2022

CHURCH BOARD SLATE

This year we will be electing THREE of the following to serve as congregational representatives on the Church Board.

L.B. BELELLA · BRIAN EGOLF

HEATHER ELLERBROCK · HEATHER LEESE

ANGIE PETERSHEIM · SHERI SINER

Please take time to review the information provided and pray for God's direction prior to casting your vote.

INTRODUCTION

My name is **Lauren Belella,** but most people call me **LB**. My wife Stacey and I have been attending Five Forks for almost 5 1/2 years. Both Stacey and I grew up in the church and we were looking for a church home after we were married in 2015. We came to attend Five Forks after coming to a Carmen concert earlier that year. The first Sunday we attended Five Forks we were greeted and treated like family and we've been here ever since. We currently attend the 9:45 service. I have spent my career as a software engineer.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

At Five Forks I am a part of the worship team. At my previous church I was also a member of the worship team. In my career I have held both management and director level positions.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I was raised in the Christian faith tradition and fully gave my life to Christ while attending a Ron Hutchcraft event with a youth group sometime in the early 90's.

WHY SERVE?

I believe worship extends to all parts of our lives. I view service on the Church Board as another form of worship by focusing on Christ's will for our church and the people we impact.

GIFTS/SKILLS NECESSARY FOR BOARD

The gifts that I believe make for a good board member are discernment, patience, kindness and a willingness to be open to differing points of view. I am far from perfect in practice of these skills; however, I believe serving on the Church Board is a form of worship and in striving to be more Christ-like I believe I am capable of putting these skills into practice with His help.

CONFLICT

I am capable of handling conflict and disagreement while preserving relationships. I believe it is important to remember several things when conflicts or disagreements arise:

a.) I believe the most important thing to remember during conflict is that we are all covered by Grace and we are called to extend grace to others.

b.) Most of the time, at least in my experience, people do not intend to attack one another on a personal level. I feel it is important to compartmentalize the conflict to the matter at hand.

c.) I believe it is important to remember that everyone is coming from a different place and are at different high/low points in their life. These external factors often influence how someone responds in "high-pressure" situations. My primary objective during these situations is to de-escalate the situation and attempt to maintain a level head (often easier said than done).

CONCERNS

I have no major concerns with my name appearing on the Church Board slate (maybe ignorance is bliss).

STATE OF OUR CHURCH

Five Forks does two things really well which Stacey and I are both passionate about:

a.) Ministering to the local community
b.) Fostering children and youth ministries

I do not know of anything that the church could be doing better at this time.

LOOKING AHEAD

a. Continue to grow the presence of Five Forks as the hands and feet of Christ in the community.
b. Continue to grow the church community.
c. Ensure that the needs of the congregation and the community are met to the best of our abilities.

INTRODUCTION

I am **Brian Egolf**. I have been attending Five Forks for over 35 years. Sandy and I have been attending Five Forks since before we were married 29 years ago. We have three adult children; Steven, Emily and Seth.

As a teenager, I attended school with Todd McKee, Abbey Gorman and Amy Downin and wanted to go to a church with them as well. So, I asked my parents to drop me off on their way to Hollowell BIC where my family attended and pick me up on their way home. George and Nancy (McKee), Paul and Karen (Downin), Gene and Gladys (Gorman) as well as many others made me feel welcome and I never left.

Sandy and I usually attend the traditional service, but we enjoy the contemporary service as well so we sometimes go to it.

I am a self-employed dairy farmer. I work with my three brothers, my son, my nephew, my father and my wife and sister-in-law Ellen.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

I have served on the Trustee/Grounds and Maintenance Board for nine years with several years as Chairman, served as a Deacon Couple for ten years, served on the Church Board for three years, helped with VBS many times, taught AWANA children, taught Sunday School (children, Jr. High, Sr. High and Adults) for at least 25 years and enjoyed serving in the nursery.

As for leadership roles outside the church, I was a Franklin County Conservation District Director for ten years and have co-owned and operated a dairy farm for many years.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I came to know Christ as a pre-teen at a revival service at Hollowell BIC. It was a revival with Laverne Tripp. Not any will likely remember him, but I do.

WHY SERVE?

I am willing to serve on the Church Board because I care about the church (the people) and hope that I have something to offer in terms of experience.

