

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 June 12, 2022 at 11:00 AM. We will be electing five candidates for 2-year terms.

Nominee

Bob DeYoung

Clint Holdsworth

Lauren Huss

Martin Meissenhalter

Tyler Roberts

Brad Seiter

John Van Hofwegen*

Todd Yoder*

*currently serving on the Board

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

Bob De Young

Employment/Experience Background

I am an Aviator and pilot. I work for four families who share the same small jet aircraft that I pilot and manage on their behalf. I am based at the Napa County airport.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

My wife and I have been active members of the congregation since before our marriage.

In the church more than 30 years ago. My wife's family has been active members for more than 50 years. My wife and our two sons have attended and graduated from St. John's School. I have actively volunteered my time in support of classroom and school activities while my son's were in attendance. I also continue to serve as the representative of the congregation to Boy Scout Troop 83 which operates under the sponsorship of St. John's.

I have 2 years of service on what was previously the Board of Elders.

How are you regularly in the Word?

I attend Sunday Service regularly, with the exception of conflicts with my work schedule. When work conflicts, I often visit other congregations or via the St. John's online worship.

I read biblical devotional materials on average three days a week or more. I listen to Christian based radio content and music. I read the bible.

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

I was asked. I believe when there is a need, one of the methods God calls us is through simply being asked. I feel called.

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

Effectiveness. Our culture places so much value on how our time is used. It is important to me that we are effective in overcoming paradigms and succeeding in our mission of clearing a path for the Holy Spirit to permanently change the lives of the people of our community, and overcome them with the joy of a relationship with Christ.

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

To provide a superior quality academic education to the families of our congregation, and by extension to the community at large. To provide an environment where students feel safe, secure, and wiser because of the promises of God, and then compelled to share that confidence within their sphere of influence praising and witnessing God's glory.

Clint Holdsworth

Employment/Experience Background

1985-2010 Senior Director, Genentech, Inc. (retired)
Responsible for Plant Operations and Maintenance; Environmental, Health, & Safety programs; Governmental Agency Liaison.

1980-1985 City of Davenport, IA Instrument & Electrical Technician

1978 Florida Institute of Technology, Industrial Electronics

1992 St. Mary's College, Business Administration

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

President of Church Council, 1998-2000

Worship Team Usher 1998- present

Senior Choir 1998-2000

How are you regularly in the Word?

Regularly attend worship services in person or online
Daily devotions with Portals of Prayer and related texts
Attend online Bible studies when available
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Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

As a lifelong Christian now in my sixties, I have a lot of personal and professional life experience to offer to the Board and the congregation. Before moving to Napa and St. John's, I had many years' experience of church leadership and lay ministry. Now, after stepping away from service and leadership roles for the past several years, I would like to give back to the Church and congregation again by serving on the Board of Directors.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to

make disciples in our community?

First, to share our Mission and Vision effectively, we must continue to make sure that we understand it and practice it ourselves as a congregation, through our worship, fellowship, Bible studies, and school programs. We can only share it if we live it.

Second, we must continue to find ways to make our community aware of who we are and what we're about—why our Mission and Vision of a growing relationship with Jesus Christ can be relevant to the community.

Third, we must continue to find ways to welcome and engage our community—Napa and beyond—to share our faith in Christ as Savior.

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

The Day School at St. John's is an extraordinary opportunity for us to establish and develop genuine relationships with Christ in the daily lives of our young students. As the congregation's most visible face to the community, St. John's school is also our best opportunity to witness to our community through our students to their families and friends. In terms of our presence in the community, we must constantly earn our excellent reputation for providing an excellent educational experience based on Christian values, morals, and discipline. That reputation is what makes our school and congregation attractive to our community, which in turn can make our outreach efforts credible and effective.

Lauren Huss

Employment/Experience Background

Former nurse at QVC, Kaiser, and home health care. Former homeschool teacher for 15 years. Currently stay at home wife, mom, grandmother. Currently helping to manage daughter's small business.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

I have served on multiple committees throughout the years, including Forward in Faith. I have lead many Bible studies and small groups and several Women's Ministry events and conferences. Worship prep. Website and electronic communications developer and maintenance. I have also served in numerous hospitality situations.

How are you regularly in the Word?

Daily, in some form or fashion.

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

Since pandemic shut down and subsequent difficult family situations, I have not been serving as hands-on as I have in the past. Throughout the years, I have had several people mention the possibility of me serving on the board. When Pastor Mike contacted me about this nomination, I concluded, through prayer, that this would be an opportunity to serve in a needed capacity that I have not served before. To help further the mission and vision of St. John's and to help support the leadership during this time of many different transitions.

