

THIRD CHURCH

CONSISTORY CANDIDATES

2026





HOW TO VOTE

Third Church members that are at least 18 years old will have the opportunity to vote.

You can participate in the congregational vote in the following ways:

Vote by absentee ballot.

Ballots may be picked up at the following times/locations:

June 14 | The Welcome Center

June 15-18 | Church office from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

June 19 | Church office from 8:00 am - noon

(To be valid, completed absentee ballots must be turned in to the church office by noon on Friday, June 19)

OR

Vote on Sunday, June 21.

Attend the Congregational Prayer Meeting at 9:15 am in Room 101 to pray and vote together. You can also place your vote between 9:00 am-12:30 pm at the voting tables outside the Chapel and Auditorium on Sunday morning.

**THANK YOU FOR
PARTICIPATING IN
THIS IMPORTANT
EVENT IN THE LIFE
OF OUR CHURCH!**

MEET THE CANDIDATES

This document introduces you to the 13 individuals on this year’s consistory ballot. Please take a moment to get to know these candidates. All Third Church members that are at least 18 years of age are invited to vote on **Sunday, June 21**. As a church family, we’ll elect up to seven elders and six deacons this year as they have reached the end of their five year term.

THE ROLE OF ELDERS & DEACONS

The consistory at Third Church is the collective group of spiritual leaders who are serving the church body in the formal offices of elder and deacon. Elders (30) and deacons (24) are specialized spiritual leaders that make significant contributions to the care, ministry and strengthening of the church body. God has consistently worked powerfully through the leadership of elders and deacons because of the biblical basis for the roles and because the church grants them formal spiritual authority. While we believe the “priesthood of all believers” is the highest value of ministry participation and leadership, there is something special with the leadership of elders and deacons.

QUALIFICATIONS

Elder and deacon candidates must be active members of Third Church in full communion, who have attained the age of 21 years, have not been a member of consistory for one year prior to taking office, are not members of the staff, have completed a leadership development process overseen by staff within five years prior to election, and have been discerned to have character, calling and spiritual gifts consistent with serving in the role. Elders and deacons are elected to serve a five year term.

HOW DO ELDERS AND DEACONS SERVE?

The primary way that elders and deacons serve is through spiritual leadership in Third Church ministries. Each year, every elder and deacon is challenged to lead or serve in a ministry of their choosing or to take a course offered by Third Church. The intent is to release the elder or deacon into a specific ministry role suited for their calling, gifting and experience or for them to expand their spiritual horizons by taking a course.

Elders and deacons also fulfill other “traditional” biblical roles and special responsibilities for the church in both structured and unstructured ways, including congregational care, teaching, prayer, church discipline, mediation, theological discernment, communion, baptisms and the offering.

ELDER CANDIDATES

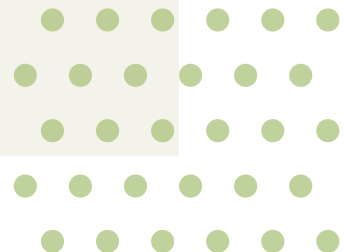
(Elect Seven)

	PAGE
Rob Bruxvoort.....	4
Ian Campbell.....	4
Zach De Vries.....	4
Kathy TerLouw	5
Sharon Uitermarkt.....	5
David Voss.....	5
Vivian Willemsen.....	6

DEACON CANDIDATES

(Elect Six)

Deb Groenenboom.....	7
Kyle Harwood.....	7
Seth Howard	7
Cory Kerndt.....	8
Mark Van Maanen.....	8
Ben Van Zante	8



ELDER CANDIDATES



**ROB
BRUXVOORT**

Spouse: Leah

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Third Church has been very instrumental in my personal faith journey. The Third Church pastor team continues to encourage and challenge my faith walk. Multi-generational church family has given me faith role-models: showing me examples of how a vibrant faith can be lived out. Many classes have expanded/challenged my worldview/Godview and caused a deeper dive into His word. The focus on “a long walk in the same direction” as it relates to my walk with Jesus is an encouragement as well as a challenge.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

I love that the Third Church mission is wholly applicable to every person. It doesn't set age requirements, education requirements, or 'holiness' requirements. Every person has the opportunity, ability, and responsibility to participate in this mission. It allows a freedom to use each persons' unique gifts and situation to help further the Kingdom.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

Serving in this capacity is a tangible way to advance the mission and values of Third Church. I hope that serving will be a positive investment in Third Church as well as an investment in my personal walk with Jesus.



