



Trustee and Deacon Nominees 2021

Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

1 Timothy 3:2-4

Trustee Nominees 2021

Jeremy Better



I was born and raised in a small town in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I have been a believer since I was a young child. In high school I met my wife, Michelle, and started attending the same Evangelical church she attended. There, we became serious about our faith and following whatever path the Lord placed before us. Eventually, we were married in that church shortly after high school in 1996.

In early 1997 we joined the Army. Since that time, Michelle and I have lived in Texas, Michigan, North Carolina, and Colorado. We have had at least one child in each of these states and one in Wisconsin just to add a little more variety. We now have a total of six wonderful children between the ages of 20 and 9. While in the Army I have served as a Chaplain Assistant, Special Force Medical Sergeant, and Physician Assistant.

We started attending Fellowship of the Rockies in 2013, the second time we were assigned to Colorado. The first Sunday we attended a service, it was announced that the Fountain Campus would be opening just minutes from our house. With some prayer and a few more services at 8th Street, we understood the timing of all this as God's leading and committed to be a part of the team that would help start up the Fountain Campus. Since that time Fellowship of the Rockies has become our family's home. The Lord has allowed us to stay in this community for 7 years while in the military and we are now in a position to retire and stay here. God continues to impress upon us that He is moving through this community of believers and that we should stay and be a part of it in whatever way we are able.

Frank Djonbalaj



I was born and raised in New York. My parents are both Albanian descendants from Montenegro. They escaped to Italy from the communist regime of Yugoslavia in 1968. There, they were sponsored by a local Catholic church to get to New York in 1970.

We were not raised knowing Jesus, but I believe God had a calling on my life. When my three sisters and I were between the ages of 7-10, we went to a celebration at a local Catholic church and I remember winning

a Bible because I was able to recite the Lord's Prayer from memory. That Bible not only had my name on the inside cover, but it became a source of comfort from time to time over the years.

Fast forward almost twenty years later and my younger sister, Lizzy, had found Christ and put her faith in Him. She began to preach salvation through Jesus and that had a huge impact on my life. Over the next several years, I attended Yonkers Christian Assembly and there, Pastor James Williams and the YCA family, helped me to draw closer and closer to God. That prepared me to eventually dedicate my life to Christ in 2003.

In 2006, while I was finishing up my degree at New York University, God showed me this beautiful woman, Jessi, who would be my wife less than a year later. Months before our wedding, Jessi and I were baptized on the same day. After we were married in 2007, we moved to Colorado Springs to start our life together. We recently celebrated our 13th wedding anniversary and we're blessed with three wonderful kids: Nissi (8), Danny (4) and Timmy (2).

Our first home church was Restoration Church in Fountain, CO. At Restoration, we were really involved. I served on the finance committee and together, Jessi and I served in the youth group, going on two mission trips to Panama and New Mexico prior to having kids. Approximately five years ago, God brought us to Fellowship of the Rockies and we have connected with some great families here. Through those relationships, we have established an amazing small group with whom we really enjoy doing life together. At FOR, Jessi and I have also enjoyed serving in children's church. We are thrilled to be a part of the family at Fellowship of the Rockies and I am truly honored and look forward to helping further God's kingdom by serving as a Trustee.

Brian Farrell



I grew up in a small town southwest of Houston Texas. My parents were members of the Methodist church there. We went to church fairly regularly in my younger years but attended more sporadically in my teenage years.

I met my wife, Lyn, the summer before I went off to Texas A&M as a freshman. We dated throughout the first three years of my college career and were married in 1974 while both attending A&M. Lyn's family was very committed to Christ, as her Dad was a Minister of Education at several churches over the years and was headmaster of Christian schools that he helped start. They were a loving family and I attribute a lot of my Christian growth to them.

After college we moved back to Houston. We started attending a Baptist church there and at a point in 1978, I decided that all the uncertainty about my relationship with Jesus needed to be settled. I made a conscious commitment to the Lord and was baptized.

Lyn and I were fortunate to be mentored for many years by a couple in that church and I attribute much of my growth as a husband, father, and church leader to them. I served as a deacon and elder in that church until the Lord showed us it was time to move to a new place. We served in two other churches over the next few years. We have served, ministering to young married couples and older adults in the churches we have attended.

