

PASTORAL DEACON & ELDER CANDIDATES

2022-2023



BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

DOWNTOWN | HENDERSON | HOPE | SOUTH | WHITEHOUSE

BUILDING LEADERS | GROWING COMMUNITIES | LIVING GENEROUSLY



Leadership matters. Spiritual leadership is important to discern God's call, maintain a clear vision and provide healthy oversight and accountability for our congregations. Each year, our congregations are asked to nominate qualified, God-honoring leaders to serve in the roles of Elder and Deacon. This selection process requires prayerful consideration to discern those God is calling to provide spiritual leadership who exhibit the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3. In our multi-campus structure, Pastoral Elders and Deacons serve on each campus to oversee our whole family of churches.

A congregational meeting has been set for [Sunday, July 31st](#) on all campuses for the purpose of a vote of affirmation for the Elder and Deacon candidates included below. If you have questions or concerns about the candidates who have been nominated for Pastoral Elder or Deacon, please contact Mark Kuykendall at mark@bethelbible.com.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS

Pastoral Deacons are responsible for providing pastoral care of a congregation through Missions, Benevolence, Financial and Facilities management. Membership of the church for one year is required.

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. -1 Timothy 3:8-13

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS (OVERSEERS)

Pastoral Elders are responsible for providing pastoral care of a congregation through the church ordinances of Communion and Baptism, Member Care, Church Discipline, Spiritual Formation, and Prayer. Membership of the church for two years is required.

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. -1 Timothy 3:1-7



DAN BLACK

Dan was born in West Texas and raised in Central Texas. He and his lovely wife, Emma have one child, Evelyn, and one more on the way! Both Dan and Emma serve with the Missions Committee, volunteer with the youth ministry, and are active with their Life Group. The preaching of the gospel and the centrality of Scripture have grown and blessed their family beyond measure. He counts it a privilege to serve the church by helping set up and most importantly, keeping the coffee flowing.



DASH CONNELL*

Dash Connell grew up in Katy but has called Tyler home since 2009. Dash married his wife, Shae, in 2006 and they have three sons: Mason, Emerson, and Elijah. As head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams at Tyler Junior College, their family mixes work with the ministry, intentionally developing relationships with their college athletes and showing them what a Christian family looks like in reality of highs and lows. God brought Dash and his family to Bethel in 2015 and they quickly plugged into children's ministry, serving elementary students and living real life with their Bethel Life Group. Dash roots loudly for the Apaches, Aggies, and Astros!



JOSHUA DEGRAFFENRIED

Josh DeGraffenried grew up in Kilgore, Texas, and has always had a love for the city and community life. He married his wife Sarah in 2013 and they are loving raising their three kiddos, Elizabeth, Luke, and Liam. Josh practices as a dentist here in Tyler and enjoys investing in his team to make it a great workplace culture. He loves seeing patients move towards health in their lives. In his spare time, you might find him traveling, reading, listening to podcasts, running, and hanging out with friends. He loves Drew Holcomb's music, space rocket history, chocolate pie, and a quality capsule wardrobe. He mostly wants to create experiences where God is known in an everyday shared life.



JAMES VAN DYKE*

James is originally from Georgetown, TX. He made his way east to College Station where he graduated from Texas A&M in Environmental and Soil Sciences and, more importantly, met his wonderful wife, Anna. They married in 2012 and landed even further east in Longview where he practiced environmental consulting. Now in Tyler, where James manages a soil manufacturing facility, they have two crazy kids, Laurel and Vincent (Vin) who make life very entertaining and a lot of fun. When visiting Bethel Downtown, he immediately observed the genuine heart-set of loving people by God's grace through the knowledge of His Word. Anna and James get to hang with the Bethel Students on Sunday mornings - he says, "they are way cooler than we are." Their whole family is blessed by being a part of Bethel Downtown, and they are excited to see their family grow in this church.



SAM JOHNSON

Sam along with his wife Stephanie, have attended the Downtown campus since 2017. They were married in 2003 and have two children, Molly and Clive, who are both active in the student ministry. Sam came to know Christ at an early age and is still constantly amazed how God has shown Himself faithful in even the most minuscule details. Sam designs and manufactures aerospace products and enjoys cooking, working out, and going to concerts.