GIFTS/SKILLS NECESSARY FOR BOARD

I feel that being a good listener is a necessary skill for a board member. Listening to people who attend, listening to other board members, listening to the staff who understand what takes place day to day at the church and listening to what the Lord is telling me. Many of the same skills and gifts that I have tried to possess as a business partner and co-owner also apply to being part of the Church Board.

CONFLICT

Handling conflict is never really a "one size fits all" kind of thing. I don't know that I have always handled conflict well, but believe I have grown a lot in that area.

CONCERN

I don't know if I can say what my greatest concern would be. I think we need to continue building community, continue striving to make our children's programs a place they want to be while absorbing the Word of God and being in a place where people are loved and are obedient to God.

STATE OF OUR CHURCH

I think we have wonderful Sunday morning worship services, but continue to look for ways to put people in smaller groups where they get to know one another more deeply.

LOOKING AHEAD

I would like to see us continue with some of the recent positive energy in the church.

INTRODUCTION

My name is **Heather Ellerbrock** and I have attended Five Forks since I was very young. My husband, Adam, and I have been married for nine years and we have two boys: Liam (7) and Lucas (3). We attend the 9:45am service so my son Liam can participate in Children's Church. I work as the Director of Student Financial Services at Wilson College in Chambersburg and have served the college in various roles since 2012.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

I have been involved with a number of ministries and service opportunities through the years, including a prior term on the Church Board, music ministry, the Women's Ministry Committee, small groups, and have coordinated or participated in various service initiatives. I am currently a member of the 2022 Leadership Franklin County class and am partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Chambersburg/Shippensburg to facilitate new programming for their summer youth camps. I also sing with the Wilson College choir.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I attended Vacation Bible School at Five Forks and received Jesus as my savior when I was four years old. I was fortunate to grow up in the church and have many friends and family who nurtured my faith and welcomed (and still do!) my questions and doubts. I attended a Free-Methodist college where I felt my faith deepen and my understanding of Jesus grow significantly. As an adult, my theology has continued to shift and my faith has taken some unexpected turns, but through it all I remain convinced of God's all-surpassing love for His good creation and that Jesus is the ultimate manifestation of that love.

WHY SERVE?

I served on the Board from 2014-2016 so I understand the expectations of Board membership. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board and felt that it allowed me to use my gifts of administration and strategic thought in service to the church. For the past several years I've been unable to devote significant time to volunteering because of other blessings and responsibilities in my life. Now that my children are a little bit older and I have completed my M.A. in Leadership and Communications I am seeking ways to pour back into my community. I also feel that a Board or leadership team should be representative of the people it serves and would value the opportunity to contribute my perspective and represent the perspective of others.

GIFTS/SKILLS NECESSARY FOR BOARD

I think a Board member should have the ability to listen, the willingness to speak up and ask questions (especially the hard ones), and the humility to learn from others. Ideally, a Board member should also be able to look beyond the day-to-day operations to imagine and strategically support the longer-term vision of the church. I believe that I am learning to act in these ways and have had many opportunities to develop these skills. But, I think humility is key and for that I need Jesus!

CONFLICT

While usually difficult, conflict is not necessarily negative and I regularly navigate conflicts in my professional role. I believe most conflicts result from miscommunication or misunderstanding and because of this I want to practice transparency and ongoing communication. Understanding the larger context of a conflict is also critical. I try to glean as much information as I can to understand the perspectives of all parties involved. If possible, I like to write out my thoughts prior to difficult conversations to ensure that I'm approaching the topic with care and bearing in mind the feelings of others.

CONCERN

At a personal level, I am concerned with balancing my time well so that I am able to parent, work, and serve in the ways that God calls me.

STATE OF OUR CHURCH

I have always found deep meaning in Five Fork's emphasis upon service to others and would love to extend this service to populations of Franklin County with whom we have not previously engaged. I appreciate the church leadership's intentional emphasis upon knowing, loving and following Jesus and the teachings which result from this focus. I think we have the opportunity to become a community of Jesus-followers who present a counter-cultural way of living and loving. I would like for the church to build upon this foundation and offer a message of hope, restoration, and peace in our deeply divided communities

LOOKING AHEAD

I would like for the Board to continue supporting the staff in their message of knowing, loving, and following Jesus and understanding this within our Brethren in Christ tradition. I would like to see the Board think long-term about changing perceptions of organized religion, particularly among younger generations, and consider the church's role as American society changes rapidly. I am interested in continuing to developing or deepening existing connections with our community so that the work of Jesus is never confined to the walls of our building.

