

Nominees for the Office of Elder

Patty Hildenbrand, Class of 2024*

Patty Hildenbrand joined Memorial Park in 1986. Patty has been married to Wayne for 35 years, and they have two adult daughters – Christine and Amanda. Patty enjoyed being a member of the Bell Choir, Sunday School teacher, attendee of the Working Women’s classes, and a deacon.

Geoff Holmes, Class of 2024

Geoff Holmes has been a member of Memorial Park since 2007. He and his wife Michele live in Allison Park with their three children, Joshua (20), Margaret (17), and Samuel (14). Geoff is a bridge engineer by trade and is currently employed by TranSystems as their Pittsburgh Office Director and Lead Bridge Engineer. Geoff previously served as an elder, and has also been active in the Joshua League, Wednesday morning men’s Bible study, chair of the Campus Design Team, in his Life Group, and in various study and fellowship opportunities over the years.

John O’Master, Class of 2024*

John was born in Florida in 1937, raised in Louisville, Kentucky. After school at Belmont College (Nashville) and University of Hawaii (Honolulu), he entered the military and attended the US Army Air Defense School, where, upon graduation he was asked to stay and teach (electronics, missiles and rockets). John left the military in 1962 and worked at White Sands Missile Range (New Mexico), transferring to Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland in 1968, where he met his wife, Carol, and married in 1977. They have three daughters, two in Texas and one in Pittsburgh, two grand-children and 4 great-grandchildren. They retired and moved from Maryland to Pittsburgh in 2018.

Laura Roy, Class of 2024

Laura has been a member of Memorial Park Church for nearly 35 years. She has served MPC in various ways over the years—as a junior high youth group leader, Sunday School teacher, working women’s bible study leader, deacon and elder. She is the Executive Director of Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Community where she has served for over 21 years. She lives in Cranberry Township with her two English cocker spaniels—Lilly and Declan—and her rag doll cat—Twist.

The following elders are accepting an additional three-year term: Dave Butler and Joshua Dadeboe. Safwat Habashi will serve as our Elder Emeritus for 2022.

Nominees for the Office of Deacon

Carolyn Cafaro, Class of 2024

Carolyn and her husband Joe have been members of Memorial Park Church since 1995. They have four children – Julianne, Christina, Joey and Katie. Involvement in the ministries of MPC has been a significant part of their family life. Carolyn serves as a Sunday morning teacher for TruKids.

Andrew Clouse, Class of 2022*

Andrew is an 11th-grade student for North Allegheny. He lives with his sister, parents, and dog Brody. In his free time, he enjoys going to the park with his friends and youth group at church. He is also attending A.W Beattie to study Sports Rehab in hopes of becoming a Physical Therapist in college.

John Gourley, Class of 2024*

John has been with the Memorial Park Church family since he was a baby. Him and his wife Hannah have 3 young daughters: Nora, Caroline and Leah. Their family is passionate about serving the church, in particularly supporting and serving the TRU Kids and Student IMPACT ministries. Additionally, they are actively involved in a Life Group with other young families in the church.

Karen Kowalski, Class of 2024

She was born and raised in the North Hills of Pittsburgh and has lived here all of her life. She and her husband, Chester are married 55 years, have three adult children, three grandsons and two step-grandchildren. Karen served previously at Northmont United Presbyterian Church as a deacon and elder, preschool board member, financial committee member and occasional Sunday School Teacher.

Harry Lydic, Class of 2024*

Harry and his wife of 56 years, Dorothy reside in Ross Township. They have three adult children and ten grandchildren. Harry retired from Rockwell Industries as a programmer/analyst.

Kendall Solkovy, Class of 2022*

Kendall is a junior at Hampton High School and have been part of Memorial Park Church for almost 10 years, and am incredibly honored and humbled to have been asked to become a Junior Deacon at the church.

Linda Semler, Class of 2024

Linda and her husband, Corky, joined MPC in 1991. She and Corky have been married for over 40 years and are the parents of two adult children, Lindsay and Stephen. Linda volunteers at church at the reception desk and as an usher, greeter, and Café server. She and Corky are in their 22nd year serving as Life Group leaders. Linda recently retired from the University of Pittsburgh where she worked as a research dietitian for over 28 years.

Kelsey Steele, Class of 2024*

Kelsey Steele first started attending Memorial Park in the third grade. He's grown up in the church, and loves performing with the MPC Orchestra, choir, and especially during Trombone Sunday. Outside of Memorial Park, he teaches Latin at Bethel Park High School and Westminster College, and is assistant band director at Hopewell Area School District. He just got married this past summer (after a long Covid postponement) to his wife Jeralyn, and they live together in Coraopolis.

Katie Sullivan, Class of 2024*

Katie and her husband, Michael, have been members at Memorial Park Church since 2009. They have been blessed with four daughters (Reese- 11, Anna-9, Eden-8, Emily-8), who have each graduated from Memorial Park Christian Preschool. Katie has happily volunteered in our 3-year-old to Kindergarten Tru Kids classroom for several years, as well as, both the Summer Surge junior and day camps.

Jennifer Wissner, Class of 2024*

Jennifer and her husband Jeff have been married for 24 years and reside in Ohio Township with their two teenage children, Kristina and Ryan. They have been members of Memorial Park Church for approximately 10 years. Jennifer and Ryan currently play in the Handbell choir. She works as a Senior Manager of Accounting at Global Payments. Jennifer looks forward to serving the congregation as a Deacon.

The following deacons are accepting an additional three-year term: Karen and Scot Kurtz, Tim Molnar, Albert Sebeck, and Patrick Ward; and one-year term Kelly Gronbeck, Heather McAninch, and Lynn Sosovicka.

*to be ordained