

2023 Nominating Committee Faith Statements



Kathy Dotson

I was very blessed to grow up in a Christian home. I was raised in a small Lutheran church in Claremont, CA. Church was part of our everyday life, but I do not think I really had a close relationship with Jesus until my 30's. Nathan (my husband) and I moved to Tustin before we had kids. We lived close to Trinity and came to a worship service to check it out. The most memorable thing about Trinity at that time, was all the high school students sitting on the left-hand side of church first hour. We said this is where we want to raise our kids. My relationship with Jesus has grown stronger at various times in my life, the first time was being part of a MOPS program in my 30's. The second time was being part of Women's Ministries in my later 30's and another time in my 50's. I have also been part of a number of Bible studies over the years that have grown my faith. My faith is how I get through my daily life, especially now in this troubled time. I start most days with my devotions to center and ground me in our Lord Jesus Christ. I am so happy that I do not have to go through this life without Jesus, prayer, and Godly friends. I am retired now and have a passion for serving Jesus and our church.



Anna Liao

I am an ABC, an American-born Chinese. My parents immigrated to the U.S. from China in the 1960s and strived to be good Americans. Though not churchgoers themselves, my parents encouraged their American-born children to accept invites to church from school friends. My first exposure to the Bible and the idea that God was my Heavenly Father came from those early church visits.

I continued to attend a high school youth group at a Chinese American church. Through that group, the Lord helped me get plugged into the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship group at the Claremont Colleges. I attended weekly small group Bible studies and large group teaching and worship times. I began to truly understand that Jesus Christ was God's Son, who came from heaven to earth to make a way for me to become an adopted daughter of God the Father. The Holy Spirit used God's word and that campus fellowship group to make me a different kind of ABC, a born-again Christian.

After graduating from college and getting my teaching credential, I sought a church community where I could continue to grow in my knowledge of God's word and be encouraged to grow and serve. Eventually, the Lord brought me to another Chinese American church through a guy named Simon that I started dating (he's now my husband). While at that church, I attended a retreat about spiritual gifts. It was wonderful to learn that God endowed individual believers with spiritual gifts that can be used to build up the body of Christ and bring glory to His name. Over the years, I have continued to personally explore how I can use the gifts the Lord has given me, and how I can encourage others to also share their gifts as well.

I believe that the Lord had given me the gift of teaching, which I used professionally as a public school teacher. I have also used that gift personally, in homeschooling my own two children- Katrina, who is a music major at Concordia University Irvine and Garret who will start at Point Loma Nazarene University this fall. I currently work as an Educational Facilitator for a charter school, where I can combine my public school teacher and homeschool parent experiences to come alongside families who have chosen an independent study route for their children.

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I have also been blessed with opportunities to teach God's word within the body, as a small group leader and a children's Sunday School teacher (at Mariners Church and Trinity, also through Community Bible Study). I look forward to serving on the nominating committee, where I can hear the faith journeys of a variety of people at Trinity. I am excited about helping them discover and understand how they can contribute their gifts and passions to grow spiritually on a personal level and encourage growth within our church body.



Roy Shahbazian

Leading up to my junior year of high school, several Christians drew my attention and respect. I started attending worship at Trinity and reading Matthew. The way Jesus responded to people, what He valued and how He lived was inspiring to me. It took some time for me to understand how His sacrifice helped me, but even before I understood that, I knew that I wanted to trust Him which I did that year. While reading through the rest of the New and Old Testaments as well as devotionals and listening to Bible teaching, I continued growing, worshiping, participating in small groups and getting more involved at Trinity.

Soon after I started attending worship, a clarinet-playing custodian made me feel welcome to get involved. Since then I have been involved in choirs, small groups, leadership of the technology team, college group, Missions ministry teams, Worship Ministry Team, Session, Doorstep Ministry, Community Ministry Team, Nominating Committee, small group question writing and other ministries.

God taught me a lot about the value of relationships and rethinking priorities while caring for my father in the last years of his life after a stroke with dementia. It continues to be a reminder of God's love for us, how much is beyond our control, preparing for different stages of life and focusing on what matters. It's such a blessing to be part of community of people who care and pray in challenging times-- and a joy to be actively involved in the various ways we live out our faith as a community.