



Annual Meeting 2020  
Thursday, November 19, 2020, 7:00 PM  
Upper Patio or via Zoom Online

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## Church Leadership Candidates Information Guide

The candidates are presented in alphabetical order by last name and grouped according to leadership position.

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### Candidates for Church Board, 2021-2023 Term

Members will be asked to vote for three to serve with continuing Board members, Steve Arredondo, Lisa Barnes, Enid Eck, and Eduardo Suastegui.

#### **Sandy Duran**

Sandy is a registered nurse working at PIH-Health, Whittier. She and her husband, Bobby, have been members at WACC for over two years. She was born and raised in a Christian home. At the age of six, she made a decision to ask Jesus into her heart while at the school she was attending, Montebello Baptist School. Throughout life, she has weathered difficult seasons, yet her faith remained unwavering. Her understanding of God's constant character keeps her eyes fixed on Him. She enjoys serving behind the scenes and has done so in the nursery, Sunday school, women's ministry, as a greeter, and part of the welcome team.



As an encourager, she communicates value to others, and sees that as an important role should she be selected to serve on the Board. With twenty-three years of experience as a nurse, she's worked with a variety of people, watching for God to lead her to encourage and be a positive voice for hope in Him. She sees God at work at WACC in the youth ministries, and is excited to see God do amazing things in the next generation. She looks forward to watching her children grow in their faith as God moves in their hearts here at WACC.

## **Olga Garate**

Olga is a small business owner and software consultant with SoCal CRM Advisors. She and her husband, Isaac, have been members at WACC since 1997. In 1978, after being invited by a high school friend, she began to attend a non-denominational Christian church. With a new understanding of the Gospel and God's plan for her life, she professed faith in Christ and was baptized shortly thereafter. In her career, organizational management and administration has been her focus. She has served the church in various capacities including youth group leader, pastor's wife, children's ministry, small group leader, and previous WACC Board Member. Currently, she serves on the Missions Administrative Team, as a board member of the mission organization Wings of the Way, and as a chaplain for WACC.



With her strengths of initiative and orderliness, she is motivated to serve on the Board if elected. She has learned the value of listening and loving while learning to trust in God for His grace. She would serve with a sense of responsibility to work with determination to accomplish WACC's goals and, most of all, be loyal to God and others in authority.

Olga shared that during such an unusual season at WACC, church life has been disrupted, and many are challenged in their day-to-day lives. She feels the response of the church and ministries during the pandemic has demonstrated God's faithfulness to bring encouragement through Sunday services, prayer teams, grow groups, and continuing with unwavering faith to reach out with a message of hope.

## **Fred Kramer**

Fred is retired after thirty-four years in law enforcement. He and his wife, Kari, have been members at WACC since 1996. He served on a prior church board for ten years. Here at WACC, he has been involved with the Junior High Ministry's FAD, served as a group facilitator in MarriageCore and Alpha, has gone on mission trips to Mexico and Malawi, and served on the Mission Administrative Team for nine years. He and his wife have been part of three small groups for several years, including one focused on their role as grandparents.



Fred is encouraged when he sees what WACC is doing in the community and is blessed to help in any way he can. This past year has been a challenge

for all, but he has been encouraged that the ministry of WACC has continued almost uninterrupted. If selected to serve on the Board, he looks forward to helping ensure WACC continues the ministry it was established and consecrated to do.

## **Kathi Lundstrom**

Dr. Kathi Lundstrom is an elementary school teacher in the Norwalk-La Mirada School district, with a Ph.D. in Gifted Education. She became a charter member of WACC in



1971. She is married to Ed. At four-years-old, in Children’s Church at Bethany Baptist Church, Whittier, her teacher explained how Jesus loves her, died for her sins, and wanted to be her Friend forever. At that moment, it made sense to her, and she asked Jesus into her life that Sunday morning.

