

Mount Zion Baptist Church

2025 Candidates for Officer and Ministry Leader Positions

Pursuant to Article X, Section 3 of the Mount Zion Baptist Church Bylaws - At least two (2) weeks before the election, the Nominating Committee shall present to the Church the names of one or more people for each office to be filled. This ballot is to be posted so that all members might know those who are being placed in nomination. It shall be the privilege of any two (2) members, qualified to vote, to place in nomination the name of any eligible person for any office, not so nominated, and such nomination shall be placed on the ballot. No nominations shall be made from the floor at the time of election, but each voter may vote for anyone he/she pleases by writing in the name on the ballot. All annual elections shall be by written ballot, a majority of the ballots being necessary for the election of any officer. No voting by proxy shall be allowed.

On Sunday, December 29, 2024, the Nominating Committee presented to the Church the names of the following persons who are running for the office to be filled to inform the members of the Mount Zion Baptist Church those who are being placed in nomination. Each candidate submitted the following bios.

Church Clerk

Rhonda Staton

Having been blessed with gifts that align with the responsibilities of the Church Clerk and having been trusted by the congregation to have held the position and performed the duties, I am submitting my application for the Church Clerk. I have had an accomplished career as a Media Executive and have had the opportunity to expand and acquire extraordinary skills that prepare me to fulfill the duties of this clerk position. In addition, you have had the opportunity to observe my abilities in this role. With this experience, I will be in a strong position to continue to serve Mount Zion Baptist Church in this role dutifully upholding the duties as outlined in the Constitution and By-laws. So, I humbly ask for your support in my quest to continue serving you as the Church Clerk.

Christian Ed-Leadership Development

Colleen Robinson Walls

The foundation of Colleen's character comes from the modeling of the Christian service provided by her parents Deacon Plouis Moore and Mildred Reed Moore. Colleen accepted Christ into her life at 7 years of age at Zion Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota in Business, and newly married, she was part of the exodus to Seattle, Washington. She united with Mount Zion Baptist Church in 1981 and has been an active, contributing member for the past 38 years. She has participated in many milestones during Mount Zion's 129-year history. Her ministry service includes Human Resource, Christian Education, Harriet Tubman Circle and the Women's Ministry, where she served as the President and is currently Treasurer. She also served on the Church Nominating Committee from 2019-2020, the Mount Zion Housing Development Board and as treasurer of the Scholarship Ministry. Colleen began her career as a teacher in Seattle Public Schools. She was the First African American woman selected as a Student Placement Coordinator. She implemented a district-wide Desegregation Policy to more than fifty schools in the Northwest region. She has a master's degree in educational administration.

Finance Ministry

Charles Cohen, MBA, CFP®, ChFC®, RICP®

My goal is to help people manage the risk of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams.

Personal-- Married 30 years, five adult children and a homeowner in Woodway/Edmonds Washington

Experience:

United States Air Force (Veteran) (1974 -1981)

“The Meritorious Service Medal”

Charles E Cohen Insurance Agency (1981 – Present)

State Farm Insurance Agent

ATBN, Professional Limited Liability Company (2005--Present)

Registered Investment Advisor Company

Education:

Bachelor of Arts—(BA) Economics/Business Administration

Chapman University

Master of Business Administration—(MBA) Entrepreneurship

City University

Licenses/Certifications:

CFP®--Certified Financial Planner™

RICP®--Retirement Income Certified Professional

ChFC®--Chartered Financial Consultant

Insurance Broker

Real Estate Broker

US Bank Loan Representative

Registered Investment Advisor Representative

Community:

President —Society of Financial Service Professionals (FSP)

The Financial Planning Association (FPA) – Puget Sound

Greenwood Plaza Condominium Association Board

Rotary International – Edmonds Daybreakers

Mount Zion Development Corp

Missions & Evangelism

Emma Cotton

Emma Cotton has been a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church since 1957. She has actively participated and held leadership positions in several ministries at Mount Zion such as the Missions & Evangelism Ministry, Women's Ministry, Usher Board, and the Senior Ministry.

