

# Pastoral Nominating Committee 2024



*Media Presbyterian Church*

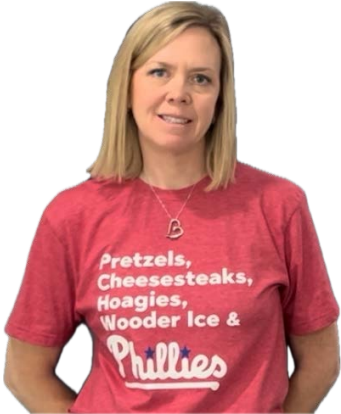
# Meet The Committee

## Peter Ellis



Peter Ellis, who owns a restaurant in Philadelphia's Washington Square neighborhood, has been in the hospitality industry for over two decades. An avid sports coach and hobbyist photographer, Peter and his wife Nicole are the parents of two children, a son and daughter.

## Sandi Gatch



Sandi Gatch has been an active member at MPC for the last 6 years. She is a retired music teacher of 22 years where she taught both elementary and middle school students. She is a proud alum of West Chester University where she received her BS in Music Education and St Joseph's University where she completed her masters in Educational Administration and Curriculum Development. She is a wife to Jim, and mom to Andrew (11) and Nolan (8).

At MPC, Sandi has been a part of multiple committees and taken on many leadership roles.

You may remember watching her "live from the Gatch attic" during Covid where she delivered a weekly children's moment. She continued in this role until March of 2023 when she joined the Worship Team as a keyboard player and vocalist. Beginning in September, she led the Worship Team until a new director was secured. She is currently apart of the Children's Committee, Outreach Committee, and most recently the Search Committee for the Director of Contemporary Music. When she is not volunteering at church, she spends a lot of time at her children's school as a homeroom parent, grade level representative, and chairperson of multiple events. She loves cheering on her boys as they participate in sports and attending their musical concerts and recitals. She is an avid Phillies fan and enjoys quiet time with a good book. Most of all, she cherishes time spent with family and friends.

## Joe Hare



Joe and his wife Susan have been members of MPC since February 1988. They have four children, thirteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They reside in Rose Valley. During the intervening 36 years, Joe has been in active service as either a Deacon or Elder for 26 of those years. He has been Moderator of the Board of Deacons. He has chaired the Mission Committee, Stewardship Committee, and the Finance Committee as a member of Session. Since April 2021, he has served as Clerk of Session.

Prior to retirement in December 2011, he held administrative academic positions at Drexel University for over 20 years. After leaving Drexel, he served for 19 years as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for a major Pharma, Biotech and Life Sciences consulting firm. Since retirement, in addition to his volunteer work at MPC, he has held many volunteer roles in the community. Longwood Gardens takes a major portion of his time volunteering as a photographer. He has done volunteer assignments at Hagley Museum and Library, is president of his HOA, and has been elected to Rose Valley Borough Council serving as finance chair. In addition to digital photography, he is an avid golfer and history buff, particularly colonial and presidential history.

## Susan Kassab



Susan Pickard Kassab has been a member at MPC for over 50 years and enjoys being outside, in her gardens. She serves in leadership roles in Higher Education in the Enrollment Management Arena. The church and its members have nurtured her relationship with God, provided support through challenging life experiences and has given her the opportunity to grow in her faith. Susan would like to be of service to our church and its members. She is hoping that her life experiences with loss and change can be helpful to others in our congregation.

She sings with the choir, has taught Sunday School, participated in the leadership of Camp Kirkwood summer programs, led committees, and has previously served as a Deacon. Susan is looking forward to using her leadership and communication skills to support MPC as the church adapts, grows and creates new opportunities to serve our community.



## Joe Lesniak



Joe Lesniak is a self-employed attorney and has been in this profession for over 20 years. He loves camping, hiking and studying history. He is married to Cait and has two children (Maeve, 8; Will, 10). Joe has served on the administration committee.

## Eric MacDonald



Eric MacDonald was baptized and raised here at Media Presbyterian Church. After returning from college and a year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, he attended an Episcopal Church, until feeling called to return to MPC around 2007. Eric earned his B.A. in elementary education and religion from Westminster College (PA), his M.Ed. from West Chester University and an Ed.D. from Widener University and has taught at Benchmark School for 39 years, mostly working with middle school students.

Eric has been active in leadership in the Keystone State Literacy Association and its local chapter, KSLA Delaware Valley. He previously served on Session from 2015-2019, began another term in 2022, and continues to chair the Worship Committee. Most Sundays you can find him singing with the choir in the choir loft. Recently he has served on the Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee and the Mission Study Team. He loves history, music, reading, walking and his two cats, Calvin and Wesley.

## Betsy Podrebarac



Betsy Podrebarac has been a member of MPC for 38 years, and a former member of staff here for 12 years as Director of Children's Ministry, then as Church Administrator. She is an Elder and has been on many committees, including Worship, Admin, and Property. She enjoys reading and supporting her 2 grandsons' many sporting activities. She has also recently taken up pickleball!