



BOARD NOMINEES 2023

The nomination committee is tasked with receiving nominations, recruiting candidates, interviewing potential nominees, and presenting to the community persons who represent the diversity at Commons and provide the board with the necessary skills, expertise, and spiritual maturity to guide our Church.

The committee has put forward the following names to serve in the upcoming term: **Lael Campbell, Jeremy Fehr, and Shahani Kariyawasam**, each for a first term on the board. We want to thank these individuals for their willingness to serve and for the way they already lead in our community.

Each position is a three year term and board members can serve two consecutive terms before stepping off.

We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to **Regina Chan, Jeff Ehmann, and Thioni Schafer** who has completed their terms on the board. We are grateful for the wisdom and commitment each have offered to the community, particular in helping to guide us through a challenge last couple years. Thank you.

The nominees are presented on the following pages by alphabetical order.

prepared by: *Krista Marushy, Kristal Hoff, Mita Adesanya, Jeremy Duncan*
Nomination Committee

Lael Campbell: Nominated for a first term



My husband Dave and I have been attending Commons since 2016. I was drawn to the community as I saw it live out its values of 'Intellectually Honest; Spiritually Passionate with Jesus at the Centre'. Being passionate about the table and its role in hospitality and reconciliation, I see commons as a natural fit with my theology and values.

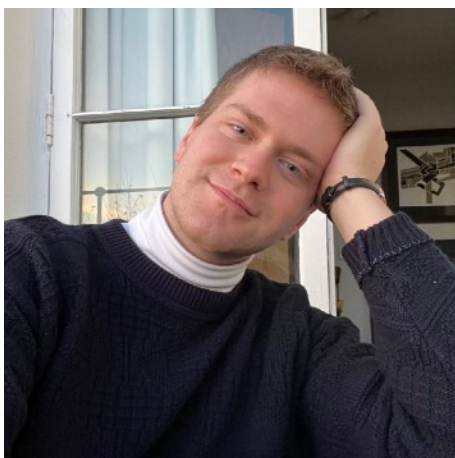
I completed a Masters in Christian Studies at Ambrose Seminary in 2017 and a course in Spiritual Direction from Soulstream in 2018.

Native Newfoundlanders, we've now lived in Calgary for over 35 years. I've worked as an executive assistant in a large energy company and eventually I moved on to be at home with my children and a community volunteer among a wide cross section of new Canadians. Much of that energy was focused on children and young adults in our neighborhood and at the U of C. In the past, I have served on several volunteer committees and boards. My tenure on the Commons board in 2018 was cut short by a move overseas for two and a half years. At that time, I was coordinator for Common's 'Dinner Party Network'.

A lot of my time these days is spent wherever there are newcomers, a table and an opportunity to be creative with local produce and interesting ingredients.

Parents to three adult children, Dave and I are navigating life by undertaking new projects, travel and other pursuits that involve water, mountains, people and food.

Jeremy Fehr: Nominated for a first term



Jeremy Fehr has been attending Commons for three and a half years. After moving from his home town of La Crete, Alberta to Calgary in 2015, Jeremy began working at Mennonite Central Committee. His position here allowed him to facilitate the sponsorship of refugees resettling in Alberta through churches, community groups and family members. It was in this position that Jeremy was able to work with Commons to sponsor and support their first refugee family. Jeremy currently works as an

Educational Assistant at New Heights School, supporting high school students on the Autism spectrum, a job he has thoroughly enjoyed for the last 3 years. In his spare time, Jeremy enjoys playing basketball on the commons rec team, drawing, playing the piano, and spending time with friends and family. Jeremy has always loved and appreciated Commons' thoughtful approach to teaching and the space they hold for anyone walking through their doors. Although Calgary has become home for Jeremy, he has always prioritized making it home to see his family in northern Alberta and continues to stay deeply connected to his Mennonite history.

Shahani Kariyawasam (she/her): Nominated for a first term



I am grateful to my parents for encouraging me to pursue my own path. After exposure to many spiritual journeys, I was led to Jesus through the Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship in Sri Lanka. Many wars and resulting closures of universities there impeded my education. Thirty-four years ago, my then-husband and I chose Calgary as our home because the University of Calgary opened its doors to foreign transfer students. I completed my undergraduate and doctoral degrees in engineering while supporting my family and parents. I chose to work in the Energy industry in the areas of Safety and R&D. This has given me the opportunity to serve in all inhabited continents of the world.

My two children thrived in Calgary and have taken wing to explore their chosen professions of law and medicine. They continue to teach me many aspects of life to which I was blind. My second child is part of the LGBTQ community and has opened my eyes to what many of us were sadly brought up to shun and misunderstand. I believe humans are the same in all aspects that matter.

My partner, Doug, and I serve Commons in the Communion team and in an exceptional home group. We frequently enjoy the Rocky Mountains by hiking and cross-country skiing. I humbly accept the nomination to serve this meaningful community.

Returning Board Members

Returning to the board in 2023 are **Janice Hsu-Chan** (Chair), **Michael Wing** (Finance), **Erik Lottermoser** (Secretary), and **Mita Adesanya**. Full bios for all board members are available at <https://www.common.church/board-members>