

Pacific Southwest District - Church of the Brethren Background Information for the 2018 - 2019 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

Descriptions of each office are condensed from the PSWD Constitution: www.pswdcob.org

Moderator-Elect (vote for 1): The two year term begins immediately. In addition to being an officer of District Conference, the Moderator-Elect serves on the District Board of Administration, the District Conference Program Committee, and chairs the Nominating Committee.



Mary Kay Ogden:

Age: 72

Congregation: La Verne
CoB

Vocation: Retired public
school teacher and
administrator

Church Experience:

Locally: Serve as a member of the Personnel

Commission, The Peace Camp Planning Committee, Children's Story Time Speaker, Count the offering, Greeter, Faith Partner. District: District Conference Planning Committee (facilities), Back up check signer. National: Children's Disaster Services Trainer and Responder.

Vision Statement: To strengthen the ties that bind us together in Christian love and service.

Clerk (vote for 1) The three year term begins immediately. The Clerk serves on the Nominating Committee; records the minutes of the District Conference, and in cooperation with the District Executive Minister(s) prepares the minutes for publication and distribution to the local congregations; forwards to the Annual Conference secretary any queries passed to Annual Conference by the District Conference; assists in the interpretation of the minutes of the District Conference; serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board; and records the minutes of the Policy Board. The Clerk may be requested by the Executive Board to attend its meetings as the recorder.



Karen Cosner: *incumbent*

Congregation: Modesto
CoB

Vocation: Retired
Executive Director of
non-profit social service
agency providing
housing counseling and
rental assistance to
homeless families.

Church Experience: I am currently the board chair, a member of the search committee, on the personnel committee and sing in the choir. I have been clerk for the District.

Vision Statement: I have learned so much and grown in this position and welcome the opportunity to continue to provide support to the leadership as we work together to continue the mission and ministry of the PSWD.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

Nominating Committee (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately. Members may not serve successive terms. Nominating Committee presents to the District Conference a ballot for each vacancy.



Susan Price:

Age: 41

Congregation: Empire CoB

Vocation: I am a helpmate. I help my husband and our family. I am a caregiver for our special needs daughter. I help my teacher friends

by subbing for them. I help at church wherever I am needed.

Church Experience: In the recent past I served as Youth Leader for 18 years and Assistant Pastor for 9

years. I have led the choir for 20 years and lead the Fellowship Singers every week. I enjoy working with all ages through Vacation Bible School, teaching Sunday School, studying the Bible, planning church events, handing out food to the needy, visiting people in the hospital, and leading music.

Vision Statement: It is my utmost wish for all people that we can truly know who Jesus is and what He has done for us, obey His teachings, serve Him wholeheartedly, being the best witness we can possibly be.

Program Committee, District Conference (vote for 2): The three year term begins immediately. The Committee is responsible for planning the District Conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.



Robert Aguirre: incumbent

Age: 38

Congregation: Glendora CoB

Vocation: Non-Profit Administrator

Church Experience: I recently participated in the Church Planting / Revitalization Conference in Indiana. It was good to hear from different pastors who shared their experiences. It was also good to connect with local pastors and lay leaders who share in the same passion for ministry.

Vision Statement: My vision is to follow Jesus while serving the church and loving the world.



Karleen Daniels:

Age: 75

Congregation: Modesto CoB

Vocation: Business owner and social work

Church Experience: Locally, I am currently the chairperson for our Christian Education Commission and am on the Senior Ministry Committee. I lead children's church most Sundays, occasionally cook for our Wednesday night dinners and usually cook dinner for our monthly Family Unity Nights. Two years ago I served as the local coordinator for district conference when it was in Modesto.

Vision Statement: I hope to help create interesting and useful programs for those attending conference.

PSWD Board of Administration: The term begins immediately. The purpose of the Board is to manage and administer the religious and business activities of the District, as authorized by the District Conference.

PSWD Board of Administration: Arizona Representative.. Vote for 1 (three year term)

Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent, and must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Nelda Clarke: *incumbent*
Age: 67
Congregation: Tucson CoB
Vocation: Minister

Church Experience: I am currently the pastor at the Tucson Church of the Brethren and serve as chair of the District Policy

Board. I have served on the District Board in Northern Plains and chair of their Ministry Commission. In addition I have served as a table coordinator at several recent Annual Conferences and in other roles over the years.

Vision Statement: My vision for the church is to spread God's love wherever we are and wherever we go, leaving judgement to God.