INTRODUCTION

My name is **Heather Leese** and I have been attending Five Forks for 18 years with my family. My husband, Michael and I have been married for 20 years, and we have two children, Ricky (20) and Aaron (17). Although Sunday mornings have been quite different the last 2 years, we were faithful in streaming services while online only, but are slowly returning to in person 8am services and then helping with the Youth for Sunday School and youth group weekly gatherings and special events. Currently I teach preschool (ages 3, 4 and 5) for First Start Partnerships, in Chambersburg, where I have been for eight years. I am state certified for teaching Pre-K to 6th grade, but know that my niche is with the younger children.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Currently I am serving with the Youth Group here at Five Forks. Since the pandemic started, we have been very busy keeping the youth engaged and involved during this time. In the past I have been involved with many of the Children's Ministries here at Five Forks, including Sunday School teacher (2's, 3's, 1st grade, subbing, and Children's Church at 11am), children's musicals, music camp, craft camp, Vacation Bible School, Awana (served as a teacher for all grades, listener, and co-director for Cubbies), and nursery helper, as well as served as Special Music organizer, and helped with some hospitality events (Christmas dinners). Outside of the church, I am very active (along with my family) in Scouts. I have served as a Cub Scout leader in all grade levels over the last 12 years, the last 2 years serving as Cub Master for Pack 88 in Waynesboro. I serve on the Troop level as a Committee Member, Counselor for the P.R.A.Y program, and member of the Cub Events committee for the council.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I was raised in the Methodist church by my parents, so every Sunday I can remember attending church and Sunday School from very early on. I asked Jesus into my life when I was 8 years old. My mother and I had been watching a movie and something was mentioned about being born again. I asked my mom what that meant, and she explained it to me, and I prayed for Jesus to come into my heart. I have wandered a bit, strayed but, as I know many of us do, but always have returned to Him.

WHY SERVE?

It is important to have input on church matters from members within the church. I feel I have experience in many church areas that would help give insight into board decisions, ideas and suggestions that will help improve the church as a whole, and a desire to see our church continue to grow and reach others for Christ.

GIFTS/SKILLS NECESSARY FOR BOARD

I feel that board members should be good listeners, relationship builders, problem solvers, planners and organizers, as well as servants and stewards for our church and community. I feel I have many of these gifts and will be an asset to the board here at Five Forks.

CONFLICT

I deal with conflict on a daily basis (with my students, families and other staff members). God has given me a gift of conflict resolution, which I am very grateful for. I am able to de-escalate situations by calming others, listening to their concerns and working out a compromise or solution to the problem, and formulating a plan of action to help meet the goals for the problem. I know there is no way of pleasing everyone, but being able to listen to questions, concerns, ideas and suggestions in a critical manner, and working with others towards a solution for everyone's best interest is the best way to make progress in any difficult situation. In my experiences, showing respect to someone who disagrees with me has been one of the best ways to work on a solution.

CONCERNS

I do not have any concerns with being considered for the church board slate. If this is where God wants me to be active in this time of my life, then I will obey.

STATE OF OUR CHURCH

Over the last few years, with Covid, there has been some disconnect. Not just our church family, but within our own families and within the community. I love how the church found ways to accommodate church members with online services and lessons, as well as mailings for those without computers, the drop offs and pick ups of materials and supplies for children, youth and adults. The changes within the church facility has been nice, an effective use of the spaces, and I see more people congregating again from these changes. We need to work on programing for church members again. I know a few ministries have continued to stay active, but we have lost ministries (or participation in) as well.

LOOKING AHEAD

Reevaluation of ministry opportunities, how can we bring back or grow ministries within our church to encourage participation and outreach in the community again. Continue to evaluate the church facility and make sure it is being used effectively for the spaces available. Building back up relationships within the church family and community to better share the resources God has provided us and provide purpose for others in serving in ministry through their spiritual gifts.

INTRODUCTION

My name is **Angie Petersheim**. I My husband, Lynn, and I have attended Five Forks since 1999. We attend the 9:45 am service. We have two adult sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. I have been the administrator at Shalom Christian Academy for 12 years.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I am fortunate to have grown up in a home where the value of a relationship with Jesus was taught and modeled. I accepted Him as my Savior at a young age, but my understanding of what that involves has grown. Learning to allow God to be sovereign in my

life is a life-long endeavor. When I can rest in His plan, I can have peace no matter the circumstance. While I believe this, it can be challenging to live it.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

I served on the Five Forks Church board for nine years ending in 2020. My husband and I are greeters on Sunday morning at the Lower Entrance or the Connect Counter. I was on the Discipleship Council for several years prior to that.