**IAN
CAMPBELL**

Spouse: Sophia

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Teachings are grounded in truth. I have grown in discernment, wisdom, and understanding of Christ. Also living out the gospel through relationships that have been formed through Third and its many small group opportunities.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

The mission says it all. Every one, every day helping one another experience life-giving freedom in Jesus. At Third, faith is lived out every day which is apparent by its fruits. Ultimately it comes down to glorifying God, loving others, and pointing people toward Christ.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

Through growing in Christ I have started to realize what my spiritual gifts are and want to be able to share that with the church and community.



**ZACH
DE VRIES**

Spouse: Lindsay

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Third Church is alive and thriving. There is a movement here that is making world wide impacts. The weekly teachings push me to live my life as a disciple of Christ, husband, father and community member as I interact daily with those who I do life with.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

The first part (Every one, every day). We are on this journey together and it is a daily adventure that we get to do together. The last part (life-giving freedom in Jesus). There is nothing more exciting than eternal life with Jesus!

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

To assist the leadership in the mission of Third Church.

ELDER CANDIDATES



**KATHY
TERLOUW**

Spouse: Steve

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Third Church has impacted me in so many ways. I think of the incredible people I've met and how they have pointed me toward Jesus and encouraged me to go deeper in my faith. Classes, small groups, retreats, ministry teams and especially the privilege of serving on staff in the past, have challenged me and helped me grow spiritually. I'm so grateful for the opportunities Third has provided and the role they have played in my faith journey.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

I'm very excited about the invitation for all of us to participate in God's kingdom work in the world around us. Every one, every day—we are reminded to live out our faith and work together to bless others, share the Good News of Jesus and engage in community. I very much appreciate that we are acknowledging that none of us are perfect, but we're called to press on. Partnering with God in what He is doing. I also love that we are learning and growing in being a people of refuge who see, know and love God and others. What an exciting adventure!

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I am interested in serving out of obedience and a deep love for this church. I see God at work among us and I am interested in partnering with Him in this next season. I am also so grateful for the gift Third has been to me and my family through the years.



**SHARON
UITERMARKT**

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

The teaching is so grounded on how it applies in daily living. I'm always learning and growing.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

Relationship with my God and each other! And the encouragement to see people and be the light of Jesus!

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I love to love on people. I can give a portion of what the love of Jesus is like and notice people giving someone value and acceptance.



**DAVID
VOSS**

Spouse: Ashley

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Through church and, more deeply, in Bible study I have come to a better understanding of God's covenantal love and also how the story of Jesus weaves its way through the entire Bible. I have been blessed by the messages I have heard, the friendships I have formed, and the support I've received during good and hard times. I have witnessed my children learning weekly about Christ, whether it be through an art project or a new song or story. I am grateful for the new things I have learned and the old things that have confirmed what I have always known - where we gather He will be also. I hope to call Third Church my home for many years to come and hope that by serving I can help others to receive Jesus into their hearts.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

I see how much Third pushes people to spread God's love in the community near and far. I think too often when people think of mission work that they have to go out and preach or talk a certain way and have certain points to make. The reality of what I see in the world is that more people need to know

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ELDER CANDIDATES

God's love and what Christ did for us. I think that is what Third pushes the most and I believe that if we continue on that path then we will only grow and show the Lord to more people.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I grew up in a church that was full of people who loved everyone and encouraged everyone and after moving to Pella we found that at Third. I am grateful for the relationships that have come from that and also the challenges that are presented to us weekly that push us to do more of it. I think that a church where people gather and share their faith can be as important as the message we receive or the songs we sing. I'm thankful for the congregation that we have and hope to serve where I am able and the Lord calls.



