

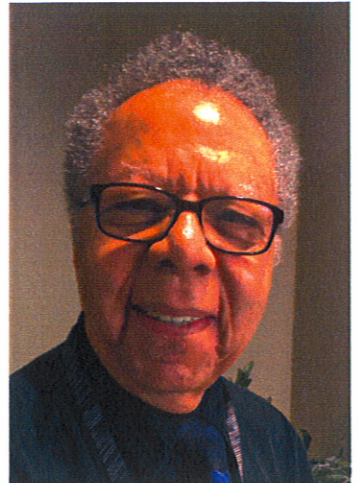
Elder Nominee Profile

Gordon Carpenter

Member of Sevenoaks since: July 2013

Roots

I am 82 years of age. I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I served in The United States Navy for two years after graduating from Penn High School in 1956. I lived in Chicago, Illinois during my time attending Moody Bible Institute, then moved to Three Hills, Alberta to attend Prairie Bible (Institute) College. I graduated in 1993 with a BA in Missionary Service. I later moved to Fort Washington, Pennsylvania to serve with The Christian Literature Crusade Missionary Organization. After that I spent a year in Wichita, Kansas at the Beech Aircraft Corporation working in the printing department. I worked there for two years and moved to Colf, Michigan working in the printing business.



Family

After serving with The Christian Literature Crusade, the Lord led me to move to Calgary where I met my wife, Doris, in July of 1967. We were married in May of 1968. We are the proud parents of a son, Bryon, who is a chemistry & math teacher, & daughter, Charmaine who is an event coordinator in Whistler. We have three grandchildren: Brock, 17; Bree, 13; and Gracey, 12.

Employment/Civic service

After marrying Doris, I worked in several printing plants: Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Burnand Printing. I began employment at London Drugs in the Photography & Electronics Department where I served for 10 years. I began service with Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child in Calgary & was there for nearly 15 years. It was my privilege to go on a distribution trip to Nicaragua to hand out the OCC boxes to boys & girls in 2010. This surely intensified my desire to know God's Word. It was during these years that I served with a volunteer choir, namely, The Berg Choral. We traveled in our own bus & sang in various locations as far east as Manitoba, south to Montana, north to Grand Prairie & west to Tsawwassen, BC. I had the privilege to sing with this group for nearly 35 years until we closed the ministry in 2005.

Faith story

I am so thankful for the due diligence of my Sunday School teacher. He led me to the Lord at the age of 15. It was through the teaching of my pastor, Clifton Morgan, that at this early age I became very interested in learning more of God's Word. Serving in the US Navy was a very maturing time in my Christian walk. My interest to learn & study more prompted me to seek where I could learn more of God's Word, first at Moody Bible Institute, then later at Prairie Bible (Institute) College. During my married life, I came to know more by attending First Alliance Church in Calgary under the in-depth teaching of Pastors Lowell Young, Charles Bailey, Dan Goldsmith, & Wendel Grout. My thirst for God's Word has become more intense as I study & share it with family & friends.

Previous & current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

I am presently a moderator of a Gospel Community group. I enjoyed a point of service in the kitchen running the dishwasher for a few years. I serve in the media room every third Sunday of the month.

My reason for accepting nomination

I am very thankful for the ministry of Sevenoaks. I am in agreement with the Church's vision. I can see great potential for our fellowship to make a definite impact on the city of Abbotsford & beyond. It is my belief that God's Word is to be central in all that we at Sevenoaks adhere to in our time. God will have the last word & it will be good! Isaiah 40:31; Proverbs 3:5,6

Elder Nominee Profile

Bert Doerksen

Member of Sevenoaks since: November 4, 2007

Roots

Born & raised in Abbotsford, I am the youngest member of a family of 8 siblings. I attended CBC in Regina (1973-1975), earned my BA at SFU (1983), Masters at University of Portland – Educational Leadership (1996).

Family

Dianne & I have raised 3 wonderful, married children & have been blessed with 11 grandchildren.