CLAY NICHOLS*

Clay is married to his wonderful wife, Amber. They have one child, Coleman. Clay and Amber both grew up in East Texas and moved to Austin for four years, where they learned a lot about their faith and relationship with Christ and the church. Clay knew Bethel had solid doctrine and theology and seeing the pastoral staff teach, they knew they wanted to be part of Bethel. When he looks at Bethel he thinks of the word intentional. Clay and Amber feel blessed to be part of a church family and a church who loves on people.



MARK ODOM*

Mark grew up in East Texas (Chapel Hill Bulldog class of 1985). He married his wife, Terri, in 1990 and they have been blessed with two incredible kids, Tanner and Erin, and one awesome daughter-in-law, Mackenzie. Terri and Mark both work in a family-owned small business that his dad started in Tyler in 1969. They have been attending Bethel since Arbor Bible merged with Bethel in 2011. Most Sundays you will find Mark in the back projecting lyrics and scripture on the screens during the worship service. Mark considers it a privilege to serve God and His church at Bethel. He also enjoys music, the lake, football and anything relating to his family.

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS ELDER CANDIDATES

**DENOTES REAFFIRMATION*



MARK ALDERSON*

When Billy Graham came to the Anaheim stadium in Southern California in 1969 Mark was compelled to walk forward and give his life to God. That began a journey that continues through today. Mark has had a heart for ministry since Jr. High, which gives his life meaning like nothing else. Mark met his wife, Marcia 36 years ago at Bible school in beautiful Arrowhead, California. They have two children, Matthew and Michele. Pine Cove brought Mark and his family to Texas and Bethel Bible Church soon became home. Mark says, "If there is one thing that has continued drawing us to this church it's been the biblical teaching and the hunger for God's word we see in those we have grown to love over the years."



TOM RAMEY*

Tom has been married to the love of his life, Gina, since September 1986. Tom and Gina have two wonderful daughters—Grace and Laura. Grace lives in Colorado with her husband, Andrew, and their first grandchild, Cordie. Laura lives in Dallas and is in the medical real estate business. Several years ago, Tom and Gina became the guardians of Hartley who is a captain in the Army. They are extremely proud of all of them. Tom and his family became members of Bethel at the beginning of their marriage and have been richly blessed by the instruction, outreach, and relationships at Bethel. Through the years, Tom and Gina have served in youth ministry at both Bethel and Young Life.

HENDERSON CAMPUS DEACON CANDIDATES



SCOTT ELDER*

Scott and his wife Stacey met at the age of 17. They reconnected several years ago and have been married for over four years. They have four children. Scott was born in Florida and grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. Stacey was born and raised in Henderson, TX. Scott attended Oklahoma State University and now works for 3D Security. Stacey attended Texas A&M and works for Maverick. Scott and Stacey were part of the Henderson Launch Team and later joined in December. He enjoys being with his family as well as hunting and fishing.



CLIFF FURTICK

Cliff is originally from Florida, but moved to Texas 40 years ago. He and his wife Krista have been married for over 30 years. They attended Calvary Baptist for about 17 years where he taught Sunday School and was a Deacon. They decided to move to Bethel Bible in January of 2022. Cliff says it has been a blessing attending and worshipping together with their kids and grandkids. He is excited to see what God has in store for he and his family.

HENDERSON CAMPUS DEACON CANDIDATES (CONTIN.)

**DENOTES REAFFIRMATION*



CHAD JOHNSON

Chad was born in Galveston and grew up in Texas City, TX. He and his children have called Henderson home for almost 11 years. Chad has four children Blake, Kinsley, Brock, and Logan whom he loves to spend time with. Their favorite thing to do is spend time at the beach. Chad is employed by Aramark and is currently the Chef Manager at Christus Good Shepherd in Longview, TX. He and his children have been attending Bethel for over a year and he is looking forward to serving God and His church at Bethel.



