



CHURCH LIFE

SPECIAL EDITION

Why a Congregational Meeting?

As authorized by the Church Order (think of that as the Constitution of the Christian Reformed Church in North America) the Church Council has the decision making authority for matters regarding the local church.

Church Order Article 37 states,

“The Council, besides seeking the cooperation of the congregation in the election of office-bearers, shall also invite its judgment about other major matters... For this purpose the council shall call a meeting at least annually of all members entitled to vote.”

Church Order Article 4 also states, *“In calling and electing to an office, the council shall ordinarily present to the congregation a nomination of at least twice the number to be elected. When the council submits a nomination which totals less than twice the number to be elected, it shall give reasons for doing so.”*

While we do have a full slate of Elders this year, this Article does pertain to our Deacon nominees, as Council was unable to identify more than 3 candidates to put their names forward. ~Editors

2019 RCRC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019—7:00PM

Get out and vote!

In a few weeks we'll have the opportunity to make our voices heard regarding the governance of our beloved institutions. The first being in the government elections on Election Day, Tuesday November 5. We encourage all who are able to participate.

The other opportunity for us at RCRC is 2 weeks later at our annual Congregational Meeting .

At that meeting we will gather to hear reports from our church leadership on the state of RCRC, our plans for the future, and proposals from our Council.

We will be voting on our annual budget for 2020, which includes a proposed new position of Church Life Coordinator. (see the October edition of Church Life for more details on that)

Council would like to thank Finance Chair David Cok for working with them to develop the budget for 2020. They're especially grateful for his flexibility in doing so from out of the country and for the technology that enabled that to happen.

These will be presented by our Council after much prayer and discussion, both within the Council and among our members regarding the best ways for us to move forward as part of Christ's church into areas of ministry



Jan Huussen explains the Building Fund
(not as easy as it sounds!)

that can both advance his kingdom and welcome new worshippers to our extended church family.

While all are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend, voting is restricted to communicant members, age 18 and over.

NOMINEES FOR ELDER & DEACON

For your information and prayers, the Council submits these profiles of nominees for election as elders and deacons of Rochester CRC, for terms of three years each. The RCRC Council arrived at this set of nominees by a process of congregational input, prayer, and consultation that began in June. ~ Editors

PROFILES OF DEACON AND ELDER NOMINEES FOR 2019

(Terms to begin January 2020 and end December 2022)

Retiring Elders: Juli Elliot and Amy Cline

Continuing Elders: Tim Frelier ('21), Jim Smith ('20). Alice Harris ('21), Ron Cok ('20) and Danny Veenje ('21)

Retiring Deacons: Mary Ann LaPolla, Tim Coughlin

Continuing Deacons: Dianka Sobiech ('21), Scott DeLallo ('20), Christine Ferraraccio ('20), Tom Scott ('21)

ELDER NOMINEES FOR 2019

(Four nominees, 2 Elders to be elected)



David Dill

I have been a member at RCRC since about 1986 and have served several terms as Deacon during that time. I was also privileged to serve on our recent pastoral search committee. During the past ten years I have benefited greatly from using the M'Cheyne Bible reading program (try it, you'll like it!), and I have also enjoyed digging into Reformed history and theology since the anniversary, in 2017, of Luther's posting of his famous 95 theses. During the past two years Russ Aizer and I have enjoyed co-teaching the High School Sunday school class, covering the Heidelberg Catechism last year and this year, The Canons of Dordt. All of these experiences have caused me to consider how I might take what I have gained and give back to our church. While no one can be totally prepared for what a term as Elder might throw at them, I am looking forward to working with Pastor Anthony and the other members of Council in service to our Lord at RCRC.



Susan Gilbert-Collins

I am married to Tim Collins, and we have two children, Sam and Josh. As a writer with a home office, I've had the luxury of being a stay-at-home mom. I write fiction and have had short stories and a novel published; I also do contract writing for Pearson working on standardized test development, an opportunity that originally grew out of my ESL teaching background. At church, I'm involved with leading Children & Worship, teaching Bible stories for Kids Camp, and serving on Worship Committee. After a lifetime of being a Christian, I feel that I'm still learning the basics: come to God as a little child and take everything to Him in prayer, remembering also to worship Him through good and bad times alike.



Jeff Kuryla

Many of you know me as the Koinonia guy... I've been honored to coordinate Koinonia dinners for the past 10 years. I was born and raised in the Syracuse area. My twin brother and I are the youngest of 5 children. We attended Saint Margaret's Roman Catholic Church where I was baptized, celebrated first communion, and confirmed. As a family we were very involved in the church from my youth right through high school. I attended SUNY Oswego where I was actively involved with the student government. I met my wife Ginny at Oswego. We were married here at RCRC in 1999. I have been worshipping here since 1998 and officially became a member shortly thereafter. Ginny and I have 2 daughters - Elizabeth and Amanda. I am self-employed as a mobile disc jockey. I own and operate a DJ Service - Whirlin' Disc DJs. I have been active here at RCRC helping wherever asked. I enjoyed serving on the RCRC Church Council as a Deacon, Chairperson of Deacons, and past President of Council. Other activities include playing on the softball team, decorating the church for the Holidays, and any activities that I'm asked to assist with. I look forward to continuing in service in whatever capacity God chooses for me!