**VIVIAN
WILLEMSEN**

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Third Church has had a large impact in my faith journey. Except for about a 15 year period after college, I have attended Third my whole life. I gained a good foundation through children's programs and yes I remember the puppet ministry. As an adult, no matter what life brought me, the people of Third and the presence of God at Third have always centered me on Jesus and his mission in my life.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

I love the mission of Third. We might think only the big events in life change us and bring us closer to God, but I believe and have tried to live like each day, each moment, is an opportunity to learn and be in relationship with God. And this faith-filled way of living can be used by God to help others. I also like how the mission accepts the messy in life. I'm not always going to do and say the right thing but God is still there, loving me and helping me grow in my relationship with him and others.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I was recently talking with friends about a time where they didn't see me frequently because I lived further away. I realized my life has been a series of saying yes when I didn't always know what would happen. My relationship with Jesus and others is blessed when I say yes even when I am uncomfortable. So, I am saying yes and we will see what God does.

DEACON CANDIDATES



DEBRA
GROENENBOOM

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

I have found my faith grow through all of the classes and study groups that I have participated in as well as the Sunday teaching. There are so many opportunities for growth at Third. My faith journey is a work in progress.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

Mostly what God does is love us so it follows that mostly what we can do is love others-Every One, Every Day. Then through that love, we can help others experience the life-giving love of Jesus. Whether it's someone in passing on the street, the checkout line at the store, family, friends or coworkers, we can be a light. You never know when someone just needs to be acknowledged and given a smile. As Third's values state, we can never be perfect, but we can make progress, we can offer refuge and give of ourselves.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

Honestly, my first response was surprise and no way, I'm not qualified. However, I ultimately decided to give it some prayerful consideration and let God lead me instead of making this "my" decision. As I did this, I felt Him saying that I didn't need to be perfect but to follow Him. So, I am honored to accept the offer to serve in this capacity if elected.



KYLE
HARWOOD

Spouse: Amanda

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Third has impacted me the most by providing opportunities with small groups to study the Bible with like minded peers to strengthen my walk with Christ. With this, opportunities for my family to also become involved in church activities and peer groups.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

The mission follows the biblical principle of what the church was founded to provide. Together, everyone can help a unified collection of believers strengthen their faith and assist each other through their daily walk with Christ.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

To serve the church and the people who call Third their church.



SETH
HOWARD

Spouse: Faye

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

For me I feel the discipleship classes have been a place to dig deeper into Christianity and to learn and grow my faith. I have also been impacted by being able to send our 3 boys through the youth group programs which helps establish their faith for years to come.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

I love the idea of sanctification and the statement of progress over perfection is something we can all be striving for.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

It sounds like we have a need for people to step up and help out, thus I feel obligated to do so.

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DEACON CANDIDATES



**CORY
KERNDT**

Spouse: Allison

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

My faith journey has been positively challenged by Third Church. Challenged to strengthen my personal relationship and put my faith into action. The mindset of Progress Over Perfection allows me to grow forward knowing mistakes are part of the journey, God is with me, and our church family is doing this together.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

Our mission of “Every One, Every Day” is a powerful reminder that each of us play a critical role and can make an impact. In both small and large moments throughout life. Not only in our own personal faith journey, but also in partnering with others in their relationship with Jesus.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I am interested in supporting others and our church mission. I find joy in serving, using my time and talents that God has given me.



**MARK
VAN MAANEN**

Spouse: Haylie

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

I have been changed by the sermons, neighborhoods, and pastoral care who have walked alongside me in my journey. Third Church has been an important part of my adult faith journey. I would not be where I am at today without Third church.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

Every one, Every day. Every one is welcome. Third is Biblically rooted and encourages members to love as Jesus loves. Third is full of sinners trying our best to be more like Jesus every day. That is relatable and exciting.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I emailed Klayton over a year ago asking about places to serve. My wife and I have been involved in nursery and neighborhoods, but I never fully found a spot to serve. This opportunity gives me a chance to serve.



**BEN
VAN ZANTE**

Spouse: Michelle

How have you been most impacted by Third Church in your personal faith journey?

Third Church has been vital in my faith journey over the years. God has worked through both staff and other church members to draw me closer to Him and to share Him with others.

What excites you the most about the Third Church mission and values?

Progress over perfection really resonates with me. While I have many areas to grow in, I’m thankful for where God has taken me up to this point, and I look forward to the work He will do in the future.

Why are you interested in serving Third Church as elder/deacon at this time?

I’m grateful for how God has used Third Church to help my family and me grow closer to Him. I feel led to help others do the same and to help Third Church continue to be a light in our community and around the world.