DYLLON SANFORD

Dyllon grew up in Orange, Texas, and later attended Texas A&M University where he met his wife, Bekah. After living in Midland and Junction, Dyllon and Bekah have made it back to East Texas and are loving Henderson. Dyllon is a PA at Henderson Family Medicine and Bekah is now a stay-at-home mom to their son, Turner. They visited Bethel Bible shortly after moving to Henderson and have found an amazing community there. They enjoy serving as worship leaders on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and have loved being involved with the Life Group leadership team. In Dyllon's free time, you can find him working in the garden, playing his guitar, or hunting with his family.



COREY SPOON*

Corey and his wife Taylor have been married for over 10 years. They have two children, Graysen and Leighton. They have been at Bethel for almost a year. The Lord continues to teach him patience.

HENDERSON CAMPUS ELDER CANDIDATE



JASON RAINS

Jason and Karen Rains grew up in Henderson and married in 1999. They have three daughters: Caroline, Summer, and Jolee. They love spending time on the water whether it be the lake or ocean. Jason is the owner of JDS Communications. They have been members of Bethel Henderson since the launch in December 2019.

HOPE CAMPUS DEACON CANDIDATES

**DENOTES REAFFIRMATION*



JERRY FRIDIE

Jerry grew up in Vivian, Louisiana, and graduated from Southside University in 1982. He has worked at Southside Bank in Tyler for the past 25 years as a Vice President and Consumer Loan underwriter Manager. He and his wife, Kejuana have been married for over 30 years. They have one son and two granddaughters. He has been attending the Hope campus since its inception in February of 2019.



LINO MARTINEZ

Lino Martinez was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and immigrated to Tyler, Texas when he was four years old. He graduated from John Tyler High school in 1993 and enlisted in the United States Navy soon after. He served two Western Pacific deployments to the middle east and served one tour in Fallujah, Iraq with the Navy Seabees, Combat Engineers. He retired after 22 years of service while he was finishing his four-year cancer treatments for leukemia. Experiencing this affliction helped Lino to have a deeper understanding of God's mercies and comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-6). Lino has served in youth, men, and prison ministry. He has a servant at heart for the Lord and enjoys sharing God's good news with everyone he meets. Lino has been married since 1995 years to his wife Peggy and has two daughters. They are humbled that God lead them to Bethel Hope and are excited to be a part of a multicultural, multi-generational community.

HOPE CAMPUS ELDER CANDIDATE



DENNIS BROWN

Dennis and his wife, Donna, met at the University of Texas at Arlington and were married in 1971. They have four children and 10 grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their children and grands, doing whatever they are enjoying!

Dennis has loved the word of God for as long as he can remember. He has taught Sunday School to elementary to college students throughout his life. He currently teaches a Sunday morning class and is also the Operations Director at the Hope campus! He loves to open the word and have the Holy Spirit speak into his life.



TAYLOR HEATON*

Taylor and his wife Olivia have been married for 13 years. They have three children, Brandt, Emilie and Collin. Taylor is an attorney for Smith County. He has been a member at Bethel since 2008 and serves with the high school students in the South Student Ministry. He is blessed to serve in the student ministry and read through the Bible with the students on Sunday mornings. He is constantly learning from the students and treasures the relationships and connections made.



ANDY LEHR*

Andy and his wife Allison will be celebrating their 30th anniversary in November of this year. They have three children: Lauren, Elise and Joseph. Andy and his family joined Bethel in February, 2018. This year has been a discipline in patience and striving to live contentedly. Learning to trust God in His sovereignty and goodness (and humbling himself in submitting to His providence) has been an ongoing process since trusting Christ as his Lord and Savior at age eight. However, with work challenges, COVID-19 disruptions and social turmoil, this year has particularly challenged Andy to assess where his deepest security lies. How good it is to know the Lord and have the comfort of His Word and fellowship of His church in these times!



