

This years nominations for the offices of Deacon and Elder are included below. Please pray over these candidates, seeking God's will for who He would choose to fill these roles for the next three years. Plan on attending the Congregational meeting on November 30, 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend, please request an absentee ballot from the church office. You will be electing 3 Deacons and 4 Elders. The candidates were asked to respond to the following two questions:

- 1) What gifts or passions do you feel you would bring to enhance the vision of RC?
- 2) How have you grown in your spiritual life in the past year? What or who has helped you along that journey? What has God been teaching you in your life?

Deacon Candidates

Brian Boven – (married to Sarah with 1 child)

1) I have a strong passion for our church impacting the community. I believe Remembrance has a huge mission opportunity right in Grand Rapids to bring our own to Christ.

2) Our first child has provided me with the opportunity to raise him in a Christian home. It has helped me fight off normal daily temptations in life and has kept me focused on raising him in a God fearing home. God has taught me that regardless of the sin, we are all in need of daily repentance. I have also learned that God has given us all the opportunity to worship him. It is not about how worthy we are or how good our lives are.

Scott Breen – (married to Jen with 2 children)

1) Administration, Leadership ... I am passionate about helping the church as a whole be more "efficient" resulting in more effectiveness ... at the end of the day its about the fruit that was produced. I have a "get it done" attitude. I'm passionate about making decisions and putting into place things that will continue long term.

2) God has and continues to teach me that life is short and that everyday we need to reevaluate what our priorities are and keep from putting our efforts and priorities into "worldly things" ... of course this is easier said than done sometimes but with that struggle, shows me how much I need to depend on Him.

Greg Gaastra – (married to Stephanie with 2 children at home)

1) I am passionate about being responsible with the resources of the church. My past careers in business would allow me to bring that experience to Remembrance church.

2) The difficult economy has shown me that we are not in control. God will always take care of me just like the sparrow in the field. I am very grateful to a close friend who was there for me during a most challenging time. Through him I learned about contentment. I spent too much of my life always looking for more. Through that life change, God has taught me to be content with what I have.

Eric Meulenberg – (married to Jill with 1 child)

1) By profession I am in finance and banking. I have a huge spot in my heart for helping people with a specific financial need or material need.

2) In the past year I have grown and realized my weakness in my Christian walk by thinking about the magnitude of God and who He is and how small I am. Trying to consider who He really is and how powerless I am is a truly daunting thought and I have found it is leading me to trust Him more. Romans 15:13 is what I hope I can live my life on and, along with my wife, raise my daughter to live her life by too.

Jack VanOss – (married to Ellen with 2 children)

1) I think my gifts of Helps and Mercy would be valuable in the benevolence area and would be able to show the Love of Christ to those who are hurting.

2) This past year has been an amazing journey. Cancer has a way of drawing you closer to each other, family, friends and God. Through all of the questions, surgeries, chemo and radiation treatments, we have always known and felt that God was and is in control. We have had so many people come alongside us and help us that we really feel like we want to give back and show others what God is doing in our lives and how central He is to us.

Mike Veurink – (married to Sue with 3 children)

1) I'm fairly even keeled and don't let my emotions make my decisions. The gift of discernment helps in making whatever decisions need to be made. I'm willing to serve in whatever role God calls me to in order to help enhance the vision of Remembrance.

2) I do feel that I grew during the time I served on the search committee. Seeing God bring us two candidates who fit our original job descriptions, and seeing how that all unfolded, reminded me that God has a plan and is in control. We don't always see the big picture at the time, but when God opens our eyes to what He is doing, it is a great thing to be a part of. I think lately God has been teaching me turn things over to Him and fully trust Him

Elder Candidates

Ed DeGroot– (married to Mary with 2 children)

1) I have the gifts of helps, administration and discernment, which I identified through a Network class. I believe that God has given me these gifts so that I can help build a stronger, more unified church family. I would love to see our church minister to those

in our community even better than we do now; those who have no church home, as well as, those who call Remembrance home.

2) In the past year God has given me more peace. God is teaching me that I am not supposed to be in control, He is. I also have learned to have more compassion for people, especially those dealing with illness. I can talk to them as one who understands a bit about an unknown future realizing that we don't have to know the outcome because God is in control. His timing and plan are perfect. I am being helped in this by people who are going through their own health issues and are still an encouragement to those around them. God has also been teaching me the value of a church family and the need for all of us to work together using our various gifts, so that we can continue shining for Jesus in our community.

Don Marsh – (married to Barb, no children at home)

1) My top (3) Spiritual Gifts are Craftsmanship, Discernment, and Faith. My gift of Craftsmanship would help me to be analytical in problem solving, and maybe viewing the impact of issues from a higher level. My gift of Discernment has given me the ability to hear clearly in my heart what The Lord wants me to know and do on His behalf. My gift of Faith has given me the strength to move forward even when life gets really hard, knowing that My God is in control, and He will take care of all. These three Gifts from a Great and Generous God have taken me through some large changes in my life and I believe in my heart that with The Lord's guidance they can help successfully carry Remembrance Church through its changes in the years to come

2) I believe that I have grown in compassion, patience, and my trust in The Lord this past year. In my role in Guest Services at Remembrance, God has spoken to my heart to welcome all to his house with open arms, to perform my service to Him faithfully even if it seems to not have great effect, and to trust in Him that He will realize the results He wants to achieve in that Ministry. I believe that by serving Him faithfully and with joy, I am drawn closer to Him and that this closer relationship will bloom into greater Spiritual Growth. Therefore I have become a strong advocate of Service to The Lord to both grow His Kingdom and develop His Followers. In my heart I believe that greater commitment to service both in His house and as outreach is what The Lord wants for me and His Followers at Remembrance.

Jerry VanManen– (married to Kathi, no children at home)

1) Gifts: Helps, encouragement, teaching and insight. Passion: Outreach

2) Seeing God continue to supply our needs. Challenged to accept people as Jesus accepts them and desires a relationship with them. To realize in my own life how much God desires that relationship with me! To see people as God sees them and to take every opportunity and open my eyes to those opportunities to share His love with them.

Dave VanOveren – (married to Darlene)

1) My top two spiritual gifts are faith and teaching. My passion is outreach or reaching the un-churched for God. This is also part of the vision of Remembrance Church. I think my gift of faith could serve well in witnessing and encouraging to the un-

churched and also new believers. My gift of teaching will help me in discipling these new believers.

2) I have grown in the past year through my small group and the things we have studied. The group all has a passion for the lost and for helping others. I think God has been teaching me through the church, friends and the Bible, that outreach is our job to do, each and every one of us. We cannot just leave it up to the Outreach Council. We have to be an Outreach Church.

Al Wibalda – (married to Gloria, no children at home)

1) I believe I have the gifts of discernment, administration and encouragement, which would be used to equip me to further the vision of Remembrance Church.

2) Through continued reading of the Word and prayer. Gloria and I have committed time each day to reading and praying together. God continues to show me His presence and His continued guidance and direction as I love and serve Him.

JC Wielhouwer – (married to Mary with 2 children at home)

1) My greatest passion is for youth and the lost. My relationship with Christ is so important to me. I just want everyone to have it also. It makes life and the world we live in much easier to deal with.

2) In the past year I've learned the importance of people being able to see Jesus in me. I was in a class at our church called the "Truth Project" that talked about this and a lot more. God gives me opportunities every day, and I 'm starting to see them more clearly (I hate to even think how many I've missed in my life). God is teaching me to take time for the given opportunities, even when my scheduled day is interrupted.