Describe your hopes for the future of our church.

# FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER

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## Rich Ackerman



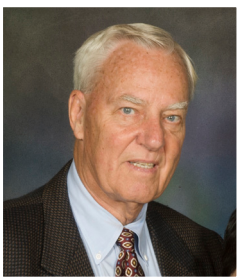
As a child I watched the light coming through the stained-glass windows at our local church and thought that there must be a heaven. A few years later, I had a similar reaction when I looked at the stars. A few years after that, I completed my studies and was confirmed as a Christian...and that is when I fully came into my faith in Jesus.

Most recently I've been a member of the Faith and Work initiative and have enjoyed contributing to the efforts to help members of our community explore what they are called to do outside of Sunday worship.

I'm at a point in my life when I'm finding the questions we ask are often as important as the answers we receive. I believe I am called to help our leadership teams ask the right questions about our journey together as The Village Church.

I hope that we can continue to expand our message of gratefulness, compassion, and love to others beyond our current community...those who might someday join us and those who we serve outside of our church.

## Allan Anderson



I was baptized as an infant in our family's Lutheran Church in Connecticut. Sunday school/confirmation training and regular attendance over my lifetime has enforced my belief in my Christian faith and commitment.

Over the years, I have relocated several times and served at every office level in the Lutheran churches I attended. At The Village Church I have served on the Connecting Commission, Finishing the Race Committee and served on the Stewardship Committee for 3 years. In addition, I am a member of the Chancel choir.

Past service in a wide variety of churches has allowed me to serve as a contributing member and a leader in various committees and overall congregational leadership positions. I now have been a member of The Village Church for approximately 4 years and feel that my interactions and understanding of the church will allow me to help facilitate and lead meaningful programs and activities to benefit our own congregation and the community we serve.

It is my hope to help organize and implement activities and programs that strengthen our members' individual and group participation in such a way that our church is seen as a leader in our community, our surrounding area and our mission efforts abroad.

## Bob Dauner



I like to say I was born in the church...but, that's not quite accurate...I was born in the Seminary. As an E.U.B./Methodist preacher's kid I grew up in the church, however, I came to personal faith in Jesus when I met him in the sylvan stillness and beauty of Camp Lucerne, our Central Wisconsin summer youth camp. His love surrounded me then and sustains me now.

Prior to our move to California, in 2003, I was privileged to serve as Elder for adult education at our Presbyterian church in Mercer Island, Washington. Here, as a member of the Village Community Church, I sing in the Chancel Choir and serve on the Worship and Arts Commission.

We are challenged with a truly troubled political and social environment in our nation and our world, today. The church provides a platform to employ the love of God to confront and resolve our differences and heal our wounds as a people. I believe the Village Community Church can model that behavior and I feel called to help facilitate that healing and reconciliation.

I am convinced that the church, powered by the love of God, can do wonders to heal our brokenness and enrich and restore our nation and the world.

## Kathy Tanner



I was raised in the Presbyterian Church by my parents who supported the church community. In addition, one of my dear friends was the daughter of our Pastor and I experienced firsthand that their belief in God was real and that they were examples of followers of Jesus Christ. I attended the Church Sunday school, choir and Presbyterian camps. When I was a teen I was baptized and joined the Church. I felt close to God but my short attendance at Brigham Young University, where I had to defend my faith in my own mind, cemented my belief in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. My family and friends provided me with the foundation to believe in Christ.

Currently, I am enjoying serving as an usher for the 10:30 Sunday service. I am fortunate to be a member of the Safety Committee, where we study safety of our church facilities and submit grants for financial support to fund our safety needs. I have been able to be a member of the Generosity Committee and learn more about stewardship in the life of the Church. To support my personal growth in knowing Jesus Christ, I attend the Women's Morning Bible Study and the One Year Chronological Walk Through the Bible.

I believe that my career experience, with God's direction, has developed my talents to work as a Christian and to be on the Support Commission of the Church. I have felt that God does have work for me to do and that he has led me to The Village Church to support the Church.

I would like to see our Church continue to be a positive place for worship and reflection about following Jesus Christ, to keep existing members, and attract new members. The Missions of the Church provide a vital role in our communities and the world and I would like to see this grow. I would like to see the Church continue to strengthen outreach programs for younger community members.

