



2026 CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



DEREK BENJAMIN

My wife, Alex, and I married in 2021. We both grew up at DRCC and attended middle school and high school Alienation. God had a special way of bringing us together in 2014 (yes we were in high school in 2014) on a mission trip in Nicaragua.

Alex and I have had the privilege of serving the people of Honduras and Nicaragua together on 6 separate missions. We currently serve as high school small group leaders and as the yearly judges of our middle school talent show! I also serve on the worship team where I am able to use the gifts that God has given me to lead others to Jesus!

We currently live in Ijamsville and I have spent most of my life living in Mt. Airy. From a humble beginning, God has given me many blessings and opportunities. One of those blessings was being the first in my immediate family to attend college. I received a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology with an education minor from McDaniel College (some people like it when I say Western Maryland).

Professionally, I have been teaching middle school PE and Health in Montgomery County since 2020. In 2022 I earned my Maryland Salesperson License and began helping others reach their dreams and goals in residential Real Estate. I have been teaching full time and practicing real estate full time since.

Last year I had the honor of being appointed to the trustee board by the leadership team and I am so grateful for such an opportunity. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board again to help serve and grow our community.



DEBBIE LAWRENCE

DRCC has been an integral part of my life since 1991 when my husband, Glen, and I began attending the church pastored by Dr. Richard Fredericks. Pastor Richard invited me to join the staff as the Director of Operations in 1996. In that role, I oversaw the day-to-day business operations of DRCC, including financial, facility, HR benefits and risk management and created policies and procedures that allowed the church to grow with integrity from its small beginnings to the large, multi-faceted ministry it is today.

When DRCC was formed in 1997 in order to become a non-denominational, independent ministry, I was among the 10 original Trustee Board members. In addition to serving on staff until my retirement in June 2023, over the years I have enjoyed volunteering as a set-up team member (during our portable church days in various high schools), Financial Peace University small group facilitator, spiritual gifts trainer, chat host for online worship services, media operator for in-person worship, missionary and board member of Central America Missions and India Missions. I also lead a women's small group that formed in 2005 and still meets twice a month.

I have also volunteered in my local community as PTA president and board member while our children, Mary and Eric, attended K-12 schools and more recently as an ESOL tutor and classroom aide for GED programs offered by the Montgomery County Literacy Council. Prior to joining the DRCC staff, I was employed by the federal government as a trainer and management analyst and then as a social worker for Montgomery County Child Welfare Services.

At least 25 years ago, Pastor Richard tasked staff members to write out their life vision and I still have that hand-written, wrinkled and dog-eared piece of paper that I pull out occasionally to keep the “needle pointing north.” I wrote: “my life vision is to be a resource to my family, friends, community and “the church” to enable them to achieve their dreams and God’s purpose for their lives.” That statement still reflects my heart and purpose.

To have the opportunity to be a resource to DRCC to achieve its God-given mission as a member of the Board of Trustee would be an honor. Thank you for your consideration!



Peter W. Cha

My wife, Sandy, and I have been married almost 39 years and have a 34-year-old daughter, Amanda, and a 32-year-old son, Alex. Amanda is a freelance graphic artist in the music industry and a Substitute Teaching Leader for Bible Study Fellowship in the Vancouver area where she lives. Alex and his wife Grace live in Springfield, Virginia and works for a defense contractor as a VR coder for top secret things he can’t tell me about. We have been attending DRCC since 2019 and became covenant members that same year. Because of my passion for playing guitar and a previous connection with Jason and Andy Knight, I began serving on the worship team in late 2019. Sandy and I have been involved in various activities and opportunities to serve at DRCC. We were drawn here for its strong community focus and shared leadership approach to doing church.

I grew up in the 60s in southern California and later moved to Michigan to attend high school. We relocated again to Frederick, Maryland in 1976 and been here ever since. I graduated from Dental School from The University of Maryland in 1986. Opened my practice with my wife, who is a dental hygienist. Our practice grew and we made the decision to build a larger state-of-the-art facility in a newer part of town. I gained much experience in being a head of a multi-provider and multi-staffed operation. My experiences went well beyond the scope of clinical dentistry such as permits, contractors, regulations, legal issues, insurances, staffing, payroll and accounting, networks and technology, and anything else that needed to get done.

I wanted to be a professional musician, but common sense prevailed, and I chose a more stable day job. This deep love of music, however, has given me a lot of experiences in technology, which include sound systems, acoustics, recording, networks, various musical instruments, and gear.

Thank you for considering me and I would be honored to serve DRCC as a member on the Trustee Board.