



CHRIST
COVENANT

2023 Candidates for Elder and Deacon

These officer candidates have been nominated by members of the congregation and are commended to you by the Session for congregational approval.

New candidates have successfully completed the leadership training class and passed written and oral exams. Returning sabbatical officer candidates, in addition to successfully completing the leadership training class and written and oral exams at the time of their ordination, have been examined recently for their theological views and the welfare of their personal and family lives.

ELDER CANDIDATES



Beecher Bailey | beecherbailey3@gmail.com

Beecher was born in Harlan, Kentucky. He earned a B.S. from the University of Tennessee and works as a Certified Financial Planner at Vanguard. Beecher and his wife, Ann, married in 2000 and have two college-aged children. They have been members since 2016. Beecher became a Christian at age 12. He leads a men's small group, and he and his wife are part of a small group. His gifts are teaching and encouragement, and he looks forward to serving as an elder.



Jordan Clark | jordanclark430@yahoo.com

Jordan is a native Charlottean and attended Covenant Day School and Wingate University. He is employed as a Regional Sales Manager—Southeast U.S. for Westlock Controls. He was raised in a Christian home where he doesn't remember a day he did not know the Lord as his Savior. He used to think his testimony was boring but as he teaches his children in the ways of God's truth, he has realized that he has a great testimony! Jordan and his wife, Katelyn, have been married since 2012 and have four children, ages three through nine. They have been members at Christ Covenant since 2016. Jordan feels the call to be an elder and enjoys teaching young people and shepherding.



Lane Jones | lane@groupjonesrealty.com

Lane was born and raised in Charlotte. He has been married to his wife, Tracy, since 1995, and they have four daughters (one married, two in college and one in high school). Lane and Tracy are both residential realtors with Helen Adams Realty. Lane became a Christian at an early age and doesn't remember a day that he has not known Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He was a member of Christ Covenant during middle and high school and then re-joined when he and his wife moved back to Charlotte. Lane has served as a worship coordinator, in nursery, as a Sunday School table host and been involved in small groups. Lane's gifts are serving, teaching, praying and welcoming others.



Keith Kitchen | the4kitchens@yahoo.com

Keith was born in Augusta, Georgia and graduated from Auburn University. He earned an M.Div. from Columbia International University and Jerusalem University College. Keith and his wife, Allison, have been married since 1993 and members of Christ Covenant since 1999. They have two adult sons and two grandchildren. Keith is employed by the facilities maintenance department at a local church. When Keith was a child, he became a Christian while his mother was explaining the gospel to his older sister. Keith has been involved in music ministry and youth ministry and is currently active in small groups, men's ministry and men's groups. Keith's gifts are prophecy, music, encouragement and mercy.



Matt Needles | mneedles@gmail.com

Matt and Linda have been married 27 years and have four children, ages 15-21. Matt holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's in Christian counseling from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte. Matt is currently employed at USAA as an Executive Director of Enterprise Anti-Money Laundering. He came to Christ at age 11 and grew in his faith through campus ministry in college. His family has attended Christ Covenant for 16 years over two different time periods. In between, they helped start a church plant. Matt has been serving the church as a deacon for the past four years and now feels called to become an elder. Matt serves on the missions and mercy committees, with HisAbilities and as a worship coordinator. Matt has also served as a nursery volunteer and a Sunday School table host. His gifts are teaching, mercy and encouragement.

RETURNING SABBATICAL ELDER CANDIDATES



Rick Ely | rely@christcovenant.org

Rick was born in Eritrea, a country located in Africa, where his family was living at the time. He has been married to Cameron since 1997. They have seven children ranging in age from nine-year-old twins to a junior in college. Rick is the Director of Operations at Christ Covenant and has been a member since 1995. He grew up in a missionary family and was exposed to the gospel from the beginning of his life. He prayed to receive Christ at an early age but really began hearing sound doctrine at Christ Covenant. Rick was ordained as an elder in 2008 and looks forward to returning from sabbatical.



Mike Johnson | michaielejohnson@msn.com

Mike was born in Murray, Indiana. He and Andrea have been married since 1993 and moved to Charlotte in 2001. They have two adult children, two in college and a rising senior in high school. Mike has been an Atrium Healthcare physician since 2001. He became a Christian at a young age through his parents' church and the witness and prayers of his grandparents. Mike has gifts of teaching, mercy and hospitality.



