

Candidate Profiles

2025 Elected Officers

ELDER CANDIDATES



Christian Raab

Spouse: Rachel

Children: Anna Grace, Christa, Weston, Russell, Charlee

Member for: 2 years

Employment: Pinnacle Home, Inc.

How do you desire God to use you as an elder?

My desire is to partner with the church at First Free “to make disciples of Jesus Christ who glorify God as the grace of the gospel grows deep in God’s people and goes wide to all peoples.” It is my prayer that God would use me to help point others to Christ, so we would love God supremely and others sacrificially. Our family has been so encouraged by the strong tradition at First Free of being people of the Word, and I am grateful for opportunities to study and teach in adult education and Awana. I look forward to continued opportunities to build relationships within the church, so the gospel can grow deep in me and our church family, and that we can faithfully reach out to our community and around the world as the gospel goes wide to all people.



Scott Stringfield

Spouse: Kerry

Children: Anne, Stephen, Eric

Member for: 11 years

Employment: Clinical instructor at the Kansas Health Sciences University, education consultant, and Hutchinson Regional Hospital in outpatient medical work

How do you desire God to use you as an elder? To be faithfully loving, serving, caring for, protecting, and, most importantly knowing (and being known by) the body of Christ here. Having been an elder previously I feel as though I know what is involved, how I can support the pastors and leaders of this church, and utilize my gifts and talents so that the Lord is glorified.



Jeff S.

(personal info available upon request)

Member for: 35 years

Employment: District Court Judge

How do you desire God to use you as an elder?

My desire is to glorify God and advance his mission through this local church. Sue and I deeply love First Free and its people. Having been a member for so long and an elder the last twelve years, it is my prayer that God would pair my leadership experience with my love for our people to effect his mission—to make disciples of Jesus who glorify God as his gospel grows deep in his people and goes wide to all people.



Joe Woodward

Spouse: Andrea

Children: Belle, Miles

Member for: 11 years

Employment: Leads Stand Together Foundation’s work in Wichita (based out of Koch)

How do you desire God to use you as an elder?

My desire is to faithfully serve the way I’ve seen so many faithful men do so. I’m passionate about reaching the lost, and know that love for the lost starts with loving God supremely and loving one another sacrificially. It takes all of us to accomplish our mission. My hope is that each church member would realize, practically, how they need the church and how the church needs them (1 Cor. 12:22). Together I believe we can make a serious impact on the flourishing of our city.

TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



John Hendley

Spouse: Erika

Children: Simon, Anna

Member for: 9 years

Employment: Math Teacher at Classical School of Wichita

How do you desire God to use you as trustee?

I desire that God would equip me with the necessary wisdom, care, and discretion to be a contributing member on the Trustee Board as we seek to fulfill the calling of caring for and stewarding the resources that he has blessed our church with. Maintaining integrity in the areas of church management, budgeting, and operations is of utmost importance and it would be a blessing to step into this role again for a second term and serve alongside the other trustees.



Andrew Spare

Spouse: Rachel

Children: Charlie, Alice, Henry

Member for: 8 years

Employment: Self-employed mechanical engineer

How do you desire God to use you as a trustee?

As a church we have been given many blessings. I pray that God will give me wisdom and understanding to assist in the great task of stewarding some of those blessings. Stewardship is not ownership, and our attitudes towards our fiscal and physical assets should reflect that. My desire is that through responsible stewardship those in our church will continue to grow in the grace of the gospel and that people both inside and outside of the church will see the present and future glory of the kingdom of God.

DEACON CANDIDATES



Kathy Bowles

Spouse: Mark

Children: Rachel, Zak

Member for: 13 years

Employment: Volunteer RN with ICT Street Team and Guadalupe Clinic

Deacon Position: Meals

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon?

My desire is that I can always be a light showing Jesus' love to others in any service I do. Since I have an extensive restaurant/culinary background, I utilize those skills to serve the church in the kitchen. Preparing food so that others can enjoy the fellowship times has been a privilege.



Marcia Guggisberg

Spouse: Jack

Children: Four adult children

Member for: 12 years

Deacon Position: Funeral Meals

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon? I think it is wonderful that our church provides a funeral lunch for our grieving families. I have had experience in preparing and serving large meals for many years and I would be pleased to serve our church in this way for a second term.