# FOR THE OFFICE OF DEACON

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## Tom Bowman



I have served as a Deacon for over 9 years, having a short break before joining the board again in 2015. I am fortunate and honored to have been the Deacon Board Moderator for the last three years. I have been overjoyed by the role of Deacon as it has been one of the greatest events in my life. To be able to be a caregiver to those in need has been an absolutely tremendous experience for me. To be able to spread God's love to so many going through tough times has been a wonderful calling. I have been so blessed to have worked with so many loving and deeply-spirited Deacons over the years that give tirelessly to their work to insure that others have the love and spirit of the LORD everyday of their lives.

There is nothing that gives me greater pleasure than to work alongside these faithful servants and to be able to share in fellowship, their stories and testimonials about how God is working in their lives to help spread Jesus' love. This is an essential group of the church that is always there to give and to never expect anything in return. In these tumultuous times, I am very grateful and blessed to be a part of such a tremendous group of Christians and I am excited to be able to continue my gift of caregiving to all those in need in our congregation and community.

Along with serving on Deacons, I also serve of the Culture of Leadership Committee. I have worked in VBS, Rally Sunday, Jesus Bingo caller at the Christmas in the Village, Drama Ministry, Built houses in Mexico with AMOR, Ladle Fellowship, Youth Ministry activities and many more opportunities to serve.

I have always had a passion to serve and to give to others. Having been on the Deacon Board, I have been given the opportunity to serve on many different committees and have been able to use my spiritual gifts in many different care-giving capacities. I really enjoy doing for others, especially those in need, plain and simple. I have been doing this for a long period and now it has just become a part of my life.

Honestly, I just hope that we can continue to grow as a congregation. We have so many wonderful programs that I hope we can "spread the word" and have more people come join us in worship and fellowship being a part of Jesus for Life. I hope more and more young families will become a part of our church family so their families and children can grow in faith with our wonderful Village Church Community! AMEN!!

## John Carley



I'm a San Diego native who found God a bit later in life (better late than never of course). Through God's will I met my now wife and started attending church, at her request, going from church being a foreign event to something that gives me strength, courage, and sense of awe in all of God's creations.

My wife (Kari), and I were wed by Pastor Baca in 2006 at The Village Church, my son as well as I have been baptized by Pastor Baca as well.

Why become a Deacon? I know the church does many good things throughout the community, more than just 2 services on Sunday! I want to be able to give back to the church because it has given so much to my family and me. I want to be an agent of the church, an agent for God to use what I have been blessed with to help others and spread the good Word! For some time I've wanted to get more involved. Times are tough and I think the hope that church life brings can help us all. I may not have loads of money but I do have 2 hands, a strong back, and a smile.

For some time now I've been ushering, I even have my son help out as well. I can't think of much else that's recent. Well that's certainly about to change!

My hope for the church is growth and prosperity, no brainers you say? In achieving those 2 things there would be an implied increase in the good the Church can do for the community, the community of Christ that is! My hope for the Church is that it can continue to bring in the youth so they can begin their journey though life with Christ at their side.

## Jennifer Dunn



Growing up in Kansas City, I attended an Episcopal church and came to Christ when I was a young girl. When I was married, my husband Steve and I actively participated in the life of The Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City. When we relocated to Rancho Santa Fe in 1996, we found our church home at the Village Community Presbyterian Church and have been active in the life of this church ever since.

While we were in church, our children attended the children's ministry program and continued through high school. Steve is an Elder and has been on Session for two different terms and this will be my second, three year term as a Deacon. Along with the fellowship and getting to know church members, I enjoy helping with the communion set-up each month.

It is my privilege to be part of the Deacon family as we continue to provide support, outreach, and love to those in our congregation and beyond.

# FOR THE OFFICE OF DEACON

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## Kelli & Jason Karches



**Kelli:** Growing up in the RSF community, I attended The Village Church at various times throughout my childhood (my husband and I were also married here). Religion and faith were topics that interested me early in life leading me to pursue a BA in religious studies from UCSB as well as attend a faith-based (albeit a different faith) medical school at Loma Linda University. The approach to treating the “whole body,” including spiritual aspects of a patient, was a practice that I took away from my medical training and use now in my daily life and professional work. Through practicing Jesus Christ’s teachings of loving one another and compassion, I believe I serve my patients with a level of care well above many of my colleagues.

A rare and tragic personal event brought me actively back to The Village Church several years ago. As I struggled to search for understanding, the support, love, and compassion from all levels of the church was amazing. The deeper understanding of faith and our Lord’s teachings that I gained from this experience transformed me from being an inactive Christian to an active one wanting to participate in the life of The Village Church

I have recently joined the Children’s Commission and am proud of the work this group is doing. I look forward to seeing the effects the Children’s curriculum has in the shaping of my daughter’s life. I would like to continue my work with this Commission as well as help reach out to other families in our community to try and increase our youth and younger adult membership.

