

Nominee Information

Board of Directors

Introduction

This document contains information provided by the nominees for the open Board of Directors positions. The information is being provided to assist the congregation in preparation for the Voters Meeting on May 23, 2010 at 12:15. We will be electing five candidates for 2-year terms.

Nominee

Michelle Arnold*

Sharon Cornelius

Douglas Draeger

Lori Gutierrez*

Ron Johnson*

Richard Russell

**Currently serving on the Board of Directors*

What are the responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors is a governing board. Its main duty is to ensure the fulfillment of St. John's Mission and Vision. It does this by holding the Lead Pastor accountable for implementing a ministry plan that pursues the mission and vision for our church and school, and supporting him in the fulfillment of that plan. The Board of Directors also prepares and maintains a policy manual that defines the goals of the congregation, the relationship between the Board and the Lead Pastor, the limitations on the Lead Pastor, and the way in which the Board will carry out its duties. The Board members do not represent any particular group or constituency in the church. Rather, the Board acts on behalf of the entire congregation, especially as it confesses its purpose through the Mission and Vision statement.

What are the qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors?

The By Laws state that Board members must be committed to the mission and vision of the congregation. Therefore the ideal board member is someone who is:

- Faithful in Worship
- Regularly in the Word: Bible Study or Small Group
- Active in service: Serving in a ministry of the congregation
- Supportive of tithing: Either tithing or working toward it.
- Strong support for the Mission and Vision
- Strong support for the new governance structure
- Able to see the big picture of the church's mission

Michelle Arnold

Employment/Experience Background

Physical Therapist – 26 years

Director of Rehab Services (Kaiser Permanente – 1999 to 2009)

Direct the operations of the department including preparing budgets and writing policies and procedures. Management of 30+ employees.

Site Coordinator (Facility Administrator – Kaiser Permanente – 2001 to present)

Coordinate activities for employees (~1500) including project management, curriculum development, and department oversight of a varying nature

Workplace Safety Director – Kaiser Permanente – 2009 to present

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

Assistant Director of VBS for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

APT secretary 2003-2005

Various APT Fundraising Committees

Forward in Faith Leadership Team 2007

Church Council Secretary 2007-2008

Policy Based Governance Committee

Board of Directors – 2008-present (Secretary – 2008 -2010)

Small Group Leader – Lent Prayer series

How are you regularly in the Word?

I read the bible daily. We have family devotions/prayer daily. I read daily devotions on-line at LCMS web site. I worship regularly.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

I have enjoyed seeing the transition of St. John's with its new mission and vision statements that were developed through the Forward in Faith effort. There is a lot of energy and commitment around the Up, In, and Out statements and the congregation is truly moving together to develop relationships in Christ and to make a difference in our greater community. This is seen with the energy around projects like The Table, the garden, VBS, mission trips, small bible study groups, etc.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

I think that all of its parts are important.

I continue to be most drawn to where we seek to lead people up in developing their relationship with Jesus, and leading them out to make a difference for people in the community and world beyond our church. In doing so, we develop inward relationships as well.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

The Day school is a mission field within our own community. It gives us the opportunity to help children grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, learn to be caring Christian members of a group (class, school, teams, etc.), and to appreciate the importance and gift of reaching out to others who may not know Jesus or are just less fortunate than they are.

Sharon Cornelius

Employment / Experience Background

Life-long participation in church work

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

Evangelism Chairman

Adult Bible class facilitator

Greeter coordinator

Coffee brewer for Sunday Bible Class

How are you regularly in the Word?

Sunday morning Bible class

Friday Women's Bible class in my home (Sisters of Sonoma)

Personal Bible study

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

Over my 70 years of life in the church, God has given me many life experiences and future gifts that can be used in His service. At this time in my life, I also have much flexible time to give Him. All of this has been given me to serve Him.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

Our foremost goal is to demonstrate God's love to all people, and then bring them into a believing relationship with the God we love and serve.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

Our day school offers a daily opportunity for all students to experience God's love and receive a great education. This deepens the faith experiences of those believers and positively impacts those non-believers and their families.

