

The National Presbyterian Church

CANDIDATES

**for Election at the
Winter Congregational Meeting
January 23, 2022**

For Openings on:
Session Class of 2024
Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2024

Presented by the Congregational Nominating Committee
Chair – Jim Bridgeman
Members – 2022– Grant Franke, Scott Herndon, Janice Sessing
2023- Laura Atchison, Lewrene Glaser, Robert Levy

SLATE

Elders: Class of 2024

*Laurie Brunner (new)

**Congregational Nominating Committee:
Class of 2024**

Annette Burgart
Scott Herndon
Serge Nya-Wandja

**Indicates has particular skills and experience
in finance, business, legal, and property matters.
As per congregational policy over 1/3 of Session
should have these skills and/or experiences.*

Core

Spiritual maturity
Graciousness in speech and actions
Open-minded, capable of working harmoniously
and actively in a group environment towards the
mission of the group
Active NPC member, regular attendee and
financial supporter
Evidence of willingness to serve
Supports Biblical standards (personal, spiritual,
leadership) for Christian church leaders

Additional emphasis

Elder - leadership skills
Congregational Nominating Committee -
familiarity with NPC ministries and
congregants

Elder Class of 2024

Laurie Brunner



I am a fourth-generation Washingtonian and grew up in the Maryland suburbs. Today, my husband, Russ, and I live about 5 minutes from my childhood home in Potomac. I have two sons, who were both active in the NPC Youth group. Russell (25) lives and works in the Washington area. Matthew (22) is a senior at Wake Forest University.

Education/Career: I graduated from The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, with a degree in Forestry and Geology. I received an MBA in Marketing from The George Washington University. I have spent my career working for professional services firms – both large and small, where I held senior leadership roles in sales and marketing. Most recently, I founded my own consulting firm to provide expertise to early-stage businesses seeking strategic growth and impact.

Spiritual Life: I grew up at Fourth Presbyterian Church, attended Sunday School and actively participated in the Youth Program. Dr. Richard Halverson and Rev. Jim Bryne were early influences in my Christian life, as was my mother, Eleanor Keyser, who wonderfully modeled how to live a faithful life. Russ and I began regularly attending National in 1990 and became members in 1992.

NPC Activities: For several years, I taught Sunday School. I am currently blessed to be serving as a Stephen Minister, being a part of the Flower Ministry and am on the Board of the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving.

Thoughts on Stewardship: God has given each of us gifts. Stewardship is the opportunity to generously share our gifts and talents with others for God’s glory and good purpose. What a joy it is to live in His world, reflecting His grace and love in all that we do.

Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2024

Serge Nya-Wandja



I was born and grew up in Cameroon. Shortly after I moved to Maryland USA in 2005, I had this burning desire to find a church where I could worship God. A friend told me about a protestant church on Wisconsin Ave. I decided to go and find this church on the second Sunday of December 2005. I got lost and found myself in the NPC parking lot. I asked the security guard to direct me to the main entrance. When I heard the music, the preaching, and the warm welcome of the church members after the service, I knew this is where the Lord wanted me to be.

Spiritual Life: I was fortunate to be raised by my grandparents who were strong active Christians. My grandfather was Deacon, Elder and longtime Treasurer of the regional Protestant church. My grandparents are the mentors of my faith and my deepest inspiration. They taught me through Christ the spirit of responsibility and installed in me the spirit of service. Since I was a young child, I committed myself to Christ in Sunday school that growth my spirituality. I have been in the church my entire life, having served as Sunday School Teacher, singing in the choir with my grandmother. I have learned humility and confidence and I’ve learned to ask God’s wisdom in any call to serve. Faith has always been a part of my life.

NPC Activities: Since I became a member of NPC in January 2006, I joined the great Usher team with the guidance help of my good friend Bill May. I am still part of this team and will remain. I have been Sunday school Teacher assistant, Volunteering at numerous Church activities and served two terms as a Deacon.

Education/Career: University of Douala Cameroon (Bachelor in Private Law and master’s in business law). Business Law Attorney in Cameroon. Howard University Law School (LLM master’s in international human Rights Law). MD Notary Public, DBA Certified. Work independently.

Thoughts of About Stewardship: What I believe is that we are called to serve and bring others to Christ. 1 Peter 4:10 remind us of the purpose of the gift we received from God: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2024

Annette Burgart



I was born at the Air Force Academy Hospital. Eleven states or countries later, I added Virginia to the list.

Education: I am a graduate of Austin College with a degree in Communications.

Spiritual Life: I was raised in a Christian family. Being active in a personal relationship with God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) was nurtured through my parents' example and a healthy fellowship of believers. My first letter of membership was at the First Presbyterian Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. Before joining NPC in February 2012, my husband and I were members at the First Presbyterian Church in Enid, Oklahoma.

NPC Activities: My love of Community Bible Study helped bring me to NPC. The daily study and personal devotions encourage and allow for accountability. I have held many positions and served on many committees. The most important thing is that I enjoy serving.

Thoughts About Stewardship: Prayerfully I do believe 100 percent is what is to be given of time and talents.

Scott Herndon



I was born in Lake Wales, Florida where I also grew up.

Education/Career: For high school, I attended boarding school at The McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I attended college at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana where I majored in Latin American Studies. I also obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Florida and a law degree from the University of Miami. I am an attorney that specializes in agricultural issues.

Spiritual Life: Christianity was a very important part of my childhood and I have been a Christian for as long as I can remember. My parents, grandparents, siblings, and I were very active in the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales, Florida. To ensure my spiritual growth I pray and enjoy talking to other church members during the family gathering. We chose NPC because of the welcoming environment. We have been members since 2018 but attended for several years prior.

NPC Activities: I have previously served one year on the Church Nominating Committee. At NPC, I have taught Sunday school, ushered, helped with the Men's Ministry, helped lead discussions during gatherings between services, mentored confirmands, served on the Connections team, and served on the interview team to hire the Director of Children's Ministry. My favorite kind of ministry is anything that brings people together.

Thoughts about Stewardship: Stewardship is an important part of NPC and my own spiritual life. I try to use the abilities that God gave me to further His message.