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

The Day School is a unique opportunity to serve the community of Napa with Christian education and discipleship. Parents and extended families have the opportunity to be exposed to the Gospel as well as the greater Christian community of Napa through the children's curriculum, activities and events. Therefore, I believe that the school should be extremely careful to represent a Biblical worldview in every classroom and extra curricular activity, and that all teachers and support staff should believe in and adhere to that Biblical worldview, especially in this delicate time when schools are on the front lines of the current culture war that has overtaken our society.

Martin Meissenhalter

Employment/Experience Background

Culinary Institute of America – Assistant Manager of Purchasing

Previous Service at St. John’s Church and School

- Parent of a child that attended SJLS for 12 years. Was involved in many of the projects and outings involving each grade.
- Was on school advisory team for several years.
- Committee Chair for Boy Scout Troop 83 @ SJLS

How are you regularly in the Word?

- Every morning in devotional reading and prayer
- Attend church and small groups
- I am part of our Tech Team

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

Honestly, I have not sought this out before. I was asked to serve by a nomination. I spoke to my family and prayed, and I believe this is the Lord’s way of telling me to serve the church and school.

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

Take advantage of the opportunities presented to us every day. Being able to recognize when I need to spread the Gospel.

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

To give every child at SJLS the ability to spread the Word of God and make every child be a good disciple and member of our community.

Tyler Roberts

Employment/Experience Background

I have been working in education since 2011. My first year of teaching was at a private in school in Alameda, CA serving students with mild-to-moderate autism and learning disabilities. I began teaching in the public school system at Benicia High School. At Benicia High School, I taught primarily United States History, but also taught American Government and AP Capstone as well. While at Benicia, I helped coach varsity football and baseball. I left Benicia in 2018 to be a full time Athletic Director at California High School in San Ramon. During this time, I oversaw an athletic program that consisted of 1,400 student athletes spread out between the 24 sports we offered. In 2020 I finished my Administration Credential from Concordia, Irvine and my family (Michelle and Grayson) left the East Bay and moved to Napa. In July of 2020, I began working at Vintage High School as one of the Assistant Principals. At Vintage High School, I oversee the math, science, special education, and world language departments and am the AP overseeing athletics.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

Currently, I teach Children's Church for the Preschool-Kindergarten group of children. I also work the soundboard for Worship Service, as well as for Prayers and Praise.

Our son, Grayson, is in the blue group in the preschool and will be in the red group next year. My wife, Michelle is one of the lay readers on Sundays as well.

How are you regularly in the Word?

A typical day in our household looks like Contemporary Christian music playing in the background while we get ready for work and school. We pray every night at the table before we eat dinner and we pray with our son prior to putting him to bed. As a family, we attend church regularly and volunteer for various church positions.

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

Before my family moved to Napa, we were members of another Lutheran church in Walnut Creek, CA. As a new member in St. John's Lutheran Church, I believe that it is important to get a perspective from someone new. I also want to be able to help serve the school, especially since I work in education.

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

When it comes to the Mission of St. John's, I believe that through everything you do in a day, you can grow closer to Jesus Christ through the Lord's help and mercy. With His help, you can further your relationship with Christ. This could be as simple as inviting someone to church to hear the Word that usually doesn't attend church or loving your neighbor. All of which is fostered in the Vision of the church. To further God's message, you need to go out in the community to witness and bring as many people as you can to Christ. All of which extends out to the community members of the church helping out in other communities or to other people who need help.

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

Education is more than just knowing specific information from the content matter that you are studying. Education is about the skills that you acquire along the way when learning the course material. For example the critical thinking, communication, and collaboration are all skills that are necessary for bringing people into the Church and out into the world to spread the good word of the Lord. I believe that it is important to learn about and be educated about Jesus Christ and his love and mercy for His people, to learn the content, while developing the necessary tools to take with you outside of school, and to be servant to your community.

Bradley Seiter

Employment/Experience Background

Retired, after 21 years, Fire Captain with Contra Costa Fire District.
Duties: Station Budget, training, incident commander until relieved by a chief officer.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

One of the core volunteers with the Mission Farm since April 2011.
Have assisted with setting up and or breaking down of tables/chairs for different events.

How are you regularly in the Word?

Reading "New Morning Mercies," a daily devotional book.
Attending Bible studies
Watched Wednesday night Bible studies online during COVID.

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

I was not raised in a church attending family. St. John's is the first church I have ever committed to. I owe this to my wife Anna. I have a completely different relationship with Jesus now and I can say that it is because of St. John's and its mission of leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

To be a welcoming congregation to people we don't know. We have welcomed people we did not know, and almost always, they commented on how appreciative they were for the gesture. That first impression is really important.

