

2025 Nominating Committee Report

The 2025 Mission Creek Alliance Nominating Committee met in person on September 2, 11, 14, and October 7 to attend to formal parts of our work. The work of the Committee was two-fold: first, to discern candidates to recommend to the membership for service on the Board of Elders as outlined in Part 7 of the MCA Church Bylaws; and second, to recommend to the membership two members willing to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee Members

- Keith Whitaker (Chair)
- Marian Petkau (Board Representative)
- Lyle Bellamy (Board Representative)
- Laura Dunwoody (Member Representative)
- Dave Prosser (Member Representative)

Board of Elder Nominations

Elders completing terms and outcomes:

- Janet Kirby – completed third term, ineligible for re-election
- Marian Petkau – completed third term, ineligible for re-election
- Adam Southgate – completed second term, declined re-election
- Paul Hansen – completed first term, affirmed for re-election

Returning mid-term members:

- Gary Schieck
- Lyle Bellamy
- Agnes Merkl
- Laura Petkau

2025 Nominees to the Board of Elders:

- Paul Hansen (Incumbent)
- Lois Edwards (New)
- Murray Derksen (New)
- Jennifer Kilback (New)

2026 Nominating Committee Nominations

The 2025 Nominating Committee recommends the following members to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee:

- Jocelyn McCaskell
- Gordon Howe

Acknowledgment

The Committee expresses deep gratitude to Marian Petkau, Janet Kirby, and Adam Southgate for their faithful service on the Board of Elders. Each has been a respected and beloved member of the board over the years, serving with humility, wisdom, and grace. Their leadership has been a true blessing to Mission Creek Alliance Church.

Closing Note

On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank the people of MCA Church for following Jesus faithfully and for supporting the work of ministry through our fellowship. We trust that those nominated in this report have the Lord's blessing for service in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith Whitaker on behalf of the Nominating Committee,
(Marian Petkau, Lyle Bellamy, Laura Dunwoody, Dave Prosser)

Elder Biographies

Returning Elder Biographies

The following individuals are continuing to serve mid-term on the Board of Elders.

Gary Schieck



My name is Gary Schieck. I am a recent retiree, having spent much of my career in senior management positions in the Okanagan fruit industry. I have been attending MCA for just over 40 years and have been a member for most of those years. I have served many terms on the Board, most recently as Vice-Chair and Treasurer prior to that, as well as serving on Finance and Nominating Committees. I have been part of the worship team, have led the men's group, taught Sunday School and worked as a leader in youth, Kids Day Camp, and various children's ministries. My wife Karan and I were both baptized and married here at MCA and our two sons attended with us until their late teens. MCA/Kelowna Alliance has been a significant part of my life as well as my family's, and it is an honour and a blessing to serve. My prayer and desire is that through this church we are strengthened and empowered to live our faith daily, in action and love, so that we impact many in our community for the Lord's glory.

Lyle Bellamy



My name is Lyle Bellamy. I have been attending Mission Creek Alliance since 1976. I am retired and spend my time in church-related activities, playing pickleball, fishing, and mountain biking.

For the last fifteen years I have facilitated or helped to facilitate the Men's Circle. I have also been involved in intentional discipleship for 7 years.

I have been widowed for 5 years and have 3 adult children, 4 granddaughters, and 4 great-grandchildren. I am blessed and my desire is to be a blessing to others.

Agnes Merkl



I have been a part of MCA church for 27 years, since moving to Kelowna with my husband Craig. I was baptised here soon afterwards, and have been involved in Kids Ministry, Kid's Day camp, and more recently, on media and the after-service prayer team. I have also recently become a volunteer at Kelowna Gospel Mission, serving in the kitchen alongside others from our Care Group. Our two daughters grew up in the church, and over the years, our church family has been as family to us.

I have a heart for young people, wanting to see them grow in the love of God. With our girls now in their 20s, my desire is to encourage and pray for this generation of youth and young adults. Our church is a warm community of people following Jesus and loving each other, based on God's amazing love for us. My heart is to help bring others who don't know him to discover who He is and realize that He is a Friend forever. Love through service, joy in friendship, and a deeper understanding of Jesus are the focus of who we can be within our church and to others around us.

Laura Petkau



My name is Laura Petkau and I have been a part of MCA since 2016 when I moved back to Kelowna from Saskatchewan. I work as a Financial Coordinator for WorkBC and split my free time between doing anything crafty and digging in the dirt.