Tim Vande Brake

My family moved to Rochester in 2001, and we joined RCRC in the fall of that year. Growing up, I belonged to the Presbyterian Church, and my family lived in Michigan, New Jersey, Georgia, and Tennessee. When we moved to Tennessee, my father taught at King College in Bristol, and on Sundays we would drive over Holston Mountain to a farming community in Shady Valley where he would preach in the Presbyterian church. This moment in my life—essentially my junior high years—ended when my dad sustained a severe head injury in a motorcycle accident. For more than one reason I wish I could return to it, not least to know better the humble, godly people in this church. Like both of my parents, I have spent my career as a teacher. Julie and I brought our family to Rochester so that I could take a job in the literature department at Roberts Wesleyan, where I've enjoyed almost two decades. At RCRC, I've served as a Sunday school teacher, Worship Committee chair, and elder. Just as important, I've supported my wife in her work as Director of Youth. We have five children, three of whom (Timothy, Anna Rose, and Peter) you may see in church on any given week.

DEACON NOMINEES FOR 2019

(Three nominees, entire slate of 3 Deacons to be approved)



Shari Harrison

My name is Shari Harrison. My husband, Jim and I have been members about 6 years. We have been married 34 years. We are blessed with three adult children between us and two grandchildren, all who live in the greater Rochester area. As a child, I was baptized in the Congregational Church in Churchville. I always believed in Jesus but did not understand the personal relationship with him until a Ralph Bell Crusade was held at Parkminster Presbyterian Church in Chili. I am a retired Trust and Estate Paralegal. I am also a Notary Public. My top leisure activities include knitting, travel, reading and time with family and friends. Over the years I have served many organizations on their boards and in various capacities. About 6 years ago, at the request of the elders of RCRC, Jim and I took on chairing a new committee to revitalize small groups within the church. We co-chaired the committee until this fall. I consider it a privilege to be asked to serve as a deacon at RCRC. When I was working at Chase in the Trust Department and at the law firms as a paralegal and doing Medicaid applications, I considered my job as my ministry. I had the opportunity to share my faith with many clients and prayed for them. I believe these experiences will help me to be a better deacon. I have a heart for the congregation and the struggles I see within the church body. I would consider being a Deacon a ministry also and would do my best to attend all of the meetings and fulfill my commitment to the church.



Daniel Hooge

I've been attending RCRC since 2006; I became a member in 2012. My wife, Kelly (LaPolla), and her family have been members since the early 90s. Kelly and I have four children, Ty (7), Jace (5), Rowan (3), and Raegan (1). My church activities include: Cadet counselor, Flower City Basketball Camp, RCRC softball team, and serving at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality during the cold months. I'm a manager at MVP Health Care in the Revenue Data Management department. My interests are sports, music, and travel. I'm humbled by the Deacon nomination. I would be honored to serve our congregation and help the church fulfill its mission.



Christina Thompson

Thank you for your consideration. I am excited to start a new chapter in my spiritual life by serving our church and members in the deacon position. I was raised at RCS and love having our daughters Lucy and Lola attend with some of the same teachers! My church family at RCRC was instrumental in supporting our family through my battle with breast cancer and I am grateful that God is working through me to help others. I am currently an adjunct professor in the dental hygiene program at Monroe Community College and will soon begin a Master's degree in adult education. Thank you for your confidence in my ability to serve our church family.

JOIN US ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 7:00PM
RCRC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

What if I can't make it on the 19th?

Just complete the Absentee Ballot below, and give it to Jim Smith, Clerk of Council or Tim Frelier, Vice-President of Council, before Tuesday, November 19th.

ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Rules for Absentee Ballots:

1. Only Communicant members of RCRC 18 years of age and older are allowed to vote. Therefore, we need to know who you are! Please enter your name on the line at the bottom of the ballot, or place the ballot in an envelope with your name on it.
2. Votes for Elder and Deacon will only count on the first ballot. In case of a second vote to break a tie or get a majority, absentee ballots will not be considered.
3. Incorrectly completed ballots will not be counted.

Elder Nominees		<i>(select 2 from the 4)</i>
David Dill	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Susan Gilbert-Collins	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tim Vande Brake	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jeff Kuryla	<input type="checkbox"/>	

For Elders:

Choose ONLY 2 from the 4 nominees!

Deacon Nominees		<i>Yes or No on full slate</i>
Shari Harrison	}	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Hooge		
Christina Thompson		

For Deacons:

Do you approve the slate of Deacon Nominees?
Vote "Yes" or "No" on the entire slate of 3!

Name: _____