

# PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE



**Heather Choco**

I was born and raised in Southern California but have considered Sammamish my home for the past 30 years. My husband Randy and I have been married for 37 years and we have two grown children; Allie and her husband, Jenkins, live in Seattle and Drew and his wife, Melissa, live in Oceanside, CA. I love spending time with friends and family, running, hiking, discovering new restaurants, traveling and geocaching.

I have been involved at SPC for 27 years. I was the director of Glory Days Preschool for nine years, served as a deacon, and elder. I'm currently volunteering on Mission Leadership Team and as a Stephen Minister.



**JJ Borichewski**

My name is Joshua Borichewski and I am a junior at the University of Washington. I have been attending SPC for my entire life and the people I have met throughout the years make me love and appreciate this community. I loved going to Grow, Ignite and Core throughout grade school, and mission trips to Campbell Farms and Tijuana have shaped me into who I am today. Tijuana has been a particularly inspiring mission trip I have done through SPC, and it has inspired me to become fluent in Spanish and to travel outside of the country to experience world cultures—my most recent trip was a 3-month study in Spain! I have made many lifelong friendships at SPC and I'm very excited to give back to the church by joining the PNC!

Being a born-and-raised Christian, I didn't always think about the harder questions that make many people question Christianity. As I matured, I learned about the hesitations that my non-believing friends held. I also began to meet many Christians that held beliefs completely contradictory to my own. When I turned to leaders at SPC with my growing uncertainties, I was met with confident and affirming answers that helped me embrace my concerns and not shame me for them. They instead helped me feel comfortable in my differences with others and still be confident in my own faith. I personally can attest to the power of leaders that are accepting, encouraging and loving, and I want to do everything I can to find that kind of leader to be the next head pastor at SPC!



**Pramukh Jeyathilak**

My family and I have been members at SPC since November 2011. Since that time, I have served as a Deacon, experiencing first-hand the work that SPC does in the community and the way we show up as a caring church for all; I was a member of the Nomination Committee for an Associate Pastor and enjoyed the opportunity to bring my professional experience (as a Human Resources professional) and my personal passion in this space; and I've had the opportunity to visit Citrusdel, South Africa and the HUG (Help Us Grow) mission on my own in 2018. I came back with newfound interest in the mission work that SPC does, and now serve on the HUG Board.

I grew up in India, born in a Christian family where faith was very important, and giving back to people, our community, and social causes was instilled in me by my parents. Their example of what it is to be a practicing Christian has made me the Christian that I am today.

One of the many aspects of faith is to serve in the church, attend church regularly and be of service to the church whenever required. The call to serve on the PNC is an extension of my faith and the practical demonstration of this. I look forward to the opportunity to being part of this endeavor to make a difference to the church, the community and the lives of the members through the appointing of a Pastor.

I am blessed to be married to my wife Shilpa for 27 years and have 2 wonderful sons, Dhruv, 24 and Vikram, 21. We left India 24 years ago and have lived in Prague (Czech Republic), Dubai, Singapore and now in Sammamish for the past 12 years. We have seen how the Lord has led us over the years and we are eternally grateful and thankful for this, and feel very blessed.



**Steve Kamm**

Amy and I started attending Sammamish Presbyterian Church one week after we moved to the Pacific Northwest almost ten years ago. Heeding the counsel of Eugene Peterson regarding how to be involved in a church - "Find a church. Stay." - SPC has become tightly woven into the fabric of our lives. I am glad to serve as a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee as SPC enters a new chapter, and I welcome prayers for wisdom and prudence. Raised evangelical, my faith has been enriched deeply by the Presbyterian tradition and is perhaps best described as holding tightly to John 3:16 and always curious.

When I'm not traveling for work, I usually pester friends or family with things I'm convinced they have to read. When I'm not doing that, or hanging out with one of my four delightful children, I try to run, when my back allows, and I most enjoy good conversations and questions around a fire with people who like to laugh.



**Denise Knopp**

My family began attending SPC in 2012. I have served as a Deacon since 2020, and I am a member of the Worship Advisory Council.

What I love the most about SPC is the openness of this community and how we care for each other. I have grown a lot spiritually and personally while serving as Deacon. And the worship songs are my strength when going through the frequent struggles of raising a medical complex kid.

I am originally from São Paulo, Brazil and the proud mom of two kids, Cathy (16) and Dan (11). I've been married for 24 years to Marcus. I am a Speech-Language Pathologist with Master in Communication and Neuroscience, currently working for a local school district. When not working I enjoy singing, traveling and kickboxing.

I am excited but conscious of the responsibility to represent my beloved SPC on this search for a new Senior Pastor.



**Debbie Poulin**

I grew up in Laurel, Montana, attended Pacific Lutheran University, and taught for two years in Kenya through the Peace Corps. My husband, Bruce and I have two kids, Baraka (married to Jen and together they have our grandkids, Micah and Hayden) and Abbey who is a happy Safeway curtesy clerk and member of SPC. I taught piano part-time for the last 34 years and retired on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Bruce and I enjoy traveling and spending time with family.

I grew up in the Lutheran church and we joined SPC about 10 years ago. I know I'm a forgiven sinner and I can't express how much this means to me personally. God's Word through scripture and the power of prayer are gifts that I stand in awe of as they carry me through difficult times as well as times of wonder.

Since joining SPC I have had the pleasure to participate in a few of the ministries within the church - the prayer team, Stephen Ministry, small groups, Team World Vision and the choir.

It is an honor to serve on the Pastoral Nominating Committee for the church. Thank you for this opportunity.



**Erica Stephens**

My husband, Kevin, and I have been at SPC since moving to the area from New Jersey in 2004. I spent several years hanging out in the box with high school students. Since then, I have served as an Elder and as a member of the business committee. Having grown up in the Presbyterian Church, I have seen many pastors come and go, and I appreciate the thoughtfulness and diligence that goes into calling a new pastor to serve our congregation. This is an exciting time for SPC, and I am honored to be a part of it.

I love spending time with my children, Andrew (11th grade) and Katherine (7th grade), and going to their baseball games and orchestra concerts. As a third-generation WSU alumna, I love all things crimson and gray.



**Clay Trushinsky**

My wife and I began attending SPC in 2015 and became members in 2018. Since joining SPC I have served in youth ministry and currently serve as a member of the Hospitality Leadership Team.

My wife Sarah, our son Levi, and our pup Dawson live in Duvall. During the day I work as an Assistant Audit Manager for the Washington State Auditor's Office. Outside of work I love to hike, camp, invest, and obsess over skiing.

Having grown up in the Catholic Church as a kid and young adult the idea of "selecting" a pastor as a congregation just did not exist. So, when I was asked to be part of the pastoral nominating committee I was excited for the opportunity to represent our church community in this important endeavor. I am honored to be asked and looking forward to being a part of the journey as we select our next pastor.



**Sara Winnick**

My husband, Mike and I have been members of Sammamish Presbyterian Church since we moved to the Sammamish area nearly 20 years ago. We have two college-age children who have grown up at SPC. Over the years, I have served as both an Elder and Deacon, as well as in many areas in the church, including Mission, Adult, Youth and Children's. In my professional life, I am an individuals' and couples' therapist. I value the spiritual enrichment I have experienced at SPC and I'm thankful for the community and friendships my family and I have found there. I am honored to serve our church family alongside the other members of the PNC.