Employment/Civic service

I taught for 38 years in public & private schools, all in Abbotsford & am now recently retired. I coached school & community basketball, volleyball, soccer, fast pitch, cross country as well as track & field events.

Faith story

I grew up in a home where God was recognized but not followed. I accepted Christ into my heart at the age of 5 & remember having a strong confirmation while in Grade 5. My mom passed away while I was in Grade 12 & this was a milestone for it was at this time that I started attending Sevenoaks on a regular basis.

I have been on a journey of seeking God and wanting to be more like Christ. My spiritual journey has definitely had its peaks & valleys, the peaks have provided vision while the valleys provided growth.

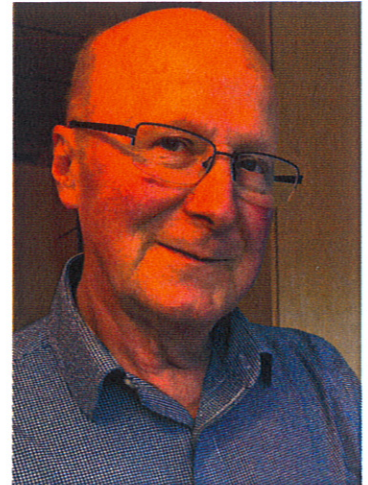
A servant, as I understand the term, is a person who is willing to do things that are done with a view to God's purpose not my own. This is my desire. God continues to bless & direct as I seek to hear His voice through the studying of His Word & through the presence of His Spirit. My wife & I are continuously amazed at His provision & care for us. Our Gospel Community continues to provide encouragement & sustaining prayer. God is helping us to see Him more clearly.

Previous and current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

In my time at Sevenoaks, I have worked with youth, Boys Brigade, Sunday School, VBS (Vacation Bible School), & have been involved with care groups for a number of years & have led a group. I was on the board previously & helped on the executive. I am presently involved with the Community Care Committee at Sevenoaks & leading a Gospel Community.

My reason for accepting nomination

My heart for Sevenoaks & agreement with the church vision "To Know Jesus & to Make Him Known". My desire is to serve God in whatever capacity He sees fit.



Elder Nominee Profile

Gord Mosey

Member of Sevenoaks since: August 2019, attending from 2017

Roots

I am 42 years of age & was born in Port Alberni. I have lived in Edmonton, Calgary, & Langley before coming to Abbotsford.

Family

I am married to Michelle & we have 3 children: Kyle (16), Erica (14), & Megan (12)

Employment

I am the Assistant Manager of Operations, BCR Properties

Faith Story

I was born into a Christian family & have always known Jesus. My testimony is an example of the Lord's faithfulness through generations, as there has never been a time that I haven't known Jesus. As I look back on the past, it's a wonderful thing to see how Jesus has always been a part of my life. As a child, my faith grew & developed through children's ministries, & then later through youth ministry as a teen. Parents, friends, & family members all demonstrated & taught the love of Jesus as I grew. At the age of 17, following the practices of the Christian Reformed Church, I publicly professed my faith & gave my life to the Lord. In August of 2016, Michelle & I were both baptised as adults. Our faith never stops growing & is challenged daily as we strive to know Jesus & make Him known.

Current Ministry involvement

I serve in the worship & arts ministry as a worship team member playing drums & trumpet.

My reason for accepting the nomination

In all aspects of our lives, the Holy Spirit leads us. I feel that the Spirit was leading me & my family to Sevenoaks, becoming members, & now, potentially, onto the Board of Elders. I am humbled & honoured to be asked to join in this role. I look forward to being a part of this team & using the gifts that the Lord has provided me.



Elder Nominee Profile

Ken Silen

Member of Sevenoaks since: 1994

Roots

I was born in Vancouver in 1943 and grew up in East Vancouver, living there until 1972. After also residing in Delta and Langley, my wife and I moved to Abbotsford in 2011.

Family

I am married to Cindy, my wife and partner, and have been for 27 years. We have a blended family which includes 3 sons (all married with children) and 2 daughters (not yet married). So far we have 6 grandchildren.

