



Leadership Election 2025

Elder & Deacon Candidate Profiles

Calvary Church has scheduled its annual election of elders and deacons for **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19** at the conclusion of the morning worship service. Calvary members ages 18+ who are in attendance on campus on January 19 are eligible to vote. No absentee ballots will be accepted. *Please note, there are candidate profiles on the front and back pages of this document.*

Elder Candidate

Calvary ELDERS serve 4-year terms. This candidate must receive 80% of the vote from all ballots cast to be elected.



Mike Smith

FAMILY: Married to Kelli; we have two adult children and four grandchildren.

TESTIMONY: My father was in the Air Force, so I grew up moving from place to place, gaining much worldly experience. While I was loved, it was not a Christian home. After Kelli and I married, we started attending church, and I learned more about the Lord, but I did not accept Christ as my Savior until 1988. At that time, I was convicted by the Holy Spirit of my sin, and through a series of events, was led to the Lord by a Gideon. Since then, I have served in a variety of church ministries. I have grown in my faith through these experiences and through the personal time I spend with the Lord in study and prayer.

MINISTRIES: We became members at Calvary in 2010. I currently serve in Worship Ministry as a member of the choir. I have served in the Student Ministry on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, as an SLG Leader for middle and high school, and as a leader for many youth trips and the GO Alaska missions trip. I previously co-taught an ALG, served on the Sunday Welcome Team, was a Nursery volunteer, an Awana shepherd, a Hearts & Hammers team member, and served with the Homeless Ministry on Saturdays. I have also served as a deacon and an elder.

How I desire God to use me in this role: My desire is that God would use me to accomplish His purposes by serving in the leadership of Calvary, meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the church, leading others to Christ by the truth of His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. I also desire that my actions, if elected as an elder, would bring honor and glory to our Lord.

Deacon Candidates

Calvary DEACONS serve 3-year terms. **Thirteen (13)** of the 14 candidates will be elected.



Jerry Byrum

FAMILY: Married to Rhonda; we have two adult children and two grandchildren. Our youngest son passed away in 2022.

TESTIMONY: Rhonda and I started attending Calvary Church in 1989. In 1992, Tony Evans was a guest speaker. After his message, the Holy Spirit convicted me that it was finally time to surrender. I responded to the invitation by raising my hand. Soon after, Greg Laurie spoke at Calvary and gave an invitation. At that time, I made a public profession of faith by going forward.

MINISTRIES: I have been a member of Calvary since 1990. I am currently serving as a deacon. I also serve as an usher, as well as with Children's Ministry, Street Ministry, Food Service, and Prison Ministry.

How I desire God to use me in this role: My desire is to give God pleasure in my walk with Him. When He provides me with opportunities to serve Him, I pray about it and proceed as the Holy Spirit guides me. I want to glorify Him.



Hector Castillo

FAMILY: Married to Estela; we have two teenage children.

TESTIMONY: I was raised as a Catholic in Guatemala. Later, when my parents became evangelical Christians, I was baptized and attended church regularly as well. I thought I was in good standing with God because I was a good person, had a good family, and held conservative values. During my university years, God got a hold of my heart and made me realize I needed a personal relationship with Him. He opened my eyes to see that He is a Holy God and that I was a sinner needing rescue. Everything changed once I made Him Lord of my life, and my identity is now in Christ alone. In 2016, we moved to Charlotte and have attended Calvary Church since. My hunger to know Christ more intimately and serve Him continues growing in me daily.

MINISTRIES: I have been a member of Calvary since 2017 and currently serve as a deacon. I am involved in an ALG men's Bible study, and I lead my family in weekly Bible study. I'm a small group leader for tenth grade students, and I serve with the Welcome Team. Our family enjoys volunteering for activities and ministries in the church.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I want to love and serve Christ and His church by actively exercising the gifts and talents He gave me. It's a blessing to have so many opportunities to serve at Calvary Church.



David Dafoe

FAMILY: Married to Becky.