JEREMY SMITH*

Jeremy was born and raised in Tyler, and met his beautiful wife, Moriah, in college at Texas A&M University. They were later married in August 2006. They have two wonderful boys, Caleb and Andrew. When given the chance, Jeremy enjoys traveling with his bride and hunting. He is an insurance agent and also the agency manager for Texas Farm Bureau Insurance. He and his family began attending Bethel in October 2016 and officially joined early in 2017. Jeremy is passionate about men challenging each other and helping one another in their walk with the Lord, marriage, and parenting. The Lord has been teaching him to be slow to speak and quick to listen. He's also been teaching him to be more compassionate and challenging him to do a better job of living out the great commandment. With everything going on in the world, he's felt God challenge him to care more about loving people than being right. Bethel has been a big part of the reason Jeremy and Moriah feel at home in Tyler, and they are excited to see and be a part of what God is doing at Bethel.



DON GAYNIER*

Don and his wife Tracey have been connected with Bethel since 1986. Married in 1981, they are blessed with three adult children who grew up at Bethel, but are currently relocated around the country! They also have one grandson. Don and Tracey both grew up in the Dallas area. Don has been in the grocery industry for over 33 years. Don and Tracey love sharing their faith in word and deed. He feels it is a privilege to be in a community of believers who love the Lord and each other. Don greatly enjoys pouring into lives and watching them grow in their relationship with God through His word.



WINFRED HODGES*

Winfred married his college sweetheart, Carole, in 1982. Winfred and Carole have attended Bethel Bible Church since 2006. They enjoy spending time with their family, especially their two granddaughters. Winfred is the CEO of Hodges Benefits, LLC in Tyler, and is the 5th Generation from Palestine, Texas. He enjoys upland game hunting and clay target shooting with his son, Taylor. Winfred is enthusiastic and passionate about meeting new people and connecting them to the body of Christ. He enjoys serving alongside strong Bethel leaders who are sold out for Christ.



LEE RIDENOUR*

Lee and his truly better half, Donna, moved to Tyler as a young doctor and wife with a one-year-old, Jonathan In 1981, and were involved in starting Bethel in 1982. Lee still works as an internist (a doctor for adults) at Christus Trinity Mother Francis and has the privilege of taking care of some of the same patients for over 35 years in both his office and at the hospital. Lee loves the Lord and being a disciple of Jesus and a discipler of men. He loves being a doctor, a husband to probably the best wife in the world for 40 years, a father of four (Jonathan, Jeff, Jenny, and Jeremy) and a Pawpaw to 11 grandkids. Lee loves missions and being a world Christian, and has had the privilege of traveling all over the world! Lee feels it is a joy to see all the changes that God has done at Bethel. The Ridenour's have stayed in the boat of the SS Bethel through tough times but also years—as it has been recently—of wonder and grace!

SOUTH CAMPUS ELDER CANDIDATES (CONTIN.)

**DENOTES REAFFIRMATION*



JIM TARTER*

Jim and his wife, Ann, were married as they finished their degrees at Oklahoma State University. After military service for Jim and graduate degrees for both of them, they moved to Texas. Jim and Ann have two children, Allison and James, who have provided them with three grandchildren to love. Jim has been an Administrator and Professor in the College of Business and Technology at the University of Texas at Tyler since 1995. They have been a part of Bethel since 1996. What they love most about Bethel is being a part of helping implement its God-given vision with so many great fellow believers who lead and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHITEHOUSE CAMPUS DEACON CANDIDATES

**DENOTES REAFFIRMATION*



CLINTON CARR*

Clinton has been married to his lovely wife, Allison, since 2007. They have five wonderful children and have been a part of Bethel Whitehouse since the Fall of 2014. Clinton is humbled to serve as a deacon of Bethel Whitehouse and look forward to helping the people of the church and community.



SCOTT ELLIS

Scott has been married to his wife, Lori, since 1998. They have two fantastic kids, Caroline and Reily. Scott and Lori work together at his law office in Tyler. Bethel has been their church home since 2008; first at the Bethel South campus and now at Bethel Whitehouse. He and Lori are thankful for the church family and Bible teaching at Bethel. Scott loves college football and will happily discuss it with you at anytime!



MATT MCLAIN

Matt grew up in East Texas and has been married to his amazing wife Brooke since 2011. They have three children: Hannah, Lily, and Simon. Matt and Brooke have been going to Bethel Whitehouse since 2019 and enjoy helping with the children's ministry. Matt looks forward to continuing to serve the church and the local community.