Over the past forty-nine years, she has held many leadership and ministry positions at WACC including Sunday School Superintendent, Bible Study Leader, Deaconess Board, MET Team Leader, Jr. High staff, Adult Sunday School class president, and Confident Kids parenting facilitator. She has participated in choirs, short-term missions trips, and many other ministry opportunities. She has a broad-spectrum knowledge and understanding of WACC, its history, and its people. One of her spiritual gifts is administration. She has been told she has the ability to prayerfully lead others as they all serve God together. She thinks clearly and logically and is able to articulate her thoughts and the opinions of others well. She understands that, as a Board, the desire is to serve God and WACC in a way that is biblically aligned and honoring the Lord.

Forty-nine years at WACC gives her a relatively unique perspective to see the workings of God over that long stretch of time. She remembers the early days when God brought a group of people together, providing a meeting place in a junior high, a pastor, and a more permanent location later. WACC has honored the Lord with a commitment to global ministries, a commitment to fiscal responsibility, and a desire to “bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus.” The Lord continues to work in and through this church to that end, as seen in so many lives brought to Him through the ministries of WACC.

## **Mark Oliver**

Mark is a Senior Real Estate Review Appraiser with JPMorgan Chase Bank. He and his wife, Patti, have been members of WACC since 1984. He was raised in a Christian home and realized as a child that following Christ required a personal step of faith. He shared that he “officially” gave his life to Christ at the Billy Graham Crusade held in Anaheim in

1968. He has been a board member for a community youth basketball league and served on the board of Transformational Leadership Africa for six years. He has a master's degree in real estate development and has earned a couple of professional designations in his field as a commercial real estate appraiser. Most recently, he completed a certificate program in biblical and theological studies at the Talbot School of Theology.



His primary gift is teaching. In his studies, he has learned how to think critically about the meaning and significance of Scripture. This is essential if decisions regarding the direction of the church are to be biblically grounded. He thinks WACC is doing a lot of things right, particularly with regard to the emphasis on service to the community and connectedness through small groups. It is a sign of a healthy church that the congregation is both multi-generational and multi-ethnic. Sunday messages are both relevant and engaging, and leadership through this pandemic has been exemplary. He sees opportunities for growth at WACC to include harnessing the giftedness of every believer, facilitating a deeper study of Scripture in small groups, and stressing the indispensability of holiness in the life of every Christ-follower.

### **Denise Watkins**

Denise is retired and continues to stay active in ministry at WACC. She is married to Hugh, and has been a member of WACC since 2001. She expressed that she was blessed to have been born and raised in a Christian household and know the love of Jesus all her



life. When she was twelve, she was baptized and made the personal decision to fully devote her life to Christ. She is very thankful to have Jesus as her Savior. She began attending WACC in 1993 when her two sons were young. Throughout her years here, she has been able to become more involved as God has led her. She has served in many different ministries, including Women In Fellowship, The Well Bible Study, choir, Alpha, as a chaplain, the Nominating Committee, and MOPS.

Here at WACC, she is part of the prayer team. For Denise, prayer is an essential part in her relationship with God and she feels as though God has given her a calling of sharing his love with others through prayer. For her, it has been amazing to watch the way God works in her and others through prayer. She believes through the power of prayer, God has led and will continue to lead her to make the best possible decisions.

Denise stated that she has seen tremendous growth/diversity at WACC. She enjoys that WACC is trusting God by building a new worship center where more people can come and learn about Jesus. It is a blessing to encourage people to grow in Christ. She loves seeing faith at work. She is glad to be part of a ministry that cares for people in a Godly way. She loves that our church shows the love of Christ to all people regardless of their background or past.

## **Rick Williams**

Rick is a realtor with TNG Real Estate Consultants. He is married to Melissa, and has been a member at WACC since 2002. At the age of 9, his parents took the whole family to a local Whittier Church, First Family, to hear a pastor from Sri Lanka speak. He spoke about Satan, demonic spirits, and Hell. Rick decided that he did not want to go there, so he went forward and accepted Christ. He says he was scared into salvation. Later that evening, his mother shared with him about God's Love and what salvation meant, so he prayed again and asked God into his life.



