

# COUNCIL NOMINEES



**Tamara Allen**

My dad was transferred to Bergstrom Air Force Base in 1971, and when he retired we put down roots in Austin. I married my high school sweetheart 18 years after we first met in the Westlake band. Charles is a physics professor at Angelo State University, and I've spent my career in public service - most of it working for the state in the area of behavioral health services.

I was a senior in high school when Steve Youngdahl knocked on our front door and told us about the new congregation he was organizing in Westlake, and Shepherd of the Hills has been my home and my family ever since. Over the decades I've served in many roles, but in recent years most of my focus has been with the care-giving ministries. I am excited to be a part of this next chapter of Shepherd's journey, as we seek to live out our calling to be a welcoming, inclusive community and a church without walls.



**Ted Powell (additional term)**

Hello, my name is Ted Powell. My wife Corky and I have been members for about 30 years. We are both native Central Texans and were married at St. Martin's Lutheran in Austin in 1987.

We raised three children in this congregation. Our oldest son Thomas and his wife Megan live in Houston. They blessed us with our first grandchild – Isla Ryan – in February of this year. Both our daughter Katherine and our youngest son Jason, and his wife Celeste, live in Austin.

I have a degree in Business Administration from UT Austin and worked for around 30 years in a variety of product marketing and program management roles with several of the larger tech companies in the Austin area.

I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve on this Church Council. ShepHills has been richly blessed throughout the years - we have much to be thankful for. I look forward to working with the pastors, staff, and other council members as we continue to seek God's will for the next part of our faith journey.

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**John Robertson**

If we haven't met yet, I am John Robertson. I live with my wife Melissa, daughters Keaton (11), Natalie (8), and our cat Stella (not sure how old she is) in far South Austin in the Shady Hollow area. We have made Austin our home for the past 13 years. I have worked in the Senior Living Industry for over 22 years and recently pivoted to the artificial intelligence technology industry as a Senior Sales Manager for Kami Vision based in San Jose, California. I enjoy traveling with the family, trivia, playing softball, board games, and getting loud at sporting events.

I am blessed and honored to serve on the Shepherd of the Hills Church Council.



**Denise Seidel**

My name is Denise Seidel. I'm a lifelong Lutheran - in part, because my dad was a Lutheran Pastor...at least that's where it started! I graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree and then attended graduate school there and earned an Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology. I worked in many schools, but after our second child was born, I decided to retire from the public school setting.

My husband Brad and I have three children: Andrew (20) is a junior at UT Austin, Ella (18) is in her first semester at the US Air Force Academy, and James (16) is a sophomore at Westlake High School. All three of our children were confirmed here at Shepherd of the Hills. While they were in elementary school, I served for four years as the Teaching Director of the After School Kids Community Bible Study for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. I am currently part of the Stephen ministry team here at Shephills and sometimes play the flute during worship. I look forward to serving in a new way as part of the Church Council.

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**Michael Watt**

I am Michael Watt. I moved to Austin from Northern California with my family in 1997. My wife, Ann, and I joined Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in 1998, and our children, Brian and Lauren, were confirmed here. I previously spent three years on Council and three years on the Butterfly Preschool Board, as well as two different rotations on the Finance Committee. I also served on the Call Team that culminated in the calling of Pastor Tom Grevlos, as well as some time on the Council Nominating Committee.

I am currently employed by Pavemint, a parking software company, as Chief Operating Officer. Prior to Pavemint, I was an SVP for an educational software company based in the UK, with previous experience in high tech with companies like Tech Data, Dell Financial Services and Hewlett-Packard.

I love being outdoors, golfing, hiking, biking, and snow skiing. I also enjoy engaging in conversations about challenging topics and seek to learn and grow every year of my life.

## ENDOWMENT NOMINEE



**Bobby McQuiston**

I am Bobby McQuiston. My wife, Margaret, and I are both native Austinites and high school sweethearts. We married in January, 1970, and have two children with wonderful families - Michael (Cara) (two children, Elizabeth and Tori, and two step-children, Ethan and Amanda), and Michelle Erickson (Aaron) (two children, Jay Coody and Will).

I was in the Naval Reserves from 1968 to 1974, serving two tours during Vietnam as the Disbursing Officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway (CVA-41). After returning to Austin I worked at UT Austin as Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects until retiring in 2005.

We joined Shepherd of the Hills in December, 1979 and have loved everything about this church. Our children were baptized and confirmed here, I participated in four Christ Renewals His Parish (CRHP) programs, as an active participant and playing and singing the songs on piano for other participants, and have served twice on the Council. Thank you for this opportunity to serve on the Endowment Board.