We decided to move to Colorado Springs and retire after visiting here a few times. I had been a general contractor in Houston for 25 years before moving here to retire. We moved here in June 2015 and started building our house. I acted as the general contractor with the help of a local contractor. Lyn has been in banking as a consultant for many years and recently retired. She still occasionally speaks at banking conferences.

We started visiting FOR in the fall of 2015 and decided the Lord wanted us to establish our membership at FOR. We moved into our new house in November of 2017 and just celebrated our 45th anniversary. We lead a young adult class with Mike and Jenna called ROOTED.

Lyn is enjoying working in art, drawing and painting. She is involved in mentoring in MOPS.

We have 5 children. All have graduated from college and are working in various professions. We now have 3 grandchildren and have really been blessed by our children and grandchildren. We continue serving where God wants us to serve at FOR.

Brian Fitzpatrick



My religious journey began in Portland, Oregon where I attended a Presbyterian Church. I was involved with the youth group and attended church summer camps. I attended West Point where I met my wife, Celeste, in 1974 and we will celebrate our 43rd Wedding Anniversary on March 26, 2020. Celeste and I enjoyed a career in the U.S. Army which brought us to Colorado Springs in 1998. I recently retired from my Periodontal Dental Practice. During our marriage, we attended the Catholic Church.

We have been attending Fellowship of the Rockies since 2009. I have always been a believer and believe that we must rely on God. We have served as premarital mentors for couples planning

marriage, served as greeters and taught the Love and Respect Class. Engaging in small groups has helped us to grow spiritually at FOR. We have 3 daughters, 1 son, 3 sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law and 11 grandchildren. It is an honor to serve as a Trustee at Fellowship of the Rockies in our amazing community of believers.

Mitchell Gorham



I spent my younger years in Augusta GA and was blessed with parents who have a true love for Christ. Through them, I was shown the love of Christ and the true example of sanctification through faith. I received Christ at a young age. In 2012, I was blessed with my wonderful wife, Natasha. The Lord blessed our family with 3 children. We would live in San Antonio for 5 years before both separating from the military and relocating to Colorado Springs. After living here for 5 months, we saw the AWANA sign outside of the FOR campus in Fountain Colorado and attend service, and the rest is history.

While in San Antonio, we had the pleasure of being a part of a small group. This would put the desire in our hearts to do the same to build relationships with fellow believers and show the love of God. We are keen on studying Gods word to be able to spread the Gospel when the Lord calls.

Going forward, we are excited to help in any capacity that will help FOR spread the Lord's word.

David Hooks



I was born in San Antonio, Texas, and graduated from Baylor University with a BBA in Accounting and then from The University of Texas School of Law. My wife, Robin, and I met at Baylor during my senior year and were married in 1993. After working as a corporate attorney for a couple of years in Dallas, Texas, we moved back to San Antonio and became small business owners.

At that time, we also became members of Grace Point Church (Southern Baptist); and although Robin and I had both been baptized as infants in the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches respectively, we were both overjoyed to be immersed in baptism as followers of Christ. Our first responsibility in our early years at Grace Point was leading the Young Married Adult ministry. I also soon began serving as a Deacon and then an Elder before being asked to serve as the Executive Pastor. I served in this capacity for nearly four years and then returned full time to my business efforts. I continued teaching

and leading in Sunday morning Bible studies until July 2006, when we decided to move to Colorado Springs.

We joined another church and then decided it was too far from home for our four boys to be involved in the youth group. We came to Fellowship of the Rockies in July 2014 and have been very pleased to serve and worship in our new community ever since. Since then, our boys have become regulars with everything offered by the youth department and Robin and I have enjoyed participating in Sunday morning Bible studies. In 2015, our two oldest boys went on the mission trip to Juarez Mexico with Casas por Cristo, and in 2016, our entire family served together on the same mission trip. In fact, at least one member of the Hooks family has been on each trip to Juarez since 2015.

Robin and I have each prioritized our life in the church and our relationship with Jesus Christ. We consider the salvation of each of our children among God's greatest blessings. We believe the church is the hope of the world through which God will deploy us to love people and bring them to faith in Jesus Christ. What an honor it is to join God in this work, and what a privilege to serve as a Trustee at Fellowship of the Rockies! Thank you for trusting me to serve in this role.