Our ministries such as our Comfort Dog and Mission Farm and Mission India are the ministries I am most familiar with. The clients at the food pantry have gone out of their way to thank our group for the high Quality of our produce and fruit. The Comfort Dog Ministry not only supports our local community, but also travels nationwide supporting people in tragic circumstances. Mission India is another ministry that is having amazing results under oppressive government scrutiny.

These are just a few of the ministries that St. John's supports that impact our mission "Leading People Up" and "Leading People Out."

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

Helping students to grow in their relationship with Christ and to develop the knowledge and skills to be confident , academically capable individuals who serve Christ, His Church and Hi World.

John Van Hofwegen

Employment/Experience Background

I have worked in finance my entire professional career. I have been employed for the past 18 ½ years at Justin-Siena High School, currently serving as the CFO / Director of Finance. I am an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees for Justin-Siena, and am the Secretary/Treasurer of Justin-Siena High School Corporation.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

I served on the Board of Directors July 2014 through June 2016, and held the position of Treasurer. I am currently serving on the Endowment Committee. My experience at St. John's School was as a school parent from 1989 – 2001, serving in various volunteer capacities.

How are you regularly in the Word?

I have been in the Word since a child, growing up in a Christian home, involved in church all my life and attended Christian schools all through grade school and college. We had daily devotions as a family growing up which I continued with my family as my own children were growing up. These days I have a regular time of Bible reading – I always strive for more - and personal daily prayer time, and regular devotions together with my wife.

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

I wish to continue to serve as the Lord leads me, and I feel the continued leading of the Lord to serve in this capacity. I believe I have the gifts to lead and to serve, as well as the gift of discernment in matters of governance and policy.

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

I believe that leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus is what we are all called to do. That is the most important thing we can do as Christians. We do that each and every one of us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the way that we live, to try to be more Christ-like in our own lives, and to be examples of Him in love and in service to those whom we encounter. We need the support of others and the Church for opportunities to stay encouraged and become stronger in our work for

Him, and we grow in relationships with His followers to become stronger together.

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

Having attended Christian day schools, and having my own children attend as well, I believe that the Day School has a very important role in light of the mission. It not only helps parents in their own responsibility to bring their children up to grow in Christ and in the Word, but it helps bring others, especially those who are unchurched, into a daily experience with Christ that they may not otherwise get or even have available to them. This serves to teach children and through them their parents about Christ, and what Christ has done for them, and how to live for Him in every facet of their lives.

Todd Yoder

Employment/Experience Background

NorthBay HealthCare - Senior IT Project Manager
CTGHS - IT Project Manager
Perot Systems - Technical Director / IT Project Manager
QVMC - IT Manager

PMP Certified

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

Church

Communion Assistant
Sunday School
Previous Board Member
Youth Committee Chair

School

School Accreditation Committee
Theater Program - Stage and sets 2010-2018
Robotics Coach at 2016 & 2017 FLL teams and 2018 LEST
Cub Scout Den Leader 2013-2018

How are you regularly in the Word?

I start each day with prayer that God will guide and support me through the day that lays before me and that he will protect and guide those that I pray for. I end each day with thanks for all the God has provided me including thanks for my family, our church and school, the community and the beautiful and abundant land in which we live. Many days I listen to my Bible on cd in the car for the drive to and from work. I help my children to understand their weekly memory verse from school each week.

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

I look forward to once again serving in the capacity of a board member. I pray that God will use me, my talents and my experience to support our Church, our school and our mission to bring the Word of Christ to our congregation and community. I look forward to finding ways of supporting and improving our current ministries as well as finding new ways to reach out to the community.

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

The most important and the most difficult for many in our congregation, me included, is consistently growing priestly relationships with the people outside SJLC by sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Our missions do a great job and serve as an opportunity for individuals in our congregation to reach out to serve the needs of the people both inside and outside our community. Our continued support of these missions and new ideas are how we can help our congregation become the disciples of Jesus Christ.

- SJLS
- Comfort Dog
- BSA
- Mission Farm
- Mission de Jesus
- Mission India
- Large Print Ministry
- and many others

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

Our Day School is one of the many important missions the church supports. It is our opportunity to reach out, teach and support both the children enrolled as they learn and grow in Christ's word throughout the years but also a chance to reach out to their families. I enjoy the Sunday's when the children sing in church and the families stay for the service. It gives the congregation a chance to meet and speak with family members we may not see otherwise during the course of the school year.