

**Pacific Southwest District - Church of the Brethren  
Background Information for the 2020 - 2021 Ballot**

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

Descriptions of each office are condensed from the PSWD Constitution: [www.pswdcob.org](http://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.



**Paul Lovelace:**

*Age: 69*

*Congregation: Pomona Fellowship*

*Vocation: Retired Vocational Instructor*

*Church Experience:*

Most recently I have been a church board member as well as a deacon. I am the primary sound technician for Sunday mornings and am called on as a substitute preacher several times a year. Participation in both vocal and instrumental music for worship is very important to me. This year, 2022, I am the Annual Conference Delegate for my congregation. In the more distant past, I had the privilege of being on the District

Board, including being the board Chair.

*Vision Statement:* My congregation, Pomona Fellowship Church, is currently seeking God's call to us for where and who we should be. I think this is the current challenge for most congregations. How is God calling us to be Christ's church in a world that is not listening for God's voice. With Christianity being most visibly represented by radical evangelical churches that often make people feel Christianity is about judgement instead of about love. My hope is that by working together, the churches of the PSWD will find creative ways of expressing God's love through service and sharing the gospel of Christ's love for all.

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**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.



**Brenda Dickson:**

*Congregation: South Bay  
Age 78*

*Vocation: Retired*

*Church Experience:*

I am currently on South Bay's Nominating Com-

mittee and Pastoral Search Committee. Hopefully we will have found the pastor God has for us by PSWD District Conference this year.

*Vision Statement:* To find the delegates God will use to lead PSWD into a period of growth and productivity.

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

**Program Committee, District Conference** (vote for 1): 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.



**Karen Pierson**  
*Congregation:* Church of the Living Savior  
*Age:* 65

*Vocation:* Retired from Teaching

*Church Experience:*

Glendora Church of the Brethren is where I grew up and became a member. Gary and I moved to

McFarland in 1980. I've been an active member of the McFarland congregation ever since. District wise, I've served on the board for several terms on different commissions: nurture, ministry, program committee, board vice chair, district moderator.

*Vision Statement:* That people would see Jesus by our actions of love for each other, our community, and the world.

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**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 Section Reps:** . . . . Vote for 1 in each section (three year term)

**Southern California East and Nevada Representative:** 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 Zapata:**  
*Age:* 58  
*Congregation:* Príncipe de Paz

*Vocation:* My passion involves church planting, church growth and Hispanic ministries

*Church Experience:* 14 years as a Hispanic CoB pastor, policy board member

*Vision Statement:* To see more families committed to Jesus and to their communities

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**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.



**Jay Irizzary:**  
*Age:* 42  
*Congregation:* Empire

*Vocation:* Information Technology

*Church Experience:*  
"Waterford CoB: IT:

Webmaster; Sound Technician; Board Member; Outreach Commission Chair, Financial Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Sunday Worship Counter;

Backup Office Assistant. ● Empire CoB: IT: Webmaster / Live Stream Producer; Church Board Member / Board Chairman & Assistant Moderator: Worship Commission; Mariners Co-President. ● PSWD CoB: Board Vice Chair; Policy Board Member / Executive Board member; Ministry Commission. ● Brethren Volunteer Service: Information Services Tech Support BVSer, Church of the Brethren (Brethren Service Center).

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to grow in God's love through acts of service and ministry.

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B



**Erik Brummett:**

*Age:* 36

*Congregation:* Live Oak

*Vocation:* Pastor

*Church Experience:*

I currently serve as pastor of Live Oak Church of the Brethren. I have been in ministry with them since early 2016. While pastoral ministry can be a roller coaster, it is a roller coaster I love and enjoy. I have served on the district policy board for 3 years now. My third year saw me serve district board chair, which has me also serve as the chair of the executive board. My first two years saw me serve on the ministry commission. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the policy board, ministry commission and executive board. It has been a lot of fun to be able to get to know so many people across our district and hear about the life of their congregations and how they and the district can best support one another. It was an honor to be asked to serve on the district policy board and just as much as honor to be asked to serve as its chair. To be asked to do so again fills me with pride and joy.

*Vision Statement:* So much has changed for the world, the US, and the church over the last 3 years. The pandemic began shortly after I was called to serve on the district policy board. Our congregations, our worship services, our commission meetings, our board meetings, all went online. The church was forced to adapt to a world gone virtual. And we had to keep adapting and pivoting as things got worse, then better, then worse. It was exhausting. But we learned things about ourselves, our friends. Our family, our neighbors, our churches, and our nation that I suspect many of us would have preferred not to learn. And in that, I think we forgot a lot of things. My vision is that we would simply remember. Remember how to love one another. Remember how to have peace with one another. Remember how to live with one another. Remember how to be Christ to one another. Remember how to be the church. Remember how to continue Jesus' work.

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**Feranda Navarrete:**

*Age:* 28

*Congregation:* Pasadena

*Vocation:* Serve people.

For instance, help them in their spiritual and emotional process.

*Church Experience:*

I am currently working on a new church plant project in Pasadena CA. Our ministry is focused on the Hispanic community and is called Conexión Pasadena.

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to be part of a community that moves in the love of Christ, compassion and service to others..

**PSWD Board of Administration: Youth & Young Adult Representative.** Vote for 2 (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.



**Cooper Sampson:**  
*Age: 16*  
*Congregation: Modesto*  
*Vocation: Student*  
*Church Experience:*  
None

*Vision Statement:* For church, I do not.

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**Elena Yoder:**  
*Age: 19*  
*Congregation: Circle of Peace*  
*Vocation:* I am a 19-year old who is grateful for the opportunity to always learn and grow.

I enjoy being a part of the journey God has put me on and constantly work on showing that in my daily life.

*Church Experience:* I attend the Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren and am involved in New Community Project. I love outreach and spend time at Camp Blue Diamond volunteering in the summer times.

*Vision Statement:* I love to work on 4 things: spreading kindness, breaking borders, sharing hope, and embracing the moment. Each of these have contributed to who I am as a person and where I am going in the future. I am committed to living out each of these through my words and actions.