Harry Kincaid



I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas in a strong Christian family of Southern Baptists. I accepted Christ as a young child but truly experienced the Spirit at the age of 26. I met my wife, Connie, at our first church we attended where we were married in 1964. We celebrated our 53rd anniversary this year. Connie and I were active in our last two churches spending 20 plus years working with Singles. I was a deacon at both churches, and a trustee at our last church. Connie served as a pastor's assistant for 30 years.

In Texas, I received my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Psychology and Social Work. I completed 30 years with the State of Texas in Child Protection. After retiring from the state, I was a therapist in private practice, worked for 6 years in a Sex Offender rehab program, and was a mediator. We came to Colorado Springs in 2012 to be with our children.

When we stepped into FOR 5 years ago, we knew immediately that God had called us to this church. I have been privileged to counsel members of FOR as well as teach a class on Sunday morning along with Connie. Connie and I have been enriched spiritually by this church and enjoy the many new

friends we have made. I love to counsel with people, and I am especially interested in helping elderly members of our church.

Brian Mayles



I was born and raised in Panama, Central America. My father is British and my mother is American. After graduating high school and attending college in Panama, I came to the United States when I was 21. I retired from the United States Air Force after 22 years and then retired again after 11 years working at the USAFA 10th Medical Group as a civilian nurse. I grew up in the Episcopal Church and never really had a personal relationship with The Lord. In the Spring of 1980, I came to know the Lord and began a personal walk with Him. I met my future wife, Gay Hope, the day I was baptized in June 1980. We were married in January of 1981 and will soon celebrate 40 years of marriage. We have 3 sons, as well as 3 grandchildren. In the early years at FOR, my wife and I served as Sunday school teachers with the youth and more recently I serve on the SLS team. I love serving as a Trustee at Fellowship of the Rockies, giving back to the community of believers that have blessed me in many ways over the past 19 years. I pray that God would lead me in a closer walk with Him so that I can be a blessing to others.

Shelly Peterson



I grew up in a Christian home in a small Southern Missouri town. My Dad is a deacon and led the youth group and music ministry. My Mom led the Women's ministry and served by leading young girl/women studies for many years. She was also very active in music ministry. My music background stems from their guidance and "push" to get involved at a very early age. I was at church every time the doors were open! But, little did I realize (because I KNOW that I was taught but didn't always listen) the importance of having a close and personal relationship with Christ.

Fast forward many years to my early 30's after being married and teaching Elementary Music for about 10 years. My world came crashing down when my husband of 10 years decided to take a different path in life. I was at such a low point in my life and knew (thanks to the teachings from my childhood and much encouragement from my parents) that laying it all at the Feet of Jesus was the only way I could dig my way out of this pit. I was surrounded by such great support from family and friends. Even though I was a part of another congregation and worship ministry in town, Pastor Harlan, Pastor Stew and Kristi were offering such encouragement and much needed prayer! A few

years later, I met my husband, Steve, who had been through a similar situation but was raising two daughters. We were married (by Pastor Stew) and soon after, began attending Fellowship of the Rockies. Steve and I have been happily married for 11 years and have been a part of the FOR community for the past 10 years. We love FOR and are thankful for its ministry and outreach in the community! I am excited to see what God has in store!

Linda Shelton



I grew up in Oklahoma, the oldest of four children. When I was 12, my sister and I were both saved during a youth revival at the local First Baptist Church. Shortly after that, my family began attending church. However, it wasn't until many years later that I truly understood what it means to feel God's peace in my life.

Willie and I met – and started dating – when I was 16 and he was 17. Five years later, after he graduated from the Air Force Academy, we got married and we have been married for 41 years. I graduated from college a year after we married. Moving around the country in various military assignments provided me the opportunity to serve in a variety of different churches and work at a variety of jobs. Early in our marriage, we taught youth classes together, and then later I taught children's classes as well as acted as preschool director for a church.

In my professional career, most of my jobs have been in accounting for non-profit organizations. I was the accountant for a large non-denominational church, a Christian relief services corporation, and I worked at a small public accounting firm. I also worked in human resources for a mission organization.

Willie's professional career also provided me the opportunity to work with and mentor military spouses and families.

Life has been quite the adventure. Willie and I have a son, daughter and 2 grandsons. I feel truly blessed by God. He has never left my side.

We began attending Fellowship of the Rockies 9 years ago and feel fortunate to have such a great church home. I am honored to be asked to serve as a trustee.