Whether it was his time in corporate America working at AT&T in government sales, later years in financial services, or the past fifteen years as a realtor, he has acquired skills in negotiating contracts, dealing with financial issues, property acquisition, and management that he believes can be useful for the business side of church ministry. With more than forty years of youth ministry experience in various roles, from small group leader, Director of Junior High Ministry at another church, Interim Jr High Pastor, and high school small group leader, he has learned a ton about the ministry side of church. In his late teens and early twenties, he often completed various spiritual gift assessment tests and they all seemed to point to the same gift. It was always the gift of service. Rick has since realized how important that gift has been for him throughout his lifetime, not just for those he has served, but as well for him and his spiritual well being.

He definitely sees God working in the youth ministry through the pastors, leaders and kids even in this tough CoVid time, but also in small grow groups. He realizes that in these groups is where real church happens, with members serving and loving each other and learning to exemplify God to others.

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## Candidates for Nominating Committee, 2021 Term

Members will be invited to vote for seven.

### **Arlie Ankerberg**

Arlie is the Program Director with Health Partnership. She is married to Bill and became a member of WACC in 1996. At eight years old, after viewing a film at church that told the story of a little boy who asked Jesus into his heart, she prayed to trust Christ as Savior at home with her mom and dad. During her experiences of community at Bethel College, along with the early death of her father, she began to grow in a deeper, more active relationship and intentionality in following Christ.



As a long time member of WACC, she brings a strong network of friendships with others. She has worked with many different ministries at WACC in her twenty-one years with Health Partnership. As a candidate for the Nominating Committee, those relationships and experiences would be helpful in identifying future volunteer leaders.

She sees God at work through the stories of transformed lives, as WACC seeks to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus. The meaningful messages shared on weekends bring encouragement as the congregation grows in faith in the context of the world in which we live. WACC is relevant locally and globally, recognizing the power of stories and lives we impact.

### **Courtney Bushyeager**

Courtney is a teacher at Wilson High School. She is married to Matthew, and has been a member at WACC since 2017. Her faith journey started at WACC in the fifth grade. She was able to foster many relationships with peers and leaders who helped her understand what it meant to follow the gospel and be a Christ-follower.



WACC has provided Courtney with many leadership opportunities including junior high and high school ministry. She spent a short time coaching soccer and volunteered with the worship department to assist in Sunday morning services. One strength that has been on the forefront this year

for her has been her ability to listen and reflect during a time where it's important to take time for others and ourselves. So, whether it's allowing others to be heard, or waiting on God, this season and position has shown her the importance of both.

Throughout her time on the Nominating Committee these past two years, she has a better understanding of the hearts of our leadership. It's been encouraging to be surrounded by many men and women who have fought for the greater good of our church. She sees God continuing to work in our lives at WACC and continuing to bring forth situations where we need to rely on him and not rely on ourselves.

### **Bobby Duran**

Bobby is an experienced Event Production Manager and Creative Director. He currently runs his own consulting company & works at UPS. He is married to Sandy and has been a

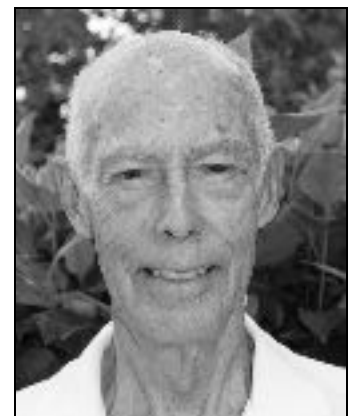


member of WACC since 2018. He serves behind the scenes with Union Creative and has helped volunteer in many areas here at WACC. He worked for Urban Youth Workers Institute for fifteen years, and has a heart for the inner city and youth. He believes that the future is young and multi-ethnic.

He has a demonstrated history of working in the professional training and coaching industry for over twenty years. His skills in music management, connectors, event management, deejaying, consulting and volunteer management would bring strength to the Nominating Committee as they select church leaders to support WACC's mission and vision. He is passionate about building relationships and cultivating memorable moments for his clients and community.