PSWD Board of Administration: Central CA Representative.. Vote for 1 (three year term)

Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent, and must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Richard Keeling: *currently filling an unexpired term*
Age: 31
Congregation: Bakersfield CoB
Vocation: Teacher

Church Experience: I have been an active member of the Bakersfield Church of the Brethren all of my life. Starting in High School and continuing to the present day, I take care of the sound in church and run the Powerpoint in the back. I also served two terms as Moderator from 2011-2017 and am

currently serving as Board Chair. I attended the 2015 Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida as a delegate, and spent the last 18 months serving on the District Policy Board in place of a seat that was vacated.

Vision Statement: My vision for the district is to focus on being faithful and responsible stewards of the resources we have, and finding a message that resonates with today's society. I believe that now, more than ever, there is a desire for a church that stands up for principles of peace and justice. To do that effectively, we must first build bonds of love, trust, and understanding within our local congregations and communities.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives Vote for 3 (three year term)
Board members must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Christi Stanford Bowman: *currently filling an unexpired term*
Age: 56
Congregation: Church of the Living Savior, McFarland
Vocation: I have been a high school teacher /counselor for 27 years.

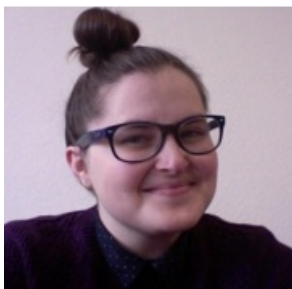
Church Experience: I have taught Sunday School and have assisted with the leadership of our youth groups. I have served on the Nurture Commission, helped organize and lead small group Bible studies, and have been an Annual Conference Delegate. I help with the music ministry in our congregation and I am currently our Board Chair.

Vision Statement: I want to reflect my Christian beliefs and values of faith, honesty, hope, kindness and love. I believe that Jesus set an example of service and we have been given the responsibility to follow it. I would like to see the PSWD provide leadership training, financial assistance, and building maintenance/repair for our sister congregations. I look forward to the possibility of working with my brothers and sisters in Christ as we serve God together and strive to make a difference in our local congregations and our communities.



Jonas Funderburk:
Age: 57
Congregation: Glendale CoB
Vocation: Accounting Assistant
Church Experience: I have been treasurer for the Glendale Church for over 30 years and also serve on the church board.

Vision Statement: To help the Church of the Brethren have exposure to as many people as possible and let people who do not know God in their lives see what is possible when you lead a God-centered life.



Jaime Farrar:
Age: 23
Congregation: Modesto CoB
Vocation: Behavioral Interventionist
Church Experience:

Recently was the young adult position on the policy board.

Vision Statement: I want to do what I can to allow our district to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with the best of our abilities.

PSWD Board of Administration: Youth & Young Adult Representative. Vote for 3 (one year term)

Youth members must be at least 15 years old and less than 24 years old as of December 31 of the year elected.



Mario Cabrera:

Age: 18

Congregation: Príncipe de Paz CoB

Vocation: I primarily organize events for the youth for the Pacific Southwest District.

Church Experience: I have the honor to serve in the Youth Cabinet, the District Board, and helping out in my local congregation. As a youth cabinet leader we help organize events tailored to the youth. As a district board member I listen and give my opinions from a young point of view about specific decisions made for the Pacific Southwest congregations. I also primarily do musical assistance for our live band in Iglesia Príncipe de Paz.

Vision Statement: I have a goal to introduce a completely different point of view to everyone I meet.



Olivia Celedon:

Age: 16

Congregation: Bakersfield CoB

Vocation: High school student and cheerleader.

Church Experience: I've attended Bakersfield Church of the Brethren my whole life. I recently went to National Youth Conference this summer.

Vision Statement: I would like to be more involved in the church. Understand how things work and contribute more time with the youth.



Elizabeth Piazza:

incumbent

Age: 17

Congregation: Live Oak CoB

Vocation: High School Senior.

Church Experience: I am currently the youth representative on the Church Board at the Live Oak Church of the Brethren. I have also been a member of the PSWD Youth Cabinet for the past 3 years. Recently, I have had the opportunity to be a Youth Representative on the PSWD Policy Board and serve as secretary to the Steward's Commission.

Vision Statement: I have had the opportunity on various PSWD Committee's for the past 3 years. This has been a time of learning and spiritual growth for me. I would like to continue to serve another year and be a voice and advocate for the youth of the district. I believe the youth can and will continue to be a vital part of this district and denomination as we all serve and grow together.