TESTIMONY: I grew up in a non-Christian home. After living in Germany for several years, a friend became a Christian and shared the Gospel with me. I sensed the emptiness and sin in my life. As I read the Bible, I became convicted that my life was built upon a foundation of sand (Matthew 7:26–27). After returning to the US in 1984, I received Jesus Christ into my life. I joined a Bible-teaching church, was discipled, and became involved in ministry. After I retired in 2004, Becky and I trained as missionaries to Japan, where we served for two years. I completed my studies at Dallas Seminary, and we moved to South Carolina in 2012. Since trusting in Christ, people have become more significant to me, and as a Christian I strive to love, help, and serve them.

MINISTRIES: I have been a member of Calvary since 2020 and currently serve as a deacon. Also, I assist in teaching the Amazing Grace ALG and a men's Bible study. I have served with the Luke 14 Banquet and in Food Service Ministry.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I look forward to serving another term as a deacon and getting to know more people so I can touch their lives for the Savior.



Tim Deacon

FAMILY: Married to Nancy; we have two adult children and five grandchildren.

TESTIMONY: Although I attended church as a child in Canada, I grew up in a non-Christian home. Through events that could have only been orchestrated by God, I immigrated to South Carolina, where I met and married Nancy. We attended church but were not born again. About 15 years ago, I started thinking about mortality and began to study the Bible deeply. Through studying Matthew, John, and Romans, I accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior in 2010. I recognized my sinful nature and repented for my sins, acknowledging the price that Christ had paid on my behalf. At that moment, I felt like my heart had been changed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The priorities in my life have changed. Living my life to honor and glorify God became the most important thing.

MINISTRIES: We joined Calvary in March 2019, and I currently serve as a deacon. Together, my wife and I have participated in Senior Adult Luncheons, Prison Ministry, Organ Concerts, First Responder Outreach, Operation Christmas Child, Servants With a Heart, ushering/greeting, Cricket Outreach, Café Visitors Ministry, International Receptions, and Luke 14 Banquets.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I am committed to the Calvary's mission of "being and making authentic followers of Jesus Christ" through knowing and following God's Word. I believe the spiritual gifts God has given me have prepared me to love and serve Him and my neighbors as a leader at Calvary Church.



Thomas Holtz

FAMILY: Married to Rhonda; we have two adult children and six grandchildren.

TESTIMONY: I was raised in the Episcopal Church, but after high school, I attended church services infrequently besides Christmas and Easter. I met my wife in 1984 and was intrigued by her faith. I started attending a Southern Baptist church with her and heard the Gospel. I struggled with the concept of grace, but in a session with a pastor, I accepted that I was a sinner, yet Christ was still inviting me. He led a perfect life because I could not. He suffered and died as punishment that should have been dealt to me. He was buried and raised to life for me. I accepted Him as my Savior on January 9, 1985. Rhonda had made that decision almost exactly 20 years earlier. In 2012, I underwent quadruple bypass surgery. I never feared because I knew I would either come through it or wake in the presence of God. This is what eternal life means to me.

MINISTRIES: We joined Calvary in 2007 and rejoined in January 2021 after living several years in St. Louis. I currently serve as an usher, with the Military Ministry, and volunteer at JAARS. I also served as a deacon at Calvary (2012–2014).

How I desire God to use me in this role: I greatly appreciate Calvary's faithfulness to the Gospel in the preaching, teaching, missions, and all the ministries of the church. I am familiar with the duties of a deacon, and I look forward to serving again if elected.



Nick Illuminati

FAMILY: Married to Kelly.

TESTIMONY: At a young age, the words of Luke 19:10 penetrated my heart: "the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." At that moment, the cross became personal. I understood that Jesus loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20). After completing my MBA at Vanderbilt in 2017, I came under the conviction that I was not living with Jesus as the Lord of my life. From that point forward, John 3:30 became a guiding verse in my life. Since then, I have lost both of my parents to cancer. While difficult, God has continued to bless my life in a multitude of ways (including my recent marriage to Kelly) and made it clear how I might serve Him more.

MINISTRIES: I have been a member at Calvary since 2020. I am currently the lead teacher of the Upward Call ALG, which is a group for all ages immersed in an expository but practical study of the Word. I also joined Pastor Reece on a GO Trip to Kazakhstan in 2023. Outside of Calvary, I have been involved in Bible Study Fellowship for the past seven years.

