

Board Candidate Biographical Sketches 2018

Terry Barker

Terry is the grandfather of three Westlake students: Jack, Cody, and Grant Lovelace. He is a long-time member and elder at the Gages Lake Bible Church where he has been involved in men's ministries, children's ministries, and prayer ministries. Terry recently retired from a career in facilities care and understands building management. He believes in Westlake's mission of discipleship and Christian education and has a strong desire to help in that mission. His references cite his genuine, vibrant walk with the Lord, his knowledge of buildings and grounds, his good judgment, and his ability to get along well with people. He shares this, "An effective leader begins in prayer and seeks the Lord's leading. I also believe he needs to be a servant, helping [others] and encouraging them in their walk."

Heather Brown

Heather has two children at Westlake, Zoe in grade 4 and Liam in grade 2, who have both been with us since they started school. With two degrees in social work, she has served the students at Round Lake Middle School for the past 18 years. She is also a long time member of the Skokie Valley Baptist Church, involved in Awana, Sunday School, Children's Church, youth group, and has served on their board. Her gifts are in the areas of faith, serving, and administration. She wrote, "I am passionate about WCA. I am thankful for WCA, and I believe in the ministry and education of WCA. I have prayed for years to find a way to be more involved. . . . Since being approached about the nomination . . . I have prayed over this position. . . . I think the board needs to grow in numbers and diversity, I am excited to see how God will potentially use my strengths to impact the WCA community." Her social work at Round Lake MS requires her to make frequent sound decisions in a non-judgmental way. As a believer in Christ for over 30 years, she has a strong desire to do whatever God sets before her to the best of her ability.

Aaron Cramer

Pastor Cramer is the campus pastor of Christ Church Crossroads here in Grayslake where a number of our families attend. No stranger to Westlake, he has spoken at our high school retreat and in our chapels. He is also no stranger to Christian education, having graduated from a Christian school, attended a Christian college (Piedmont International University), and is currently finishing a graduate degree at Liberty Theological Seminary. His ministry experience includes camp counselor, senior pastor, youth pastor, and campus pastor. He has also been involved in missionary ministries in both South America and Eastern Europe. He writes, "I have a desire to see students disciplined to be better followers of Christ. . . . The unique ability that a Christian school has to educate and to disciple provides an environment that supports both the family and home in their pursuits to educate in a holistic way. I believe as a person who has served in Church ministry and attended/graduated from a Christian school that I can bring a perspective to the board that will benefit the school and its philosophy and direction."

Kimberly Lurvey

Mother of Christian (grade 12 – soon to graduate) and Charity (grade 10), Kim brings a wealth of education and experience in social services, therapy, and higher education teaching to the table. She has also been involved in a broad range of volunteer work both outside and within her church (Lakeland Church). She learned the importance of the convergence of her faith and academic preparation while she attended Wheaton College for her undergraduate education. Over the past several years, she and her husband have spent much time considering the implications of education for their own children. "I have become wholeheartedly committed to Christian Education. I no longer consider Christian schooling to be 'additional' to the training of home and church, but essential if children are to develop a Biblical

worldview and to learn and think critically from that view.” One reference wrote, “Kim brings a standard of excellence, an attitude of teamwork, [and] a servant heart.” Another: “She has an excellent sense of professionalism, appropriateness, and ethical guidelines.”

Joel Sensenig

The Sensenig family is no stranger to the Westlake community, enrolling their five children in 2010 and since then seeing two graduate. The remaining three are Lucas (7th), Sophie (9th), and Eli (11th). Joel has served Westlake as a coach and as a volunteer. After serving as an officer in the Navy, Joel accepted a position with the multi-campus Christ Church as the facilities director. His education and experience have prepared him well for facilities management, with a bachelor degree in mechanical engineering, a masters degree in civil engineering, and a masters degree in military science. He has held Navy positions such as infrastructure program engineer, public works officer, and exec/operations officer. He was raised in a missionary home and is fluent in Spanish. Joel writes, “Westlake has been a place of significant spiritual growth and formation for my kids and I believe in the mission of the school. I’ve served on a public school board and look forward to being able to provide a more comprehensive leadership role in a school where the Bible is acknowledged as God’s Word, the source of wisdom.” Speaking of Westlake, he observes that, “the value of the education [my children] received cannot be overstated.”

Taylor Wilcox

Bringing an alumna viewpoint with her, Taylor graduated from Westlake in 2012. She went on to earn a bachelors degree in history and a masters degree in library and information science. Her career now places her at Trinity International University’s Roling Library where she is the electronic resources supervisor. In recent years she has served at an assistant and then head coach at Westlake and in leadership roles in the youth ministry of her church. Her mother, Faye, was our librarian for many years, and her uncle, Jeff, was principal of WCA for six years. After her interview with the Board, the members shared how impressed they were with her maturity and clear grasp of the central challenges Westlake faces. References state, “Taylor is a leader who would be able to provide insight and different perspectives.” “Taylor comes across as level-headed, soft spoken, and mature beyond her years. I can also vouch for her solid level of spiritual maturity that is largely due to her parents’ strong Christian faith and teaching as well as her years at Westlake Christian Academy as a student. A mature young adult like Taylor would offer a refreshing perspective and make an excellent candidate.” She herself wrote, “Though it can be easy for students to conform to a moralistic lifestyle, a Christian education should not allow such complacency. It must require deep thought and development of the students’ own faith and convictions.”