### **Jim Fletcher**

Jim is retired. He is married to Linda, and has been a member at WACC since 1982. He received Christ as Savior in a Daily Vacation Bible School when he was in the fourth grade. He served on the WACC Board for three years. Over those three years, he was on the Nominating Committee and the Finance Chair. He was on the search committee which brought Bill Ankerberg to WACC as senior pastor. He has also been a deacon for several years, including one year as chair.



Jim believes that it's important to have Board and Nominating Committee members who will represent a broad range of members and who will be sensitive to the needs of WACC and the greater Whittier area.

His experience in hiring when he worked in manufacturing management taught him the importance of thoroughly checking a candidate's experience, including his or her ability to work well with others.

Jim shared that WACC has a great staff, facility, and sports and children's programs that attract a variety of people from a wide area. We are a welcoming congregation and we need to continue to emphasize that. John Riley and Bryan Guthrie lead a worship ministry that effectively teaches and leads the congregation to follow Jesus.

### **Isaac Garate**

Isaac is an Advisor: Pre-arranged Funeral Plans & Insurance Services with Worldwide Family Associates. He is married to Olga, and has been a member at WACC since 1997. He grew up in church and surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ in January 1975. He had been waiting for a "feeling," but finally came to understand that Salvation was a result of faith in Jesus and his finished work on the cross (Romans 10:9,10). His experience in church ministry for some forty-five years or so (thirty years here at WACC) has given him some perspective that may be helpful.



In the midst of this pandemic, Isaac sees God strengthening the faith of His people in creative ways. Many are now the source of light, salt, and ministry to neighbors, family, and friends. We are growing in our spiritual disciplines as a result.

### **John Paul Garcia**

John Paul is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Alliance Realty. He is married to Kimberly, and has been a member at WACC since 2016. He came to faith when he was around fifteen-years-old during some changes that were going on in his family. He started attending church and has seen God working in his life.

He and his wife joined Alpha and it touched their hearts. Once finished, they continued in Alpha by serving as table helpers and co-leaders. After attending Alpha, they were asked to lead a Community Group, and have been group leaders for three years. They also facilitated several Rooted groups. Being involved and serving in these groups has helped him grow in the church, as well as have a stronger faith with God.





## Sharon McAleese

Sharon is a retired educator as a Full Inclusion Specialist (SPED). She is married to John and became a member of WACC in 1988. In college, she attended a Bible study with a friend and heard the message, saw people her age transformed, and prayed to receive Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior.



She has served on the Pastoral Search team as well as on the committee to interview and approve the hiring for both the Pastor of Small Groups and the Special Needs Director. She also has been a part of WACC's Tuesday morning Bible study for over thirty-years, serving as the facilitator for a small group, then the speaker/teacher for two years, and finally as part of the teaching team for four years. She feels she has the gift of discernment and seeks wisdom through prayer and biblical standards.

Sharon sees God's work at WACC in how people are connecting with small groups, learning, growing, and serving. In addition, the "broad umbrella" of reaching out to our community with the love of God, and being able to share the true hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ through service, love and generosity has made WACC a true light on the hill!

## Patti Oliver

Patti is a Microelectronics Technician with Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems. She is married to Mark, and has been a member of WACC since 1984. She grew up in Hawaii and was introduced to other faiths (she has studied Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jehovah Witnesses), but found something was missing in all of them. When she was a freshman at Whittier College, a friend shared with her about Jesus. She had peace that she had found the truth and did not have to search anymore, following Jesus ever since.



Patti has served on committees with the Boy Scouts and on the board of St. Mark's Basketball League and Transformational Leadership Africa. She has good people skills. Her friend, Faustin Ntamushobora, calls her a bridge. She sees needs and skills and brings people together that may be able to help each other.

She sees God moving at WACC as he unites people in community and in service. She sees God growing the body of believers and sending them out to a world that is hurting and needs Jesus.

