

# 2022 Vestry Nominations

## **LEAVING VESTRY:**

Two of our vestry members have completed their terms and will be moving on to other areas of ministry at Redeemer. Thank you to Paul Gleason and Nancy DeWeese for your faithful service on our vestry!

## **CONTINUING ON VESTRY:**

Kelsey Ebling (current member, 2 years remaining of term), Anthony Wang (current member, 1 year remaining of term), Deb Webber (treasurer, non-voting member), Chelsea Weeldreyer (clerk, non-voting member), The Rev. Amanda Holm Rosengren (while serving as priest in charge)

## **PROPOSED VESTRY WARDENS:**

We propose that our current vestry wardens Gil Smith and Laurie Nelson serve an additional year as co-wardens and voting vestry members.

## **PROPOSED NEW VESTRY MEMBERS:**

Our wardens received four nominations from the congregation for new vestry members. Each nominee was subsequently approved by our vestry and will appear on the ballot at this year's annual meeting. If approved, each candidate will serve one 3-year term. You can read brief bios of the new vestry candidates on the pages that follow.

Geoffrey Fulkerson  
Dana Harris  
Jonathan Richards  
Otto Zimmermann

## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR VESTRY NOMINEES:

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### Geoffrey Fulkerson

Geoffrey Fulkerson was raised in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. His father, Alan, was a lawyer, and his mother, Susan, was an accountant and teacher, and both were active civil servants in the local community. He also has one younger brother, Stephen. They were nominal Christians who attended a small mainline Church. For the first 20 years of his life, Geoff neither knew nor followed Jesus, but the catechesis that he received early on—specifically the Apostles Creed—was the assumed religious starting point that would later spark questioning and then, when encountering the face of Christ and the weight of his own iniquity, a spiritual awakening.

That happened during Geoff's senior year of college, at which time he repented of his prior life in the flesh and gave the life ahead to Christ and the church. A spiritual awakening was followed by new theological questions and a search for integrity of life and thought. It was during this season that he met Katherine. They were married within a year and soon after arrived at Trinity's campus, sensing a call to serve Christ's church. (Geoff's faculty advisor was Graham Cole, which would be his first indirect contact with Redeemer.) That was almost 20 years ago. Geoff completed his Masters of Divinity in 2006, and his PhD in Theology, supervised by Kevin Vanhoozer, in 2018. He has also worked at Trinity's Henry Center for Theological Understanding for the past 9 years. Geoff and Katherine live in Deerfield and have four children: Sophia (11), Anastasia (9), Nathan (3), and Lucy (3). They have attended Redeemer for 9 years and have served in Children's Ministry, on the Set-Up Team, and as small group leaders. Geoff enjoys running, sports, conversations, and playing games with his family.

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### Dana Harris

I was born and raised in San Diego, California, and became a Christian at a Billy Graham crusade when I was 15. While an undergraduate at Stanford University, I was a Young Life leader and active with college campus groups. After graduation, I was in a church internship program for 2.5 years, where I delighted to study God's Word in depth and began a long-term love for Greek. I was also involved with junior high school ministry for many years and tutored immigrant Hispanic children for several years. I have been involved in short-term missions in Mexico, Romania, the Czech Republic, and France. I have taught MDiv, PhD, and DMin courses, and lectured in China, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire.

I have a PhD in NT from TEDS. I am a professor and the chair of the New Testament department at the seminary. My specializations are Greek grammar, the Epistle to the Hebrews, and the Book of Revelation. It is a great joy for me to open God's Word for his people and to see their growing delight in discovering him through his Word. One of my greatest passions is to engage in the glorious work of reconciliation that God is doing in and through the Body of Christ around the world. I enjoy backpacking through beautiful mountain ranges, traveling and exploring new areas around the world, classical music, and new culinary experiences.

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## Jonathan Richards

A few words about myself: I am husband to Debby for the last 18 years and father to Josiah, Eliana, and Levi. My family is of utmost importance to me. I value strong friendships, honesty, and truth and strive to balance it with love and compassion to the best of my ability (fully acknowledging my shortcomings). My profession is as a contractor - remodeling, painting, general repairs/maintenance - and I take my work very seriously. Work is just as much a ministry and an opportunity to connect with people as it is a job.

My family and I have been committed to CotR since late 2006. We've seen this church change a lot in that time and have been privileged to be a part of the process. I served on the vestry once before for a period of several years. I've been involved with several different ministries at CotR. I strongly believe in the Gospel and the work of the Church. I believe the Church is a family - we are all tied to each other through our relationship with Christ whether we want to be or not. :) I believe that maintaining our unity in Christ is hugely important, and I think we should be doing everything we can within reason to build each other up and support each other in healthy relationships for the purpose of transformation and the goal of being more Christlike. We are all in this together. We can learn from each other, and we should be there for each other. I value and am humbled by the opportunity to serve on the vestry. I think this is an extremely important time in the life of this church, and I pray and hope I can be of good service.

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## Otto Zimmermann

I am a chemical pump salesman who enjoys in his free time playing golf, running on a treadmill for hours, and visiting new locations for work or vacation.

A native of Deerfield, I have been worshiping at Redeemer since 2008. During the last 14 years, I have served on the acolyte, prayer, coffee, and setup/teardown teams, as community group leader, and on vestry, including as a warden. Additionally, I have visited Rwanda on four occasions to encourage our missionaries and to help be a part of our relationship with the Shyira Diocese and Sonrise School. Furthermore, I have attended numerous conferences associated with our dioceses and province. If affirmed by the congregation, I look forward to offering my gifts and time to the roles Vestry asks for.