I grew up in Kelowna and attended KGF until moving to Saskatchewan in 2009. While in Saskatchewan I was part of a local church and was involved in Worship Ministry and leadership of the Young Adults group. Since attending MCA I have been involved in Worship Ministry, Preteen and Youth. What drew me to this church was the community and clear Biblical teaching that challenges us as believers and points us all toward a life with Jesus. My heart's desire is to serve the local church, and I believe He calls each one of us to use our gifts and abilities to share the hope we have with the people in our city. My prayer is that our church would be a place where people grow in their love for Jesus and understanding of scripture.

Prospective Elder Biographies

The following individuals are being presented to the membership for election to the Board of Elders.

Paul Hansen



I've been a part of MCA since childhood, when my family moved to Kelowna from Red Deer. My wife and I met in high school, and we are blessed with two wonderful adult children and two amazing grandchildren.

Throughout the years, I've had the privilege of serving in various roles within the church community, including at Camp Arrowhead, Young Life, teaching Sunday School, doing media for Sunday morning worship, hosting a home group, participating in the Pastoral Search committee, and serving as an Elder.

My personal goal is to deepen my relationship with Jesus and become a more dedicated follower of His teachings. My vision for our church is to see everyone radiating with Jesus' love, both within the church and in the broader community.

Lois Edwards



Hello, my name is Lois Edwards. I have been attending Mission Creek since 1967, as a child with my family. I participated in all the programs the church had to offer an energetic growing girl, Sunday school, church services, there were two every Sunday!, Bible study, youth choir, drama, worked in the preschool, youth conferences, AYF, College and Career, adult choir, and probably several I've forgotten. This church has been the center of my life and that of my family's for almost six decades.

I graduated from UBC in 1983 with a Bachelors of Education degree. Robert and I were married in this church in 1985 and dedicated all four of our children in the years that followed. Our lives were filled with raising our littles, I was, still am, a stay at home mom, as Rob's career took him to many countries for weeks at a time. I have enjoyed 2 missions trips with my daughters, to Côte d'Ivoire, and Egypt. Both trips were a fabulous spiritual and emotional growing experience.

Our children have all grown and have families of their own, we have been blessed with three grandchildren and we spend many weekend or weeks driving to Calgary to be part of their lives especially now, before they're in school.

Robert has recently retired which has given us time to travel, entertain returning kiddos for most of the summer, and generally enjoy living in the Okanagan. I have been helping with church building decor for several years and enjoy helping with various projects and seasonal design.

My prayer and desire for our church is to continue to build a strong spiritually mature body of believers with Christ as our example.

Murray Derksen



I have been part of the MCA community since my family moved to Kelowna in 1970. I grew up in this church, was baptized here, received a call to ministry here, was married here (to Michelle), and was sent out from here to many different places in Canada and the world. This church has been a launching pad from which we have done many types of kingdom service.

Michelle and I have four adult children, three are married, one is engaged, and we have four grandchildren. One of my joys in life is spending time with our family, whether here in the Okanagan, or in P.E.I. where one son and family have settled. We have served in pastoral work in Quesnel and Winnipeg, and then stepped into international work, through The Alliance Canada, in Mexico, Egypt, and then overseeing the Alliance work in Latin America & the Caribbean, based out of Costa Rica and later from Kelowna. We retired from the mission in 2021, and I started a PhD study program at UBC Okanagan focused on the experience of refugees in the Central Okanagan. I am currently in the dissertation writing stage.

While I spend most of my time in the community as a researcher and volunteer, we are active members of this church, co-leading a weekly small group, and regular attenders of the weekend services. I love the local church, and my passion lies in the impact the local church has on its community. I tend to be one who is always looking outward towards the community in which a church is embedded.

Jennifer Kilback



Jennifer has been a part of the MCA Church community since 1998, when she and her husband, Clint, moved to Kelowna. Together, they've raised two daughters who have grown up in the church.

A Chartered Professional Accountant, Jennifer works in the tech industry and brings extensive experience serving on a variety of non-profit boards. Her professional skills and commitment to service are rooted in a deep personal faith that began and grew at MCA. It was here that she first encountered and fell in love with Jesus, and the church family has been a source of encouragement, support, and spiritual growth ever since.

Jennifer's desire is that everyone who comes through MCA's doors will experience the love of God and know that they are a cherished part of His family.