

# VINJE CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEES

*The Congregation will meet via Zoom after worship on February 6th to elect council members. The Nominating Committee has nominated the following members to serve on the Congregational Council. Find the brief biographies of each nominee below. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting. The Zoom meeting link will be available on our website and will also be sent via email. To join by phone, call 312.626.6799. Meeting ID: 811 8662 4196 Passcode: 013471*



**Dan Kleven** I have been a lifelong member of Vinje and my wife Debbie and I have three married sons and two granddaughters. I was baptized and confirmed at Vinje as were my sons. I have served on many committees' as well as church council and one of the things that has been very rewarding personally over the years, among many, has involved being on an usher team. I have always enjoyed welcoming our congregation into the Sunday morning church service. One of our granddaughters attends Loving Arms Daycare and I support Loving Arm as a valuable Vinje mission reaching out to our community. Deb and I are both retired now and live on the family farm three miles East of Willmar. My family homesteaded our farm after emigrating from Norway. I worked in several aspects of agriculture and Deb always worked in child advocacy. Deb and I feel very fortunate to live where we do and to consider Vinje a valuable part of our life.



**Nicole Mages** After graduating from Minnesota State, Mankato with my BS in Nursing, my husband and I moved to Willmar (I grew up in Hector, MN) in 2005. We joined Vinje shortly after moving here. I work as a RN at Carris Health (Rice) hospital on Women's and Children's - OB. My husband works for Procore in Willmar. We have 2 girls, Allison - 13 years old and a 7th grader at Willmar Middle school and Kara - 10 years old and a 5th grader at Roosevelt. The girls keep us busy with activities - volleyball, basketball - which we enjoy watching and being involved in. I also enjoy spending time with friends, being at the lake and vacationing with friends and family, and running - I ran my first 1/2 marathon last fall! I have been involved with our youth ministry and teaching Sunday School for probably 5+ years and look forward to serving Vinje on the council if elected.

## PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

*At the meeting, Vinje will consider an amendment to the bylaw governing the Congregational Council's ability to spend dollars on projects that are not included in our budget. For decades, the limit to this spending has been \$5,000. In reviewing our financial policies and procedures the Faith and Finance Committee feels that this is no longer an appropriate number for a congregation of Vinje's size. The current limit of \$5,000 is 0.5% of our operating budget and the committee felt that does not give the council the necessary flexibility to respond to unexpected needs that come up throughout the year. In an attempt to avoid this problem in the future (due to the nature of inflation and the always changing value of a dollar) the committee has suggested basing the limit on a percentage of giving. Here is the proposed change:*

Current Bylaw

C12.05.01. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$ 5,000 for items not included in the budget or undesignated reserve funds.

Proposed Bylaw

C12.05.01. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts for items not included in the budget or undesignated reserve funds as long as the cost does not exceed 5% of the annual budget for general fund contributions.



**Ben Saunders** I grew up in Willmar, MN as a member of the United Methodist Church and loved joining my friends at Vinje on Wednesday nights. I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and returned to Willmar after I graduated in 2010. I convinced my wife Kendra to move to Willmar and we joined Vinje after we were married in 2012. I work for the City of Willmar and love doing something different each day. My wife says I don't sit still very well. Kendra is a 2nd grade teacher at Kennedy and we have 3 children: Nora (6), Will (3), and James (3 months). I have served previously on a call committee, church council and I help with Sunday School. I am excited about the direction our church is going and look forward to being a part of Vinje's future.



**Lynn Stier** I grew up in Okabena, Minnesota and moved to the Willmar area after graduating from the University of Minnesota, Morris. I have been a member of Vinje since 1995 and have participated in teaching Sunday School, teaching and mentoring confirmation youth, and served on the Personnel Committee, as well as helping with Family Promise. My son, Dean, his wife, Carlee, and two beautiful girls (Scout and Holland) live in Prinsburg. My daughter, Brooke, and her husband, Ben, live in Maple Grove. Our youngest, Megan, lives in Willmar and continues to be a member of Vinje with us. Mark and I have made our home in Willmar for 30 years. We love camping "up north" on family property in the summer. I have worked for Rice, Carris and now CentraCare for the past 22+ years in a variety of management positions, with the most current being Manager of Patient Experience and Relations. I currently service on Vision 2040 Board. I look forward to the opportunity to service on the church council if elected!



**Allie Rosendahl** I live in Spicer, Minnesota and I am a Junior at Willmar Senior High School. I am involved in many activities including Volleyball, Kandi Elite Volleyball, Basketball & Track. My parents are Scott and Kim Rosendahl. I have a brother, Jacob who is a freshman at SDSU and a sister, Emma who is in 6th grade. In my free time I like to be with my family, hangout with friends, and play sports. I have gone on three mission trips with our church and enjoyed each one. I look forward to serving on Vinje council if elected.