David Krausse | david@krausse.com

David was born in Albany, New York, and he and Robyn joined Christ Covenant in 1990. They were married in 1986 and have three grown daughters and three grandchildren. David came to Christ at an early age and was mentored as a youth through the ministry of Christian Service Brigade. David is certified as a Google Associate Cloud Engineer. He enjoys teaching and serving the church as an elder.



Jim Rea | jimrea61@icloud.com

Jim has served as an elder since 2007 and has been a member of Christ Covenant since 2001. He was born and raised in Charlotte. He and Sherri have been married since 1988 and have three adult sons. Jim has a B.A. in English from N.C. State University and works at Carolina Cat as a Project Portfolio Manager. Although he grew up in the church, Jim did not come to Christ until his mid-20s. His desire is to serve the congregation and fellow officers and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.



Steve Van Dusen | stevievan@gmail.com

Steve and his wife, Amy, joined Christ Covenant in 2004. They were married in 1988 and have three grown children. Steve works for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He has been involved with HisAbilities, youth ministry and sound ministry and has gifts of teaching, hospitality and service.

DEACON CANDIDATES



Andrew Cash | andrewcash88@gmail.com

Andrew is a native Charlottean and graduate of UNC-Charlotte. He currently works as a Technical Project Manager at Bank of America and also serves in the Army National Guard. Andrew and his wife, Sarah, have been married 10 years and have two young children, ages four and six. Andrew grew up in a Christian home and became a believer at a young age. In college, he started attending Campus Outreach and Christ Covenant, which is where he learned what authentic Christianity looks like. He re-dedicated his life to Christ in 2011 and since that time has been walking in faith. Andrew and Sarah joined Christ Covenant in 2017. Andrew feels called to serve the members as a deacon and utilize his gift of administration.



John Girard | johngirard93@gmail.com

John was born in Oakland, California and married his wife, Karra, in 1993. They have lived in Charlotte since 2005 and have four children, ages 16-23. The Girard family joined Christ Covenant in 2018. John graduated from Cal State-Fullerton and is employed by Costco. He became a believer when he was 20 and realized life was passing by quickly. He began reading the Gospel of John and attending a Bible-believing church and was forever changed. John is looking forward to serving Christ's people as a deacon. He has served Christ Covenant as a worship coordinator and on a search committee. His gifts are hospitality and compassion.



Drew Gustavson | drew.k.gustavson@gmail.com

Drew was born in Atlanta, Georgia and has lived in Charlotte since 2010. He became a member of Christ Covenant in 2014 and has been married to his wife, Michelle, since 2019. They have a one-year-old son. He works as a physician's assistant at a practice in Gastonia. Drew grew up in the church and became a believer in college through a men's Bible study. God has given him a desire and competency to share his spiritual gifts of mercy, acts of service and administration. His aim is to be filled by God daily so that he can be part of a team that meets specific needs of the people of the church.



Rich Pietrus | richpietrus@gmail.com

Rich was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and moved to Charlotte in 1972. Rich graduated from Belmont Abbey College and is now retired. He and his wife, Nancy, were married in 1977 and have been members of Christ Covenant since 1991. They have four grown children. Rich became a Christian while dating his wife and was mentored by his future father-in-law. He has been involved with and hosted various small groups over the years. He looks forward to helping and serving members of the church.

RETURNING SABBATICAL DEACON CANDIDATES



Ken Compton | comptonfamilyjoint@gmail.com

Ken grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina and moved to Charlotte in 1986. He and Mimi have four adult children and have been married 42 years. Ken grew up in a Christian home and came to the Lord at age nine. He was involved in campus ministries in college. Ken is now a retired physician and is using this time to spend with his two grandchildren. He enjoys serving as a deacon in shepherding and mercy areas. Ken and Mimi became members of Christ Covenant in 1992, and after 30 years, he loves his church even more!



John Johnston | jmj3@carolina.rr.com

John and Margie have been married 45 years and have two grown sons. They have been members at Christ Covenant since 1991. He was born in Lexington, Kentucky but grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. John came to Christ as a senior in college as a result of a man witnessing for Christ from door to door. He feels that God has given him the gift of mercy and a heart for others. He desires to use these to serve God and the body of Christ. John looks forward to returning to serve as a deacon. He also serves as a board member for Metanoia Prison Ministries.