Missions and Evangelism

Elma Horton

Elma Horton has is a long time member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, actively participating and has held leadership positions in several ministries such as Missions & Evangelism, Women's Ministry, Choir, and Usher Ministry. She currently coordinates the Mount Zion Prayerline.

Missions & Evangelism

Mattie Taplin

Currently I am serving as Treasurer for the Women's Ministry and have worked on the Women's Ministry nominating committee. I also currently serve as Treasurer for the Mission's and Evangelism Ministry and have volunteered in the ministry for 10 years. Other church activities include working with the Feeding Ministry, delivering food to the sick and shut in. I have volunteered with the Christmas Day of Caring for a number of years, served as Circle leader, treasurer, and secretary for the Phyllis Wheatley circle.

Missions and Evangelism

Janet Jones-Preston

Janet Jones Preston is retired from Seattle Public Schools for 10 years after serving 30 years and 2 months. Instructional Assistant, Family Support Worker, Family Support Specialist, Family Support Manager. A servant leader, team player, listener and "Get it Done Employee". Volunteer sponsor for the Black Prisoners Caucus or 30+ years first going inside the prison in 1980 as a UW student witnessing the consequences of a failed education. I took hundreds of educators to Monroe prison including Brent Jones the present Seattle Public Schools Superintendent. Board member with Seattle Clemency Project. Team member with the African American Leadership Forum. Member of Mount Zion Baptist Church (third generation). Mother of three, Grandmother of six, Great Grandmother of two. My passions are helping others and traveling.

Trustee

Joel C. Hobbs, II

I have been a devoted member of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Seattle since birth, officially joining the congregation in 1994. My deep commitment to our community is reflected in my role as President of the Finance Ministry, where I have worked diligently to uphold our church's financial integrity and growth. I hold an MBA from the City University of Seattle and a BA Finance degree from Morehouse College, equipping me with the skills to effectively contribute to our Trustee Board. Currently, I work in Supplier Management at the Boeing Company but my passion for God and service drives my desire to support the mission of our church, fostering a spirit of stewardship and accountability. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and strengthen our church family.

Trustee

Lisa Kelsie Carter

A native of Seattle, Lisa is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and attended the University of Washington and North Seattle Community College where she studied accounting. She holds a Cosmetology Certificate from Seattle Central Community College. Currently, Lisa works as a Technical Support Representative for JHA and a bookkeeping office manager for Mount Zion Housing Development. She also styles hair at a specialty shop for children on Saturdays. She has been a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church since she was a child and participating in various ministries and performing in the Chapel Choir. She was also a member of the Total Experience Gospel Choir. She is also an active volunteer in the community and provides free haircuts and styling for the needy.

Trustee

Chelsea Riddick-Most

I credit the church community of Mt. Zion for much of my success. A former member of the youth choir, usher board, young women's leadership group, bible study and drama program. I helped coordinate the annual "Women's Day Brunch" and shared opening remarks.

An Emmy Award winning producer and Director of Production for Nickelodeon, former National Basketball (NBA) Executive, traveled to South Africa and worked with Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress, produced multi-million dollar music videos, commercials and marketing campaigns with Black Panther director, Ryan Coogler, music producer Pharrell Williams and the late Dikembe Mutombo.

A recipient of "Share the Vision Award" for work as an inclusive and effective leader, 3x Gold recipient of the industry's PROMAX, Beacon, Mobius, CTAM awards and multiple Emmy nominations.

Currently, I am the Director of Programs at Seattle Center, a 74-acre campus, with twenty-four resident organizations, including the Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle Opera.

Trustee

Yolanda Randall

I am seeking the role of Church Trustee. I love Mount Zion Baptist Church and want to make sure wisdom is used in caring for the resources that are given to the church.

I grew up across the street from Mount Zion. Throughout my childhood I watched my parents, Johnie, and Jerry Randall, serve in different church ministries. Observing them taught me to depend on the Lord, to love him, and give him praise. I feel it is the right time to follow in my parent's footsteps. I have worked at an insurance company for over 20 years. I am certain that the skills I developed in that industry will assist me in serving the ministry.

I have also watched the church go through many changes over the years. I understand there is a greater need now to bring in someone with an open mind and to not let the past get in the way of doing what is best for the congregation. I am hoping I will have the honor of serving.