

Call Committee Nominee Bios

Al Swingle

I feel honored to be nominated for the Call Committee and feel that if I am elected, I can make an important contribution toward selecting the future pastor for our congregation. Since I have been interviewed by call committees of churches in the past, perhaps I can bring a unique perspective to our call process.

I am a retired ELCA pastor and live on Capitol Hill with my wife Nancy. I have been a member of Reformation since we moved here in 2005. During my years of pastoral ministry, I served as a missionary in Liberia, West Africa; a parish pastor of two different congregations in Ohio; and as a full-time hospital chaplain in Toledo, Ohio. At Reformation I am involved in many areas of congregational life including worship whenever possible. In addition, some specific aspects include assisting leading worship, doing minor repairs of the building, and visiting shut-ins.

Jenna Jablonski

Jenna provides marketing and storytelling services to science organizations as a consultant, while running the website sisterstem.org, an online publication amplifying the voices of gender minorities in STEM fields. Jenna has been a member of Reformation with her husband Dan O'Brien since 2014 (dedicated 8:30 service goers), except for one year away from DC. She served on the Engagement and Communications committee around 2015, was an usher/greeter pre-pandemic, and has regularly participated in service and justice activities and small groups.

While getting her business started, she spent two years working part-time in the Reformation office as the communications and database administrator (from 2018-2020). She produced the Weekly Word e-newsletter, quarterly print newsletters, and annual reports; managed the member database; and executed the 2018 congregational photo directory project with Pastor Ben. Jenna would bring a unique perspective to the call committee given her experience on the church staff in addition to her eight years as an active Reformation member. She would be honored to help identify a senior pastor who embodies Reformation's values and who can lead us into the future, deepening Reformation's legacy of radical inclusiveness and ministering to our congregation and community through the challenges of our time.

Sarah Stauderman

Sarah has been a member of Reformation since 1997 and enjoyed serving in many different parts of this community, sometimes in more than one role at a time! She has been on Council, Call Committee for Pastor Braaten (1999-2001), Sunday school teacher, stained glass window restoration team, Worship, Music & the Arts committee, Building revitalization project, and Altar Guild. She lives on Capitol Hill with her husband Andrew Robb, former Council president who works at the Library of Congress, and their son Frederic, who is a high school senior at School Without Walls. She works at the National Archives (College Park) as Deputy Director, Preservation Programs. Sarah has a deep love and enthusiasm for this spiritual community and hopes that it will continue to work for justice in our neighborhood and world while nurturing those who come to worship in this beautiful space. Sarah believes that through our generous actions we can spread the good news of love and faith. Our new Pastor should embrace the best of what we have been, and what we can be.

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson and his husband Pete Hillman have been members of Reformation for 2.5 years and live in Capitol Hill. Mike grew up in the Lutheran church as the son of a Lutheran pastor. In 2014, Mike and Pete were married at Holy Trinity Lutheran church in Chicago where they were active members for several years. Professionally, Mike is a VP of Marketing at Gartner.

At Reformation, Mike is an usher, member of the Engagement & Communications Committee, and currently leading a task force to evaluate church management software and online giving platforms. In the past, Mike has also volunteered for Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, Nourishment for the Needy, and meal service programs.

Mike is excited to help Reformation identify an inspiring, dynamic, highly-organized church leader who will help build upon all of the fantastic work of our church today, minister to the needs of our parishioners and community, and build engagement to healthily grow our congregation for the next decade and beyond.

Matt Fuehrmeyer

I've been a member of Reformation since 2010 and I live in Silver Spring with my wife, Liz Baden, and our two children. I taught the occasional Sunday School lesson when our kids were in First Steps in Faith, and I also served on the Council from 2018 to 2020, including two years as president of the congregation. We've learned a lot about ourselves as a congregation over the last several years (including, but not limited to the pandemic). I hope I'm able to lean on the experience I gained working closely with Pastor Mike, Pastor Ben, and Pastor Lisa to help Reformation find a new senior pastor who can not only help us meet the needs we have, but also help us grow into the future.

Chari Voss

I have been a part of the Reformation family since I moved to DC in 1995. I moved here after completing graduate school to work as a French-English interpreter and translator. Reformation is where I met Del, my husband of 24 years, and where we raised our two sons.

I have been involved in various ministry areas of the church, including: teaching Sunday School for many years, assisting with youth activities, hosting coffee hour regularly, serving on Church Council, serving on the Southeast Ministry board, being a member of the Caring and Fellowship Committee, and serving as a Livestream team member. When I first came to Reformation, I even worked part-time in the church office under Pastors Wee and McNeill.

I've found Reformation to be a wonderful community of caring people passionate about supporting each other and those around us in our larger community. I am honored to be considered for the Call Committee and to contribute to finding a pastor who will be a good fit for our congregation – someone who will help us continue our social justice outreach ministries, but also minister to us as a regular “parish pastor” – equally focused on, and in tune with the spiritual needs of our congregants. The incoming pastor will certainly have big shoes to fill, but with God's grace and guidance, I hope to help find our next great pastor!

Emmett Antonen (Youth Representative)

I've been a part of Reformation Church for my whole life. I've lived in Dc my whole life and I go to school downtown. I'm in 9th grade at Basis DC. I have been involved a lot with the church by coming to youth group meetings, being an acolyte, and helping with communion. Reformation is an amazing family and I'm grateful that I get to help pick its new leader.