Deacon Nominees 2021

Michelle Craddock



I was born in California and moved to Colorado Springs when I was 10 years old, with my mom, dad, and older brother. As an infant I was baptized Catholic but was not regularly taken to church. As a teenager, I began attending a local nondenominational church. When I met my husband, Mike, in 1993, we attended the same church together. After having our oldest two children, we stumbled across Fellowship of the Rockies as we lived close by in Cheyenne Canyon. We found our church home at Fellowship of the Rockies the first- ever Sunday service over 22 years ago and never left! We have since added our third son. I have served over the years as an usher, greeter, Sunday School teacher, Trustee, on the building committee, hiring committee, funeral ministry, and most recently, as Deacon. All of my boys and I were baptized at FOR and committed to our relationship with our Lord. I love my church and am blessed beyond measure for its ministry!

David Eick



I gave my heart to Jesus as a junior higher while sitting under the huge Sugar Pine on a hillside at Camp Ponderosa, Thousand Pines Christian Camp in Crestline, CA. I was soon baptized in the First Baptist Church in Orange, where I had been raised. I remained active in that church until I was in college. During my college years, I returned to work several summers in camping ministry at Thousand Pines and joined a church closer to school that had a college ministry.

In 1992, I married Lori after several years of dating though college and starting my teaching career. Within a couple years, we moved from Orange, where we had been raised, to Colorado Springs and I became a 6th grade teacher at Canon Elementary School in CM. Shortly after that, we became involved in a new CMA church plant here in the SW part of town. God taught us many things during this time and showed us His Faithfulness. For about 4 years, Lori and I were active in supporting youth ministry there. Then our growing family became part of WVC here in town. During that time, we were part of starting small groups connected to Woodmen Valley Chapel, down in Security where we lived. Later we were active in a small group fellowship in the Pinon Valley neighborhood. Between 2003-2007 we experienced the tragic sudden and early losses of our parents, as well as several others dear to us, all while raising small children. God was with us through some of the darkest days as we learned to walk through the valley, trusting Him.

In 2009, we left that mega church and became part of the FOR community, right in our own neighborhood. This was a great fit for us, and our children at the time. God began to use what we learned during that time as we walked with Him to partner with others from FOR to begin a GriefShare ministry here, fulfilling Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

We have been actively leading that ministry here since 2012, while also being involved in the Samz small group Sunday School class since 2010. I am learning to be an empty nester husband while continuing to teach, now at Cheyenne Mountain Junior High. My greatest desire is for young people to realize their value in God's eyes and to learn to see themselves as He does, and to learn to trust Him to direct their paths.

Our two young adult children, also grew in the Lord as they grew up through their teen years in this church.

Lori Eick



I was born and raised in Southern California. Both my parents were Christians with a strong Christian heritage. At five years old, I asked Jesus into my heart and at the age of eight years old, I was baptized. When I was in the ninth grade, I wanted to grow closer to God and know for sure what I believed. I challenged myself to read the Bible cover to cover. I started reading the Bible and praying every morning. That started me on my journey with God.

I met David when I was almost sixteen and after several years of dating, we married. After we were married, we felt God calling us to Colorado. In faith, we left our jobs, friends and family and moved to Colorado. Later, God blessed us with a daughter and a son.

My faith grows steadily as I journey with God. God has taught me and keeps reminding me that He is with me no matter the circumstance. My world and faith were shaken when my father was killed by a drunk driver in 2003. I watched my mother struggle with multiple sclerosis all my life and helped care for her until Jesus called her home in 2005. God used these hardships and many others to draw me close to him, to depend on him, and to forgive others no matter how difficult it is. The verse Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." has been my anchor throughout my life.

My family started attending Fellowship of the Rockies in July 2009 and it has become our “home” where we can serve others and worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. It has been an incredible blessing to be part of Fellowship of the Rockies and to see God changing people’s lives for the glory of His Kingdom.

Deb Limoge



I cannot remember a time in my life when I did not know about God. I was born into a Christian family and spent my childhood attending a Baptist church in a small town in the Florida Panhandle. I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior and was baptized at age nine. Ongoing participation in church activities was just part of the fabric of my life. After I left home and approached adulthood I drifted. I was not attentive, or even listening, to God’s voice. I became aware of the void in my life that only Christ could fill. God continues to call us back to Him no matter how far we wander. I heard His call to come back into Christian fellowship while I was in graduate school.