Merav Maxwell

Spouse: Dean

Children: Grace, Leo

Member for: 13 years

Employment: Homeschool and bookkeeper

Deacon Position: Funeral Meals

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon?

During our recent sermon series on 1 Timothy, Pastor Josh preached on the role of deacons in the church. He said, "as we serve, we reflect the Servant, ... the one who washed the feet of his disciples, and we are called to do the same." Providing funeral meals is a tangible way to meet the needs of our church members at a time when they truly need to be ministered to. In addition, it is an opportunity to support gospel ministry interacting with family and friends who are visiting our church for a funeral and may not be followers of Christ. Finally, I would pray that God would use my time as a deacon to grow in godly character.



JeanAnn Sleichter

Spouse: Kirk

Children: Meredith, Lydia

Member for: 40+ years

Deacon Position: Funeral Meals

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon?

The funeral meal ministry is one that is near to my heart because I have been to many funeral dinners over the years and I know how meaningful it is to families to feel that care. Sharing a meal together is such a personal and special time. I pray that God will use me to minister to people's needs, physical and spiritual, through serving them a meal. A kind word or small deed can mean so much to those who are grieving. God has given us each gifts that can be used to glorify him and edify the body. I love to feed people and want to use that gift as a way to encourage and show God's love to those who are hurting. The funeral meal meets a practical need but it also shows love for the body of Christ. I want to be used to show that love.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE CANDIDATES



Randy Steinert

Spouse: Jan

Member for: 30+ years

Deacon Position: Ushers

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon?

My prayer would be for the Lord to cultivate a servant's attitude in my role as the Usher deacon. This will be characterized by being a spiritual ambassador for the church by displaying humility, integrity, and service to others. I will prioritize serving others by being organized, recruiting ushers, training ushers, welcoming/greeting/assisting worshippers, and keeping people safe and comfortable during emergency situations.



Susan S.

(personal info available upon request)

Member for: 35 years

Deacon Position: Communion/Baptism

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon?

I absolutely love our church and the family that comes with it! I'd be blessed to be able to work with candidates in the process of baptism. I'm always touched when I listen to people's journeys of faith and their desire to take this next step of obedience. I'm happy to serve our congregation by assisting with communion. I understand its importance in expressing the gospel in our worship services.



Elizabeth Williams

Spouse: Noman

Children: Rachel, Leah

Member for: 1.5 years

Deacon Position: Greeters

How do you desire God to use you as a deacon?

First, let me say that I am honored to be a deacon. Throughout my Christian walk God has called me into many areas of service: from Christian education, choir, to supporting people in all kinds of arenas. He has made it clear in my heart and passions that hospitality is my giftedness. I want to respond to his call—"Here I am, Lord, send me." I pray that God will use me to uplift the body, encourage those in need, and be humble in service.



Cindy Brazell

Spouse: Greg

Children: Sam, Joe, Dan

Member for: 33 years

Employment: Via Christi Family Medicine

How do you desire God to use you as a member of the Missions Committee?

This is a difficult question for me to answer, because I don't want to confuse my own desires with what purpose the Lord has for placing me on the Missions Committee. I want to be open to what he wants me to both do and learn. My vision is that the members of the committee individually would grow in their love of the Lord and glorify him; that in doing so, we would be a good representation of the body of First Free to our missionaries and serve them well; and that First Free and our missionaries in turn would be people of integrity, humility, and purpose that feel supported as they represent the body of Christ to those that need to be reached.



Sabrina Nibbelink

Spouse: Ron

Children: Three adult daughters

Member for: 3 years

Employment: Field RN Interim Home Health and Hospice

How do you desire God to use you as a member of the Missions Committee?

After taking the Perspectives class I've gained a broader understanding of current spiritual needs worldwide and how we all can work alongside God, sharing the good gospel news in relevant ways. How powerful it is when one knows how to reach out to others in welcoming ways whether to a newcomer at church, the clerk at Dillons, a new Muslim refugee family in Wichita or to people groups across the seas. May our Lord Jesus be proclaimed to all!

Sunday, November 17

Snacks at 5:00 pm

Members Meeting at 6:00 pm