Employment/Civic service

My first job was working part-time at Dominion grocery store in Burnaby. During my high school and university years, I worked at Safeway grocery stores. Upon graduating from university, I taught high school mathematics for 39 years, a career I enjoyed immensely. While teaching, I obtained a master's degree in administration, taught night school classes in the summer, and spent many hours marking Math 12 provincial exams. I retired in 2006 and became involved with the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society where I helped restore the Interurban #1225 and then served as a passenger conductor on it when it was running in Cloverdale. I am also the resident archivist for the society.

Faith story

My first contact with the gospel was through finding a wrinkled, crinkled dollar bill on the sidewalk outside my home in East Vancouver when I was about 10 years old. I picked it up and unfolded the bill to find Romans 6:23 with the "wages of sin is death" on one side and "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord" on the other side. Before I knew it, a Sunday School bus from Evangelistic Tabernacle, located many miles away, somehow picked me up from my house and drove me to their Sunday School. I heard my first Bible story there and was given a Bible. Shortly thereafter, an elder from Cascades Gospel Chapel (a Plymouth Brethren church) came by our house and invited me and my 2 sisters to Sunday School. It was at this chapel, through the dedicated teachers and concerned families, that I understood God's plan of salvation and asked Jesus to come into my heart and live there. During this time, the Spirit's presence was so real that I often thought that I was the only one being spoken to in the meetings I attended. Cascades Gospel Chapel was blessed with loving, caring and very knowledgeable elders and deacons and very quickly I became established in God's Word. From the very beginning of my Christian journey, I fell in love with God's Word and have spent the rest of my life studying it as time allowed, even more so since my retirement. Recently I have had the privilege of sharing God's Word with our care group.

Previous and current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

At Surrey Alliance Church, I was Sunday School Superintendent when there were 600-700 students who attended each week & I was a leader in the Boy's Brigade program. At Sevenoaks, I was initially involved in restructuring the landscaping on the church grounds and in its maintenance. Currently I am involved on the counting team, the security team and the Communion team and in a vibrant care group. I serve on the board of the Alliance Benevolent Society which oversees the operation of the Alliance Manor.

Reason for accepting nomination

I enjoy being a member of the family of God wherever they meet. I have really enjoyed being a part of the Sevenoaks family since we arrived here. I would love to see our church become involved more deeply in God's Word as well as in our community. If God can use me in the capacity of elder, then I look forward to accepting this privilege to serve Him.



Elder Nominee Profile

Les Stobbe

Member of Sevenoaks since: 1968

Roots

Born in Prince Albert, SK 1945. Lived in Abbotsford, 1947–1999;
Quito, Ecuador June 1999–December 2006; Abbotsford 2007 to present



Family

Wife, Ruby; 3 sons: Stuart (Kelly), Kevin (Lacey), Jason (Tanya), 1 daughter Sherrene (Stan Toews);
12 grandkids, 5 great-grandkids

Employment/Civic service

Avenue Alignment and Body Shop (37 years), Guesthouse manager at Alliance Guesthouse in Quito
Ecuador (6½ years), Business Manager Sevenoaks Alliance Manor (12 years), & now retired!

Faith story

I attended Sunday School with my parents who worked with the Canadian Sunday School Mission and then began attending the Abbotsford Alliance Church with my parents in 1951. I came to know Christ as my Saviour when I was nine years old as a result of the Holy Spirit's convicting me of my need of a Saviour. I was taught to follow Christ at home and through the Sunday School, DVBS and Youth programs. Through involvement in various ministries, and training seminars, I grew to love being part of the church body. The involvement in the life of the church has aided my growth and walk with the Lord. I thank God for His voice of guidance and direction step by step through life.