Douglas Draeger

Employment / Experience Background

Currently employed with California Human Development, a non-profit that creates opportunities for low income and disadvantaged peoples. Specifically, I am a Program Manager for PG&E's Energy Partners, an outreach that educates and assists low-income tenants and homeowners in weatherization and energy conservation.

Formerly an Engineer and Manager for PG&E managing maintenance and construction operations in Napa, Solano and Marin Counties.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

Served 4 years as Chairman of the SJL Day Ministry.

4 year member of the SJL Church Council

Congregational Bible study leader for 2009 Lent season

Group Bible study leader for "Walk across the Room"

Group Bible study leader for 2010 Lent season

VBS Activity leader

Sunday School on-call substitute

How are you regularly in the Word?

Daily 2-year study of the Bible

Development of "Christ-like" Character Bible study for future SJLC study theme

Purposeful "Walk across the Room" behaviors and interactions

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

As a previous member of the SJ Church Council I helped design the structure of the current Board of Directors based on the successful model we already had in place for the SJ Day Ministry.

Organizing under a much more healthy governance structure, I felt gratified that many in the congregation stepped up to lead and so stepped aside to concentrate on Bible study development and leadership. Now, after two years, I believe I can best serve the Church by helping refine and strengthen our governance policy manual. Especially excited about the OUT opportunities that exist in our school and community, I hope to bolster the plans, programs and partnerships that reach out to the un-churched in our community.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

Just as the Trinity is inseparable in importance, all three aspects of SJLC's mission are critical to being an Acts 1:8 Christian. My greatest growth has come from my commitment to grow my intimacy with Christ, something I took for granted in the past but now realize as critical to understanding and using my God given talents to serve His purpose. Part of that purpose is serving to strengthen and support other Christians as I now understand through my daily study of the Word and supporting literature

the challenge Christians face in leading godly lives in a post-church society. Better prepared to model Christ's character, I am embolden to share my faith more generally, casting a wide net in hopes of positively touching people in their faith journey or witnessing the power of accepting Jesus to those who do not know him.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

Our Day School serves all three aspects of our vision. The curriculum, teachers and involved parents support and develop the faith of the students leading them to know and serve God and connect with one another in more meaningful relationships. The school also serves as our most valuable OUTreach program as just under half of the students are un-churched. I think important first steps are being taken to aggressively reach out to parents and would like to see more specific plans to minister to un-churched parents, especially within the pre-school program.

Lori Gutierrez

Employment/Experience Background:

1984 to 1996: General Manager of The Red Hen Cantina. Responsible for supervising up to 60 employees in all areas and training bar and dining room staff. Reported and responsible to owner for all labor, food and bar costs, inventory control, payroll, etc. 1997-present: Manager/owner of Amigos Grill & Cantina.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

DCE Task Force, DCE Call Committee, 2007-2008 School Board, 2008-2010 Board of Directors, Easter Breakfast, various retirement parties, anniversary (yrs. of service) events, childcare

How are you regularly in the Word?

Every morning I begin with our new catechetical devotional guide, Portals of Prayer, Bible reading and a prayer journal that we put together on my first Woman's retreat several years ago. I am involved in a Bible study twice a week, attend church and Wednesday morning chapel. I listen to several Christian CD's that I play going back and forth to work in Sonoma each day.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

I believe I can offer a perspective of someone who came here for the school and found the church through all the wonderful staff and dedicated church workers and their families here at St. John's. I believe serving on the Board of Day School Ministry and being familiar with its policies and governance made the transition to the new Board of Directors one I could fully understand and help implement. I feel that it is important to keep accountability not only to our church members but also remember that we are accountable to our church staff and school staff as well. Budgets are important but so are all the people who serve here and our relationships are important with everyone who serves.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