How I desire God to use me in this role: God has given me a desire to see people not only saved, but disciplined to become more like Christ, bearing fruit for God's glory (Ephesians 2:10). I enjoy studying and teaching the Word of God and am passionate about clearly communicating the Gospel.



Randy Loman

FAMILY: Married to Patti; we have three adult children and four grandchildren.

TESTIMONY: During a college break in 1970, my uncle served as a guest preacher and laid out the plan of salvation. That morning, the Holy Spirit took over and convicted me of my sins. I repented, and Jesus' blood washed me whiter than snow.

MINISTRIES: We became members of Calvary in April 2013. I serve in the choir and attend the Joy ALG. I have been involved in Worship Ministry leadership at several churches for over 50 years. In addition, I have coached youth sports for 30 seasons. I thank God for all the blessings to serve Him during my life.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I came to Calvary to be with my aging mother and take care of her needs. Since her passing three years ago, I have felt the tug of the Lord to become more involved in Calvary ministries. I have a heart for youth, visiting the hospitalized, shut-ins, and widows. My prayer is for God to use me in a mighty way for His service.



Joe McCain

FAMILY: Married to Abby; we have two young children.

TESTIMONY: I grew up in the church and accepted Jesus as my Savior in my teens. After graduating college, I wandered away from Christ. I went through some pitfalls and started my journey back in my thirties. I started praying again and realized I needed to put my life into God's sovereign hands. It was at this point I was introduced to my soon-to-be wife, Abby. She asked me to join her at Calvary, and that day's sermon seemed to be directed at me. I prayed for God to become the center of my life and help me lead in a way that would glorify Him. After we married and had a child on the way, I lost my job. I had faith that God's hand was guiding me through this time, and soon found new employment. Now, I lead my family in our walk with God.

MINISTRIES: I joined Calvary in May 2018. I am currently on the Communion Team, served in Children's Ministry and Nursery, and have served as an usher on Christmas Eve for five years. Outside of Calvary, I serve as a coach on my children's sports teams.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I want to continue to serve where needed at Calvary and use this role to uncover new spiritual gifts. I want to become more of a leader for my generation in the church.



Alex Maroz

FAMILY: Married to Yelizaveta (Veta).

TESTIMONY: I was born into a family where my mom was a devout Christian, but my father was not. Without a proper father figure, I began searching for validation and acceptance from bad friends. I started to live in sin but still being "religious." My parents divorced when I graduated high school, forcing me to work to help pay the bills at home. Through this, the Lord humbled me. I lost my friends and my identity in the life I had. I fell to my knees and cried out to the Lord with a pastor as a witness. Jesus became my identity and purpose, filling all voids in my life. And now my burning desire is to glorify His magnificent name for what He has done.

MINISTRIES: I have been a member since November 2023. I am involved in the Street Ministry and CHAMP Sports.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I believe that God has gifted me with a gift of evangelism and helping people come to know the Lord. As a Christian, one of the most important roles in the faith is the Great Commission — to go to the ends of the world, making disciples of all nations — and

I believe now more than ever we are called to do that. I support and am committed to the mission of Calvary Church, and I am ready to serve wherever the Lord puts me, helping His Word, the true Word, to be taught. I am honored to be part of this amazing body of Christ, and I am ready to say with Isaiah, "Here I am Lord, send me."



Morris McClellion

FAMILY: Married to Sharon; we have two adult children and six granddaughters.

TESTIMONY: I attended church all my early life, but I did not know Christ as my Savior until I was in my early thirties. I realized through the conviction of the Holy Spirit that I had never asked Him to forgive me of my sins. What a difference that day made in my life. My wife and I then began studying God's Word through Bible Study Fellowship, and our lives began to move and grow towards truly knowing Christ and desiring to serve and abide daily in Him.

MINISTRIES: My wife and I have been Calvary members since 2023, and we attend the Family Life ALG. I currently serve as a mentor in the Awana program. I also serve with Food Service as a volunteer for the Christmas Tea and the Luke 14 events.

How I desire God to use me in this role: Being a deacon is about serving Calvary Church and its members according to God's leading. And through this, I desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Richie Platt

FAMILY: Married to Brittany; we have six young children.