**Jason:** I have known the Lord since I was in elementary school while attending several Christian based schools but unfortunately I hadn’t paid much attention to Him until recently. As a result of an unexpected tragic event my wife and I went through a few years ago I found myself reevaluating what was important in my life and opened myself up to God and began praying for His guidance. What I found out was God hadn’t forgotten about me and unbeknownst to me, all the while, He had been surrounding me with Christians. Once I opened myself up to Him I began to see His hand at work through these Christians God had placed around me. I was blessed with many new opportunities to learn more about Him and what it means to follow Jesus and be a Christian.

I believe God wants to provide me opportunities to grow as a Christian and become more involved in the church while serving the community.

I’d like to see the church become more integrated into the lives of the family’s and younger people in the community.

While I am still nowhere near being the Christian I believe I can and should be I am diligently striving towards that end. God has provided wonderful opportunities for me to grow as a Christian through The Village Church, the High Ground Fellowship Group and as a follower of Christ and I do not intend to squander these blessings.

## Fernando Landa & Hunter Strong Landa



**Fernando:** I was raised Catholic and moved away from the Catholic Church in my late teens. My now wife introduced me to The Village Church in my late twenties, and I found a renewed interest in the Gospel through the lens of the Protestant tradition and, in particular, the leadership at The Village Church. I now see Christianity as one of the great hopes humankind has to live in peace and love for one another.

As a relatively new church member, I am now beginning to explore service opportunities within the church for me and my family.

In my professional career, I help people solve their problems and deal with adversity, and I hope to bring that same passion and calling to helping our Village Church community. I have always been drawn to service, and I see being a deacon as an extension of that calling through a different avenue.

I hope our church can continue to be a focal point of our community, and I hope that it can reach a younger demographic to ensure its long-term viability. The church is a glowing light in a largely secular part of the world, and I hope its message can bring people back into the Christian fold, like it did for me.

**Hunter:** I was lucky enough to have been a life long member of The Village Church, starting at age 3, when my family joined. I was a student at The Village Church preschool, where our daughter now attends. My relationship with Jesus was reaffirmed in my early 20s when struggling with adjusting to adult life and needing and wanting more structure and guidance.

Recently, my husband Fernando and I began praying and looking for ways to have a stronger relationship with Jesus and the church, which was quickly followed up with a phone call from Pastor Jan to let them know that they had been nominated to be a Deacon and serve. While our hands are already full with two little ones at home, we're excited to make their relationships with the church; it's members and Jesus, stronger through this position.

## Pat Randall



The Presbyterian Church was an important part of my childhood and I am thankful for that foundation. Joining The Village Church some 35 years ago has deepened my faith in Jesus and is an important part of my life.

I am very much looking forward to becoming a Deacon. The Village Church is a large family that I am happy to be part of as we journey through this life.

Most of my service to the Church has been behind the scenes. In the past, I've made meals for those who are recovering from an illness or for a family in need. I've participated in the Deacons Valentine cookie drive, made cookies for the homeless barbecues and have enjoyed setting up luminaries at Christmas. Bible Study is a part of my weekly routine and has been for the last 10 years.

My husband and I have taken several steps toward involvement with The Village Church and each step has been rewarding many times over. Being asked to be a Deacon is very much an honor and I look forward to serving our wonderful church family.

I would like to see more members take those first steps toward church involvement. We are all on the same path and we all have something to offer.

# FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF THE CONGREGATION

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## Julie MacNeil



I feel that I have known Jesus all my life. I came to faith as a child, going to Sunday School, hearing Bible stories, memorizing Bible verses, which come back to me often when I need them, and singing in the junior choir.

I have served 3 terms as a Deacon, am a member of the Chancel Choir, and have for a number of years served as a facilitator with Women's Bible Study.

I feel I can serve on a Nominating Committee because I have been a Village Church member for over 20 years. I have made many friends here and feel I have the discernment to understand who among us would be good servants in the church.

I hope to see our church grow in love, joy, and understanding - of the Lord, of each other, and of the world around us. Many young families have joined the church and I would love to see those young children grow in faith and become members of a thriving, exuberant, youth department.

## Randy Zack



I came to faith in Jesus Christ as a young man. Though my parents brought me to Sunday school for years, I didn't really get it until High school. I have been more or less active in the church since. I have been on the Worship and Arts committee, and most recently I have been active with the bell choir. At the time of this writing, I am on a trip to Egypt to visit the Presbyterian Seminary in Cairo. I pray that the church would be a welcoming place for all people seeking the truth, and will work towards that end.