SCOTT SMITH*

Scott has been with his wife Donna since high school and married a few months after graduation. Scott and Donna have two beautiful girls that are currently in college. Scott enjoys fishing and spending time with nieces and nephews in his spare time. Bethel has been a big part of their family growing spiritually. Scott is involved and volunteers in different departments of the church. Scott has seen growth in his personal and spiritual life over the last few years. He is a firm believer in his faith and is excited to serve the Lord in any way He has planned.



BEN STOVALL*

Ben grew up in East Texas and his family attended Bethel Bible church in the early days. He graduated from Whitehouse High School and then Texas Texas A&M University. Ben has been married to his wonderful wife Kristen since 2007, and is blessed to have two healthy, happy children. Avery is his beautiful, creative daughter, and Reid is his fun, energetic son. Ben and Kristen have been attending Bethel Whitehouse since 2017 and have enjoyed helping with the children's ministry. Being a part of the Bethel community has been an encouraging, meaningful experience for the whole family.



BEN TURNEY*

Ben moved to Tyler in 1990 to be a part of the Apache Punch TJC drum line. He later met his wife Candi and they were married in 1995. Together they have three daughters, Sierra, a 2019 UNT graduate, Savannah, a 2020 Texas A&M-Commerce graduate and Summer who is currently in 7th grade at Whitehouse. Ben has worked in the mental health field for almost 20 years. Ben and Candi visited Bethel Whitehouse and he noticed the praise team was missing the percussion part. He was able to become a part of the Worship Team ever since. Being a part of Bethel Whitehouse and their Life Group has helped Ben recognize the simplicity of the Gospel and the omnipotence of God. He prays to be good stewards of time, talents and gifts.



CALVIN CAIN*

Calvin has been married to his beautiful wife, Karla, for 36 years. They have two sons, Christopher and Casey. Christopher is 32 and is married to his wife Whitney and they have two children, Caroline (5) and Thomas (4). Casey is 30 and is married to his wife, Tessie. They have one child, Charli (5) and another one on the way! Calvin and Karla have been members of Bethel for three years. Calvin says the Lord has taught him the intricate workings of himself and his word. He is learning the tremendous obligation we have because of God's eternal grace, the love and sacrifice that we should be performing in view of the work of Jesus, by understanding how much Christ loved us brings us to love one another in the manner, that love is total, complete & unconditional. Calvin marvels more each day at the creation, the sun rise showing us that the light defeats the darkness, and the answered prayer how he, a nobody, gets to speak to the God of the Cosmos and he hears!



MIKE COSTLOW*

Mike has been married to his wonderful wife, Shannon, for 30 years this December. They have three beautiful children, Emily, Nicholas, and Abigail. Their oldest children are both Registered Nurses and are currently working in Tyler. Abigail will be starting college this fall. Emily is married to Cody and recently had their first grandson, Cooper, who is just over a year old. Mike and Shannon have been at Bethel Whitehouse for about four years. Mike will be 49 years old in June and quickly approaching the big Five-O! He is always learning something new from God and from his word. To summarize how God has worked in Mike's life this past year, he is drawn to Romans 8:28: "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Mike believes God has a perfect plan for his life and knows that it will be far greater than anything he could accomplish on his own.



BOBBY FREEMAN

Bobby and Sara joined Bethel along with the other members of the Arbor Bible Fellowship. They have five children and eleven grandkids. Sara serves on the Safety and Greeting teams. Bobby is one of the Connections teachers and serves on the Worship team. Together they have been richly blessed by the greater Bethel congregation, growing in Christ, developing eternal relationships and learning to walk by faith and not by sight.



ADAM MCMAHON*

Adam has been married to his wonderful wife, Brittany, for over 15 years. They have four children, Colton, Mahayla, Weston, and Tucker. They have been members of Bethel Whitehouse since its inception. The Lord has taught Adam how to love others that are not his own through foster care placements. God has consistently shown Adam His love and grace through the past year. Adam says he is blessed to know that God is in control of every circumstance.