



Burnside City

Uniting Church  
Raising Children of God

## **CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**2020**

### **Profiles of Elder Nominees**

## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to be able to present to the Congregation information about the people who have responded to the call to accept nomination for election to serve as Elders on Church Council. We thank God for their gifts and talents and their offering to serve in this very important role.

When considering nominees, we ask that you take the following points into consideration:

1. Our Church Council is a visionary council and is called by God to guide us as a faith community. We look to them to use their spiritual gifts as they lead us in ministry and mission.
2. Each year we look to refresh the council with new members. These nominees are standing for a five-year term.
3. The nominees will add a diversity of gifts and talents to the existing council.

The Church Council is made up of eleven lay members as well as Rob, Benji, and Ashlee. With six current Church Councillors continuing in their term, there are five lay vacancies and three nominees. The Uniting Church regulations, state that to be elected, a person must have the general support of the Congregation indicated by receiving votes from at least 50 per cent of those voting. The election of Elders will take place at the AGM at 11:30am on Sunday, 22 November at BCUC.

Benji has met with all of our nominees and is confident that they understand the role and responsibilities involved in serving as an Elder on Church Council. We encourage you to rely on the gift of the Holy Spirit for discernment in this voting process - please stop, pray, and listen before making your decision.

## **New nominee to Church Council Merle Paton**



Our family moved to Adelaide in 2000 and God directed us to Beaumont where we worshipped and I taught junior church for some time. We continued to worship at BCUC when the 4 churches amalgamated.

I work 3 days a week teaching English to non-English speakers at Tafe.

I gave my life to Christ as a teenager and that decision has affected all my life decisions. I can testify to God's faithfulness, enduring love, protection and guidance in all areas of my life. He is a constant presence with me and I offer grateful praise for all the good things in my life which are His gift to me.

For me, the discipline of Bible Study Fellowship has made a difference to my relationship with God as I have learned more of His character. The fortnightly BCUC small group I attend, has challenged me and supported me in prayer and fellowship. I was a worship leader for the 9 am service for many years and latterly felt called to preaching, which I have done with Benji's mentoring.

I know God has a plan for BCUC and I am excited to serve God in this new capacity, should that be His will.

## **New nominee to Church Council**

### **Nancy Xu Gao**



“Response to the calling of God?!” It's the question that I keep thinking of the last couple of weeks. I'm Nancy, who started to worship God at BCUC since the first Sunday when my families moved to Adelaide from Canberra in 2011. I'm working at a child care center at the moment. I have two children. They both grow up at BCUC. I became a Christian when I was in university in China and was baptized in Singapore when I studied there.

At BCUC, I am involved in God's work, teaching Sunday school before COVID 19, being part of Family Fun @5pm team, a member of pray chain, keeping in touch with church families as a Pastoral Carer, leading Chinese fellowship on Friday nights. I am also in the Stretchers home group on Wednesday nights each fortnight.

And I have studied at BSF (Bible Study Fellowship, which happens at BCUC on Monday nights) for more than six years. BSF helps me understand God's words deeper and wider. It supports me to walk along with Jesus's teaching in my daily life. I have also applied for the online course "How to Be Jesus's Disciple" in the Chinese Theological Seminary. It starts next January and will last two years.

I'm encouraged by God's words: "Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, (Ephesians 3:8) I'm little but I'm blessed to have gifts from God. I'm looking forward to doing more for God at BCUC. Thank you.

## **New nominee to Church Council Aradhana Gazdar**



Hello, my name is Aradhana and I am raising my hand up to be BCUC Elder this year.

I joined BCUC early last year after moving from Melbourne to Adelaide with my family.

Christ has been the centre of my life from my early days and I received my personal call during my youth days. Ever since I have never looked back and have been growing in the Lord. I am thankful for this opportunity the Lord has set before me and I'm sure He will guide me through.

My life includes my family in India, where I originally come from and my family here includes my 2 boys Rustom and Arman and my husband Maneck. Out of work, I love spending time with my boys. I am also an avid Cats (Geelong) and Central District Bulldogs (SANFL) supporter.

Its an incredible opportunity to serve the Lord as a council member and I'm excited to be a part of it.

## **Elders Continuing their Term on Church Council in 2020**

Tim Piper (Treasurer)  
Anne Wierenga (Secretary)  
Nirmal Robinson  
Christine You  
Valerie Aloa  
Thomas Pruszinski

## **Elders Retiring from Church Council this Year**

Ian Olver (chairperson)  
Chris Lake  
Gaynor Strapp  
Gill Cibich  
Annette LeMay

***Thank you all for your service***

# Profile and Role of an Elder serving on BCUC Church Council

The Uniting Church Regulation 3.1.13(a) lists the duties and responsibilities of the church Council:

***“The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the congregation to fuller participation in Christ’s mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings.”***

## Uniting Church Code of Conduct for Elders/Church Councillors

The Uniting Church in Australia believes that all people are made in the image of God and as such we should accept every individual regardless of race, creed or genders.

As a Christian community we believe that God reaches out to us in love and acceptance and that our relationship with each other should express love and respect and not be abused.

As a community of faith, we are committed to providing a place in society where human beings can explore what it means to be made in the image of God.

BCUC Church Council recognises it’s responsibility to provide worshipping and pastoral activities that are free from abuse and that provides a safe environment for all people to explore and express their faith in the Gospel.

BCUC Elders/Church Councillors recognise Christian governance and leadership is:

- Appointed by God
- Focused on Christ
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit

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- Centered on God's word
- Dependent on prayer
- Requires being a good team player
- Involves people with different gifts, strengths and personalities
- Loves and serves those they lead and/or oversee
- Embraces change as God leads

### **Profile of a BCUC Elder/Councillor**

At BCUC our Elders / Church Councillors will lead by example. Key attributes include:

- Being a member of BCUC
- Actively participating in the life and ministry of the Church, regularly attending worship, small groups etc.
- Seeking to grow their spiritual gifts and personal strengths as Christian disciples by studying scriptures and praying regularly
- Sharing their faith
- Being a servant of the church giving time, talents and finances to the work of the Church as an expression of their gratitude to God
- Exercising authority with love
- Keeping confidential, sensitive issues shared at Church Council
- Committing to attending monthly Council meetings regularly with appropriate preparation