WHY SERVE?

I enjoy leadership, guiding decisions, and working with others who have similar values. I believe that the leadership of Five Forks Church is seeking God's will, and I want to be part of that.

GIFTS/SKILLS NECESSARY FOR BOARD

Board members must be willing to listen. They must be able and willing to make decisions that are based on the good of the church and not necessarily what may be good for them personally. When a decision is made they don't agree with, they must be willing to support it publicly. I believe I have these skills. My experiences serving on the church board and leadership in other areas have allowed me to develop these.

CONFLICT

In my role as a school administrator, there are many times when people have disagreed with me. It is important to be calm and not be defensive. Truly listening to other perspectives gives me a better understanding. I can learn from others even when their perspectives are different. It helps me shape future decisions and communications.

CONCERNS

I want to be relevant to the current church issues. This requires taking time to connect with people so that I am aware of needs, perspectives, and expectations.

STATE OF OUR CHURCH

Five Forks pastors have made intentional efforts to connect with people. I see this in their visibility on Sunday mornings as well as the activities that are planned. I think the church is doing well at pointing people to Jesus and defining what it means to honor him in our daily lives.

Five Forks Church must continue to encourage people to be involved so that we make an impact on the surrounding community.

LOOKING AHEAD

When I was ending my term on the board, it was transitioning to a stronger leadership model. I would like to see this continue. I also think it's important to think about succession plans as Bill and Ray each may be retiring in a few years.

INTRODUCTION

My name is **Sheri Siner**, I am married to Charles Toth. We have been married 12 years. In fact, Pastor Ray married us in the chapel!

We have three grown children between us and five grandchildren that bring us much joy! I have been attending Five Forks about 15 years. My very good friends, John and Lorie Lehman invited me when I moved back to the area from Harrisburg. I normally attend the 8:00 service as we are early risers. I am currently retired. I was Director of Marketing at Homewood at Williamsport Retirement Community before retirement.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

I have taught Sunday School (4yr old and 5th grade) over the years, helped with the teens, taught and helped with VBS, been on the hospitality committee, sang special music and choir, led adult small group in our home, served in Clothes Closet, facilitated Divorce Care classes and currently am involved in leadership of Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study and serve in the nursery.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

I was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ at age 12 at the Church of Christ in Martinsburg, WV. I think it was a Sunday evening service and when the invitation was given, I knew the Holy Spirit was prompting me to choose whom I would serve. It is the best decision of my life.

WHY SERVE?

I have been praying about how He could us me at this time in my life. It has been a waiting time, but when I was contacted, I was willing to take the next step and be willing to serve.

GIFTS/SKILLS NECESSARY FOR BOARD

I have read, understand and agree with the BIC doctrine and core values. I am a good listener and communicator. I have a gift of understanding, reason, and common sense. I have a calm and discerning spirit.

CONFLICT

I have always been a peacemaker, as I have a younger brother that was always difficult. As an adult, my mother gave me the best advice in an early job situation, a difficult co-worker. She said to find something in common with her or to connect with her through something she liked (i.e. her children). It has worked many times since. More recently I have been prompted by the Holy Spirit to see a fellow believer (that just has a different style than me) through His eyes, not mine. God uses all of us and our differences for His glory and His kingdom. It has helped me tremendously and I am richer for it. Start with common ground, show His light and go from there.

CONCERN

My greatest concern about serving on the board is just being enough to perform my responsibilities, but He is enough and He will guide me. My second concern is the use of time during the meetings. My prayer is that the meetings would be timely and efficient with matters at hand.

STATE OF OUR CHURCH

Our congregation is authentic in their love for the Lord, each other, and the community. I appreciate the ministries that serve those outside our congregation as a witness to the love of Christ. We practice what we preach.

We could do better at; promoting small groups again (I realize the pandemic has hurt that), offering and invitation to accept Christ more often or even an alter call on Sunday mornings.

LOOKING AHEAD

I would like to see the board get all ministries back to pre-pandemic levels. It has been a tough two years.