Previous and current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

Some of my involvements have been: Youth leadership, Sunday School teacher, Life stage leader, Shepherding Elder/Care Group leader, several terms on Elders Board

Reason for accepting nomination

Sevenoaks has been a part of my life for many years and I feel a loyalty to the body of believers who call Sevenoaks their church. Many have supported us in many ways. God uses people to serve His purposes and calls us to serve Him. Giving of my time and gifts to serve the church body is an act of service to Him.

Nominating Committee Nominee Profile

Velma Braun



Member of Sevenoaks since: January 1989

Roots

I was born in Ontario but we moved to Abbotsford when I was 13 to be near my mother's family. I graduated from Abbotsford Senior Secondary School in 1968 and worked for five years as a teller at the Royal Bank in Abbotsford. I married Henry Braun in 1971, so we will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary next year. We have 2 children and 5 grandchildren, all of them attending Sevenoaks Alliance, for which we are most thankful.

Faith story

I grew up in a strong and vibrant Christian home for which I am very thankful. I was baptized as a teenager desiring to follow God with my whole heart. Prayer & Bible reading have been key elements of my faith journey, having watched my parents' example. They began to read the Bible together on their honeymoon and continued till my Dad's passing but my Mom continued to read each day almost completing 44 times until her death in 2008. Prayer has sustained me through all of the happy and challenging times that living life brings.

Previous and current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

I served for many years on the Ladies Mission Committee writing letters to overseas and Canadian workers. Henry and I served in the nursery for several years and are now serving at the coffee cart once a month. I also help with childcare for the mom's weekly Bible study.

Reason for accepting nomination

I have accepted this nomination to help my church continue to grow with strong leadership.

Nominating Committee Nominee Profile

Ruby Stobbe

Member of Sevenoaks since: 1967

Roots

Born in Powell River, BC. Lived in Powell River, Abbotsford, Nakusp, Victoria, Port Alberni and then back to Abbotsford to finish high school. In June 1999 we moved to Quito, Ecuador as volunteer missionaries to manage a guesthouse with the Christian & Missionary Alliance until December 2006.



Family

Married to Les for 55 years and have 4 grown children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Employment

Worked at Marshall Wells Hardware, Del Monte Studios and many years in the office for Les at his business, Avenue Alignment & Body Shop.

Faith story

I was raised in a Christian home along with 3 brothers. As a family we attended church regularly but at the age of 13 at a summer camp, I had a personal life changing experience with the Lord. From that day forward my desire has been to serve God as He allows and directs. There have been many struggles and growing experiences through the years but God has been faithful and I have learned much through these experiences. My prayer is that I will continue to be open and obedient to what the Lord has me in the future.

Previous and current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

Over the years I have had many opportunities to serve in ministry at Sevenoaks. Currently I am on a counting team counting morning offerings one month each quarter and manage and serve at the coffee cart on Sunday mornings.

Reason for accepting nomination

Another way to serve the community at Sevenoaks.

Nominating Committee Nominee Profile

Joyce Verwoerd



Member of Sevenoaks since: 2003

Roots

I was born and raised in a farming community near Tofield, Alberta in 1968. I moved to Abbotsford in 1992 and have lived here since.

Family

I married Dave in 2004 after being widowed in 2001. Together we have 3 daughters: Bethany (21), Amy (20) and Jenaya (14).

Employment/Civic service

I am a Registered Nurse and work at the Abbotsford Regional Hospital.

Faith story

I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour when I was 13 years old. I was baptized when I was 14 years old. I attended Columbia Bible College after high school and those years were instrumental in solidifying and personalizing my faith. However my faith was rocked after the death of my first husband and having 2 small children to raise on my own. A neighbour came alongside me and was very influential in introducing me to "the God who speaks". She invited me to women's ministries events at Sevenoaks where I found friendship, community and, most importantly, the freedom and healing that Christ offers.

Previous & current ministry involvement at Sevenoaks

I have been involved in CHatS (women's Bible studies) and currently serve as a Welcome Desk greeter in the children's ministry.

Reason for accepting nomination

I love the people and leaders of Sevenoaks Alliance Church and am willing to serve on this committee to support the leadership of our church.