



Kennonsburg Church

Elder Candidate Questionnaire

First Name

Greg

Last Name

Bergman

How long have you attended Kennonsburg Church?

Preface: Being the only person filling out this questionnaire is very uncomfortable. My concern is that you the reader, especially if you are unfamiliar with how this writing came about, could think, "Boy, this guy really thinks highly of and talks a lot about himself." In fact, this questionnaire was developed by a group of KC members in a discussion meeting led by our Deacons. It was a well-intentioned vehicle to help voting members of KC learn about Elder nominees before our upcoming election. To my own disappointment, I was the only person nominated, which is why you are reading only my responses. I've attended KC since Easter season 1990- 35 years.

How long have you been a member of KC? (Include years prior to dissolution from UMC)

We joined KC in July 1991, 34 years.

Over the past 6 months, which of the following spiritual growth groups have you attended regularly? Sunday School, Bible Study, WOW Wings of Worship, Sunday Service - list any others.

I attend Sunday School and Sunday Services regularly.

Please share your personal testimony.

4. I was raised in a nominally Christian home, but only my Mom attended church regularly. Home life was marked by physical and verbal abuse. My young adult years were as chaotic and worldly as you might expect coming from such a background. My empty unhappiness prompted years of searching, which led ultimately to attending church and Sunday School at The Chapel in University Park in Akron. I accepted Christ there a week before Palm Sunday in 1981. I was baptized by immersion at the Easter Sunrise service in 1981 by my Sunday School teacher, Associate Pastor Elou Pacheko. My life was radically changed and infused with a hope I had never known. This allowed me to trust that Christ would help me in whatever challenge I faced, which led me to risk marriage and family despite a past that had made me believe I could never be a Godly husband and father. The rewards this has brought me could never be overstated. Thank you, Jesus.

Please describe your previous leadership experience: (Include secular, professional and previous church leadership.)

Following graduate school, I held supervisory positions at a large Akron area agency and supervised undergraduate and graduate level Social Work students in their practicums, as well as Family Practice Residents in their psychiatric rotations. I developed, marketed, sold, and supervised an Employee Assistance Program in the Summit and Portage County region. I operated my Private Practice from 1987 through 2014 when I retired. I've held a number of positions at KC including Pastor-Parish Relations Chair and Ad Board Chair.

I am interested in serving as Elder, because:

I am interested in serving as an Elder because I am deeply grateful for the love and support I and my family have received at KC. My sense of duty to Christ and to KC are palpable.

What specific Scripture regarding your potential service as Elder resonates best with your soul, and what areas of scripture challenge your spirit?

One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Phil. 4:4-9. I often recite it to myself, in fact nearly daily. Paul clearly knew the destructive power of anxiety and urged rejoicing in Christ and maintaining gentleness and prayerful connection to God. His emphasis on the power of thought and of disciplining our thinking resonates deeply with me. Yet the very same Scripture challenges my spirit as well because it is so easy for me to slip in one or another of thought areas and thereby disrupt my own peace. I am also challenged by Gal. 5:22-23, listing the elements of the fruit of the Spirit.

In accordance with Mark 10:42-25 and Ephesians 4 regarding servant leadership and unity in the church, how would you bring the congregation and the church leadership together to make decisions for the good of the church? Be specific.

Everything about how we as a body have attempted to structure KC including our effort to depict our way of functioning through our roles chart is about support and freedom, and against power, control, and the "lording over" of others. Continuing to work to live out this attitude and manner of functioning is a first order priority for myself and I believe, for all the leadership at KC. I think anyone in leadership at KC would attest that these principles are often referenced and reinforced by me. The noble goal of Unity, however, will always depend upon a shared commitment and self-discipline to be fully realized. In our humanity, it is never easy to set aside one's own passion for the good of the whole.

What areas of responsibility will you excel at? Give examples.

Details and organization based on principled thinking are areas in which I can excel. Helping people translate principles into behavior, I think, is a strength of mine.

What areas of responsibility will be the most challenging for you? How do you plan to overcome these challenges?

Elders are sometimes asked to substitute preach for the Pastor. I do not possess skill at preaching. Although I think I can try hard and practice, I do not envision real mastery in this area.

As an Elder and being responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church, how would you describe your personal prayer life, faith relationship, Spiritual gifts and other skills.

Prayer and scripture reading are regular habits of my mornings. When appointments or my substantial farm maintenance work demands come early, my time is lessened but not forsaken or skipped. I pray throughout my day and the most common theme is praise and thanksgiving. I love the outdoors and caring for the animals and both prompt praise from me. Even in times of discouragement I am unable to doubt the reality of God and His love for us all. Jesus and the Holy Spirit's Oneness with God amplifies the magnitude of the sacrifice of the Cross for me. My spiritual gifts are shepherding and teaching.

What excites you about the potential opportunity to serve as Elder?

Elder service is an opportunity for me to give back.

If a member of the church brought a concern or a recommendation to the Elder Board that you totally disagreed with, how would you handle that?

I would do my best to understand what made that recommendation important to that member with an eye to changing my position if that could be done with integrity.

How would you reach out to members that have left the church?

I have contacted members who have left and tried to learn their reasons for leaving to see if problems might be corrected. I let them know we would welcome them back.

Would an Elder Board of males and females affect your ability to fulfill your duties as an elder? Please explain why or why not.

My professional education and practice were in Clinical Social Work. It is estimated that 78% of this field is made up of women. Most of my teachers, supervisors, supervisees, and colleagues of over 40 plus years were women. I enjoyed consistently cooperative and rewardingly productive relationships throughout. I see no reason that would not be the case at KC.

Do you feel that you are a good listener and approachable?

I know many people find me approachable and a good listener, but I am certain there are some who do not.

Have you served as a deacon? If so, how long? How did that experience lead you to accept a nomination as Elder?

No

How would you improve communication and transparency with the congregation?

It has been my privilege to serve as an Elder for one year. We Elders have desired appropriate open communication and transparency. I know, though, that this is a goal that demands constant attention. I hope the reader has found my responses to this questionnaire personally transparent.

How do you spiritually prepare for challenges or conflicts?

Whether church related or otherwise, I often pray a prayer that expresses my desire to submit myself to God and to build with me and do with me as He wills. I also ask Him to remove from me the bondage of self.