1. Prayer. Our Family Life ministry is very important outreach at St. Johns. From parenting classes that Pastor Mark has done to classes that Janis King is doing now. Being more involved with the connection to the parents of our school. To seeing what a blessing Financial Peace University has been to others and myself. To our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts that bring others who are unchurched on to our campus every week. Music is also an important part of our ministry. Our new DCE will also be huge and exciting for us this next year. I look forward to supporting Joshua in his ministry any way I can. The mission garden is also a wonderful outreach and very important.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

I believe our role as a school should be to teach our children the Word and show them daily how it applies to their lives. Also we should teach them how to share it with others in a way they can be comfortable in doing so. It is important that they can go out into the community and speak of Jesus

like a “best friend.” Good academics are always important but I believe that being able to share the love of Christ with others in a non-threatening way (more comfortable or casual) will in the end bring more people to Christ. Matthew 4:19 says “Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

Ron Johnson

Employment / Experience Background

Retired Chief of Plant Operations, Department of Health
Retired Senior Chief, U.S. Navy Reserve
Currently self-employed, plumbing contractor

Previous Service at St. John’s Church and School

Member since 1975
Served on Church Council (President twice)
Board of Elders, several times
Currently serving on Board of Directors as chairman

How are you regularly in the Word?

We attend church services every Sunday when in town. We attend Adult Bible study between services. I co-lead Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study on Saturday mornings. I read the Bible every night.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

I enjoy serving others and being involved in the church.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

I enjoy working in the mission garden, growing food for the Napa Food Bank.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

Expose young people to our Lord at a young age.

Richard Russell

Employment / Experience Background

I have been employed with AAA the past 24 ½ years. My current role is Sr. Sales Facilitator, working with all leadership and staff to assist in developing conversational selling skills.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

I have been quite involved over the past 15 years having had two children graduate from St. John's. I have served as Vice President of previous Church Council, APT President, Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation Guide and Usher. I continue to serve as Crucifer and Lay Reader.

How are you regularly in the Word?

I "hear" God's Word in a number of ways. Whether it is through a daily devotion, prayer, christian radio, reading the Bible, sunday sermon or participating in Bible study groups. I receive God's Word daily in some way if not multiple ways. Am I in the word as much as I should be? Or would like to be? I continue to pray for God to continue his work on me as he is not finished with me yet!

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

I do not believe that it is my desire, as much as what it is to be a Christian. Serving is what Christ asks all Christians to do just as Jesus sent out his twelve, he has sent all of us. Romans 12:6 – "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...." God leads me to do his will, to serve for him.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

I don't believe I can determine what is most important – Up, In or Out. If we as a church focus only on the Up- then each member will grow in their faith and use their gifts to God's glory, yet ignore their community and growth of the congregation. If we only focus on In- then we are only focused on ourselves, although we will be able to have great relationships with our fellow members, we may not grow in our faith and would ignore our community. If we only focus on Out – we will reach our community, yet we won't be growing in our faith and that will prohibit us from enhancing our relationships with current members. It is critical that as a congregation we strive to find a balance where we are able to achieve the Mission of St. John's Lutheran Church.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

I do not see our Day School having one role, but many as our Mission statement. I see our Day School as an opportunity to provide one of the best academic K-8 educations in Napa, which attracts many "unchurched" families. More importantly, it is a school where children are able to hear the Word of God daily, and are encouraged and supported to be outstanding citizens as they grow in their Christian faith. The Day School represents an amazing opportunity to lead people Up, In and Out:

Up- Those students and families that are members grow in their friendships and relationship with Christ supported by each other.

In- Students and families of other congregations that are not SJL members connect with members families and establish personal relationships as well as relationships in the family of Christ.

Out- Those families who may come for academics and not the “Christian” education are able to hear the Word of God in a number of ways. Through singing at church services, daily Bible readings, weekly memory verses, Chapel services, athletics and so on. The Day School reaches our community spreading God’s Word in so many ways. Although my family came to St. John’s as Christians, ultimately it was the Day School that brought us to St. John’s Lutheran through the words of other members.

The role for the Day School is to lead Day School families Up, In and Out, as it is an extension of St. John’s Lutheran Church, not a separate entity.