## Kim Songer

Kim is an elementary school principal. She is married to Richard and has been a member at WACC since 2007. During high school, she began to seek a relationship with God, but it wasn't until she was married and a mom that she chose to become a follower of Jesus. She has had the blessing of growing in this relationship, and raising her three daughters in the church.



Having served on the church board on several occasions, she would love the opportunity to seek out others to serve in this same role. She has worked with children's ministries, women's ministries, and the Alpha and Rooted programs, and would love the challenge of recruiting potential Board members that represent the congregation at WACC. She feels blessed to have the spiritual gifts of leadership and discernment. These have served her well as a former Board member. Having served before, she has an innate understanding of what is required to serve as a leader in our church.

God is at work in many ways at WACC. The biggest blessings she has witnessed include the transformation of hearts that occur in the Alpha ministry. Another tangible way that God is at work at WACC is through the focus on serving. We are a church without walls and God is using all of us as disciples to share His word.

## Monica Wilson

Monica is an educator with Sage Oak Charter School. She is married to Jeff and has been a member at WACC since 1981. She accepted the Lord as her Savior when she was twelve at a Youth Evangelical Meeting in Buffalo, New York. As a long time member of WACC, she has been involved in many ministries. She and her husband are part of an adult Sunday School class in which she has served in missions, socials, and prayer. For nine years, she coordinated Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study and also served on the Women's Ministry Team. Most recently, she has been part of the Community Liaisons Team with her Sharing Books Ministry, which she started four years ago to bless various people and community organizations through books.



God is moving mightily in our church, bringing many new people who want to get to know and serve Jesus. As our building project finishes up, it will be exciting to watch the Lord do more than we can ask or imagine in our congregation, in our

community, and in the world through the people of WACC.

### **Jackie “Jack” Wong**

Jack is a Registered Nurse with Surgery Partners. He is married to Elizabeth “Liz” Wong and has been a member at WACC since 1996. At the age of twenty-one, his best friend from college became a Christian and began to witness to him about Christ. At the same time, a co-worker, a messianic Jew, also began to witness to him. Soon, he gave his life to Christ. He taught high school Sunday school for four years at Eastside Christian Church. He coached youth sports at WACC for six years and have refereed youth basketball at WACC for fourteen years. Professionally, he was a general manager of a small, privately owned business for sixteen years and currently works as a recovery RN.



WACC is advancing God’s love in reaching the unsaved and in caring for the people in the local community by fostering and developing in and through its members a heart for our fellow human beings. WACC gives all credit and glory to God and believes in His Word, The Bible. WACC nurtures and cares for the health and spiritual well-being of its members.

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## **Candidates for Church Auditor, 2021 Term**

Members will be invited to vote for one.

### **Gary Cates**

Gary is a retired Certified Public Accountant, QuickBooks Live Sr. Expert Bookkeeper with over forty-five years experience. He is married to Carol and has been a member at WACC since 1996. He received Jesus as his Savior and was baptized at age twelve. He rededicated my life to Christ in 1986 at age thirty-four as a member of Hacienda Heights Baptist Church. He is involved in a men’s small group, community group, and men’s ministry. He has served on the Finance Committee at WACC for twelve years.



God has blessed WACC with amazing resources; both

financially and with gifted staff. Gary said we must continue to be good stewards of what God has given us to use for His glory. His desire is to serve God with the talents and expertise He has given him as WACC expands its outreach in our community and around the world. He believes God will continue to change lives through WACC as we remain committed to our mission to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus.

### **Gordon Hoffman**

Gordon is a CPA and business owner. He is married to Debbie and has been a member at WACC since 1987. He came to faith at age six, with help from his father, following an invitation to receive Jesus after a church service. He has a background in accounting, auditing, and taxation for businesses, both for-profit and nonprofit, as well as for individuals. He has served as WACC's internal auditor, and as a member of the Finance and Audit Committees.

God is using WACC to reach people, all to God's glory.

Gordon's experience would be helpful to assist the Church Board, staff and congregation by helping to ensure the proper stewardship of financial resources and reporting of financial information.