TESTIMONY: In 1988, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and repented of my sins at a Billy Graham Crusade in Columbia, SC. I felt the Holy Spirit calling me to come forward and give my life to Christ. I went forward with my dad and confessed my sins, acknowledged that Jesus is the Son of God, died on the cross for me, and prayed the prayer of acceptance. When we came home that night, my mom read the Bible and prayed with me. Christ's peace and love came over me, and I was overwhelmed with gratitude and very happy. I was baptized at age eight. Throughout the challenging times, I have realized that when I put Jesus at the center of my life and trust that He will work things out for His Glory, He does just that.

MINISTRIES: My wife and I have been members since April 2022. I am involved in Children's Ministry and CHAMP Sports.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I am passionate about sharing Jesus' love with people of all ages. I especially have a desire to share Christ with children. To help a child know Christ at an early age is very important in today's world. Wherever God leads me within Calvary ministries, I will serve my Lord and Savior.



Larry Pratt

FAMILY: Married to Connie; we have one daughter.

TESTIMONY: Growing up, I was raised in an authentic Christian home and heard the Gospel in church. Following a Children's Church message at age seven, I was counseled about trusting in Christ as my Savior. At that time, I made a decision and was baptized. Several years later, I began to question what I had truly understood about my profession of faith, so I sought further counseling after hearing a message in youth group. That night in 1963, I placed my faith in Christ for the forgiveness of my sins based upon His finished work on the cross. I professed with certainty that Christ was my Savior and Lord, and I was rebaptized as a "new" believer two months later. I have committed to following and serving Him faithfully since that time.

MINISTRIES: We have been members since 2016. I currently serve in the Nursery each month. I also served at the Luke 14 Banquets and Christmas Tea, hosted missionary families in our home during the Missions Conference, and participated in the Senior-to-Senior ministry.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I believe that God has gifted me in the areas of hospitality and administration. It would be my privilege to employ these gifts in serving the body of Christ at Calvary as a deacon, even as I have been blessed and encouraged by Calvary deacons in the past.



Ryan Smith

FAMILY: Married to Katy; we have four young children.

TESTIMONY: I grew up in a Christian home and heard the Gospel since before I can remember. My parents faithfully took me to church regularly. In 1995, when I was seven, my mom and I were reading the story of Jesus' crucifixion. At that time, God convicted me and impressed upon me the guilt of my sin and my need for a Savior. I repented of my sin and turned to Christ for salvation. During my teenage years, I struggled with the security of my salvation. Did I pray correctly or earnestly? I found assurance in Jesus' words in John 10:29 and am thankful that my salvation does not depend on a feeling or even my prayer but on the finished work of Christ in taking away my sin and giving me His righteousness.

MINISTRIES: We became members at Calvary in 2019. I served as a deacon for one term and as deacon vice chairman. I have also served in the Nursery, as a teacher in Zone 345, and in the Parking Lot Ministry. I currently teach 1st grade in Children's Ministry and serve on the Missions Council.

How I desire God to use me in this role: My ultimate desire is to bring glory to God in all I do. It is a privilege to play a part in advancing God's kingdom at Calvary Church.



Stewart Taylor

FAMILY: Married to Victoria; we have two adult children.

TESTIMONY: While I was raised in the church by my parents and realized the importance of attending church, I did not have a close relationship with God. I placed Him behind my career and family. My wife has played an important part in showing me that God is not placed in an order, like first, second, or third, but instead comes first in all of life. As I began to truly listen to the Word of God in the Bible and listen with understanding to the words delivered from the pulpit, I realized I was a sinner in need of salvation. This is when I began to realize God's love for me, and I prayed for forgiveness and a true understanding of what it means to be called a Christian. Victoria and I are still growing in our lives in Jesus Christ!

MINISTRIES: My wife and I joined Calvary in 2022. I have served as an usher and a greeter, and we attend the Life Application ALG. I served in various teaching and leadership roles in the churches we attended in the past.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I truly believe in helping elderly, poor, and sick individuals. I have a huge heart for those in need and hope that God will be able to utilize me in a way that will play to my strengths. Realizing that I have found my home at Calvary, God may have other plans for me to play to my weaknesses so that I may continue to grow.