After I married my husband Jerry (almost 40 years ago!), he completed medical school and then began a career in the Air Force. It was early on in this time that I discovered women's Bible study through PWOC (Protestant Women of the Chapel) on one of the military bases where we were stationed. This fostered a love of studying God’s word with other women as we did life together. I have continued this practice for many years and recognize its significant contribution to my spiritual walk. God has also placed on my heart the desire to walk alongside other women in their life journey and to share God’s love with them. This has allowed me the privilege to spend time with women from all walks of life to include teen moms. I love our FOR family and the way we care and serve each other as well as those in our local community.

Jerry and I are now “empty nesters” of two adult children. I am learning to embrace each chapter of my life with joy and anticipation, expectant of where God will lead me!

Jim Seibert



I grew up in a Catholic family in a small town in Illinois. After graduating the University of Illinois School of Engineering, I moved to Fort Worth, TX, and began a career at Motorola designing two-way radios. I met Linda in 1993, married, and now have two wonderful daughters. In our early married years, we attended an Episcopal church, but only really started to have a relationship with Jesus after relocating to the small town of New Braunfels in South Texas while attending First Protestant Church. I learned the value of small groups there, and made my closest friends, and learned the most in these groups.

Linda and I were blessed to get involved with Financial Peace from Dave Ramsey in about 2002. We have facilitated the course multiple times, including a variation of the coursework we adapted for helping to counsel Habitat for Humanity homeowners. God has used us both extensively for the strengthening of His Kingdom, helping believers understand what the bible says about handling money.

Linda and I both recommitted our lives to Christ and were baptized in 2007 while attending a satellite campus of Max Lucado's church in San Antonio.

I retired in 2017, and we relocated to Colorado Springs and began attending Fellowship of the Rockies in 2018. I am involved with various Men's Groups, and serve on the worship team, running the sound board and helping with the behind the scenes production of our live and live-stream services.

I currently work as a train mechanic, machinist helper, and truck driver for the Manitou & Pikes Peak Railroad (aka COG Railway). I hope to serve as a train engineer once we get up and running early next year.

I am honored to be nominated as a Deacon for FOR and will endeavor to help on the Benevolence Team in the coming years. I plan to retire again in a few years, and hope to become a more active member of this team at that time.

May Stevens



I was born to Chinese immigrants in Portland, Oregon, and remained in that area for my entire childhood. My parents were not active in church early on, but God placed aunts, a neighbor and others in my life to invest in me spiritually, and I am so grateful for them. They each took the time and energy to tell me about Jesus, and I eventually prayed and asked Him to be my Savior. During my later elementary years, my parents became true Christians and raised my three younger siblings and me to know and love God. I was baptized in a local river before I graduated from high school.

I attended Wheaton College in Illinois, studied biology and psychology, and met my husband Nathan. We married a couple months after we graduated, and God took us on a transient season for fifteen years. Because of Nathan's medical education and his commitment to the Army, we lived in Washington, Missouri, Arizona, Hawaii, Alaska, and Texas. During that time, we were also blessed with three children: Hannah, Abi and Zach. I am honored to be their stay-at-home mother. Each time we moved, God blessed us with a church family that prioritized His truth and its application. I have served in church choir and nursery, MOPS, Awana, VBS, and hosted small groups and have met so many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ over the years.

The biggest and most positive influence on my relationship with Jesus began when I turned 30 years old and started attending the nearest Bible Study Fellowship class. It is an international, interdenominational Bible study that's been in existence for almost 60 years. Now there are about 400,000 class members on six continents in more than 40 countries. Even though I had a fairly solid foundation, God used this ministry to dramatically change my life, mature me as a Christian, and stretch me beyond what I can ever think or imagine by calling me to serve in a variety of roles for thirteen years. After our days in the Army came to a close, we moved to Nathan's home state of Montana and lived near family for the first time. We thought it would be our "forever" earthly home, but after seven years, God made it clear that His plan was different but better. He moved us to Colorado Springs in 2017 and has abundantly provided for our every need—including our new church family Fellowship of the Rockies. We appreciate being a part of a church that has a high view of God and His Word, prioritizes the Gospel message, draws people of all generations and values children, and is located in our school district so that our kids can meet peers who go to the same church and school. Nathan and I have been married for 25 years now and are thankful for God's grace and work in our lives. It is an honor, privilege, and a high responsibility to serve as a deacon. I pray that God will use FOR's deacon ministry to support our pastors and staff and for His glory and kingdom.

