



## 2018 NEW OFFICER NOMINEES

We are excited to have 5 elders and 7 deacons slated by the Session to become officers. A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 8 immediately following the 10:45am service for members to vote. They will be installed in their prospective offices on Sunday, April 15.

Learn more about the Officer Nomination Process by visiting the website [GraceMillsRiver.org](http://GraceMillsRiver.org) then follow the menu options to About Us > Officer Nominations.

For questions about our leadership process please contact Colin Thornley, Assistant Pastor & Director of Equipping at [colinthornley@gmail.com](mailto:colinthornley@gmail.com)

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### HEIDI WILLIAMS (FORMERLY GRITSAVAGE)

*Deaconess/Diaconate Candidate*

**Family Profile:** Married 9 years to Dave Williams, no kids.

**Career Status/Occupation:** In the past I've been involved in various areas of service including youth ministry, college campus ministry, wilderness therapy, Christian and wilderness camps, and the mental health industry. Now I am a housewife and property manager (we own rental property). I love taking care of our land and our tenants, our animals, and spending time with my favorite person (Dave) biking, camping, hiking and kayaking.

**Why are you interested in serving as a deaconess?** Because this is the path God put me on. He'd been working on my heart for years, so I began praying for him to bring an opportunity to serve that was so obvious that I couldn't miss it, and this is the opportunity that he presented. It was the last thing that I expected, but I knew immediately that it was what I'd been praying for.

**How long have you been a Christian?** I've been a Christian most of my life. My journey began when I was six years old and has continued my entire life with many mountains and valleys and new horizons. I've been at Grace since 2000.

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** See above.

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### JOHN BOWLES

*Elder/Session Candidate*

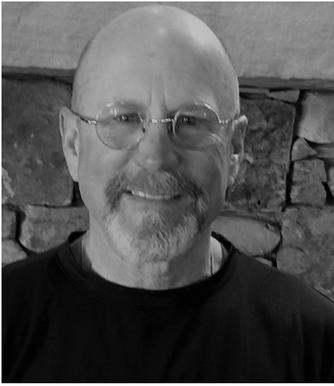
**Family Profile:** I've been married to my wife, Lori, for 29 years and I'm the proud father to Tyler (24), Abby(17) and Emily(17)

**Career Status/Occupation:** I serve Dixon Hughes Goodman as their Chief Information and Digital Officer. I've been a part of their team for 21 years.

**Why are you interested in becoming an elder?** I think it is important to serve the body in some way, shape or form. I'm humbled to be considered as an Elder candidate.

**How long have you been a Christian?** I've been a follower of Jesus for nearly 30 years.

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** I've served this body as a member of the administrative committee, Diaconate and moderator to the Diaconate. I served as a deacon and treasurer at Trinity Presbyterian Church in East Asheville for 5 years.



**GREG VAN VOORHIS**

*Deacon/Diaconate Candidate*

**Family Profile:** Married 39 years to Kem, 2 adult children Graham and Kevin

**Career Status/Occupation:** Retired (former 30 year career in paper manufacturing with International Paper Company)

**Why are you interested in becoming a deacon?** I love Grace Church and am willing to serve

**How long have you been a Christian?** Been a Christian all my life

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** Served at GMR in the cafe the last 5 years

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**BRAD OWEN**

*Elder/Session Candidate*

**Family Profile:** Toni and I have been married twenty-nine years, and have five children; Rachel 24, Melanie 21, Caroline 19, Kallie 14, and Jeremy 11.

**Career Status/Occupation:** I am the Special Events Coordinator for Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) and a licensed masters level psychologist.

**Why are you interested in becoming an elder?** I wanted to be an elder candidate to further put into action the Gospel in my heart and life, family, friends, enemies, and even strangers.

**How long have you been a Christian?** I've been a Christian since I was thirteen but eighteen years ago after Promise Keepers and our first year at Grace Community Church something already eternally there and sure became more alive. My sense of my sin grew but God's death, resurrection, and deep Daddy care grew faster.

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** I truly enjoy learning, experiencing, and teaching God as grace and truth in being a husband, father, teaching classes, writing, photography, film, cooking, and drama.

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**JEFF LEIDER**

*Elder/Session Candidate*

**Family Profile:** I am happily married for 44 years to my wife Sandy....We have 3 grown children Daughter Joy ,married ,2 grand boys Reid [11], and Grant [9], Daughter Allison single, Son David single

**How long have you been a Christian?** I have been a Christian for 45 years. Formally Jewish background.

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** I have been active in lay ministry most of my Christian life, serving as elder, head deacon, Bible study and home group leader, Sunday school teacher, and even a short stint as a Church pastor. Over the past 10 years , I have also been active in prison ministry.

**Why are you interested in becoming an elder?** I am looking forward to serving the church as an elder because I like the current vision and direction I feel the church is going, especially in areas of home and community missions. Also like the direction and the healing we have experienced since the departure of Dave. Thank you for this opportunity to serve



## **DAVE BOKMILLER**

*Deacon/Diaconate Candidate*

**Family Profile:** Married 37 years to Gina. We live in Fletcher, NC and have two adult sons Vince (36) and Adam (34).

**Career Status/Occupation:** Retired in 2009 after 40+ year corporate career in engineering and management. Currently working full time as a Chef/Line Cook for Givens Estates in Asheville.

**Why are you interested in becoming an officer?** My prayerful desire to be an officer at Grace Mills River is the result of the Holy Spirit's working in me, encouraging me to serve. I believe my calling is based on my ability (gifts) of leadership, administration, organization/helps and teaching. I recognize this as an opportunity to serve and contribute to the Grace family by being obedient to God's calling.

**How long have you been a Christian?** I placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior in March of 1988 (30 years). Gina and I have attended Grace since 2010 and have been members since 2012.

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** My training and experience in Christian ministry outside of Grace Mills River includes but is not limited to; Teacher/Leader Children's Ministries; Administrative Leader (Bible Study Fellowship); Leader/Teacher Young Adults/Singles Ministry; Men's Small Group Leader (Celebrate Recovery); Mentoring Married Couple- Ministry to Recovering Homosexuals (Exodus Intl.); Leader/Teacher- Men's Ministries: (Men's Fraternity and Man to Man). At GMR I currently lead and teach the Saturday Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group and actively serve in the prayer ministry.

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## **RUSS BURRELL**

*Elder/Session Candidate*

**Family Profile:** Married to Elizabeth

**Career Status/Occupation:** I work for local government, play golf (it's not pretty), and love the Vocal Band (just ask about the GVB).

**Why are you interested in becoming an officer?** I have been greatly blessed in my years at Grace. I want very much to be an instrument in sharing that blessing with others.

**How long have you been a Christian?** Since 1968

**Ministry Experience Inside/Outside of GMR?** At Grace I've enjoyed making coffee in the cafe, taking 54 weeks to take a 40 week Gospel Transformation class, being a member of a wonderful small group for 14 years, taken 4 different Galatians classes, and have loved volunteering in the worship arts ministry. Hearing the message of grace in my heart (as opposed to just my ears) I never want to lose that feeling. I'm still trying to figure out why God is singing over me, but am thrilled to hear the song he chose.