

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM NOMINATION & AFFIRMATION

The Church Leadership Team (CLT) serves as the Church Board under the authority of the Church Constitution. It carries both spiritual and business governance responsibilities, ensuring that the community of believers at GRLC moves in alignment with God's will. The CLT provides policy direction and guidance for the spiritual life of the church while maintaining sound management and faithful stewardship of church resources.

According to the Church Constitution, the CLT may have up to ten members, including the Senior Pastor and Partners elected by the congregation, to serve up to two consecutive 3-year terms. If needed, the CLT may appoint an additional member between congregational meetings, subject to confirmation at the next Annual Church Meeting (ACM).

The 2025 CLT members are:

Ben Rusin - Senior Pastor

Jan Reardon (Secretary) - Elected in December 2023

Bruce Stevenson (Treasurer) - Elected in December 2021 and up for re-election this ACM

Bronwyn Thornton - Appointed by CLT March 2025

David Seeto - Elected December 2021

Karen Hewitt - Elected in December 2023

Margaret Thompson (Chair) - Elected in December 2021 and up for re-election this ACM

Nik Karanikas - Elected in December 2023

Peter Abrahams - Elected in December 2023

Departures

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to David Seeto for five faithful years of service on the Church Leadership Team, the Finance Committee and the Pastor Selection Team. Your commitment, wisdom and discernment have been invaluable to our church family.

We also want to thank Nik Karanikas for his faithful service over these last two massive years at Georges River Life Church. During this significant season of change, your steadfastness, wisdom and prayerfulness have made a lasting impact on us all.

Thank you both for your servant hearts and for investing so generously in the life of our church.

Nominations

The CLT is proposing the congregation reappoint Margaret Thompson and Bruce Stevenson for another 3-year term, having led us well over these last three years of significant change. Their bio's are attached below.

The CLT also nominate Bronwyn Thornton to be elected by the congregation to the Church Leadership Team. Bronwyn is a mature Christian and an active Chipping Norton site member. She brings a wealth of discernment and prayerfulness to the team, bringing further balance and diversity into the CLT. Bronwyn's biography and photograph are below.

Should you have any questions, you can send your queries to clt@grlc.org.au.

These appointments require a 75% endorsement at the ACM.

Nomination Process

The nomination is presented to the congregation following a thorough process of selection and discernment spanning several months. Potential candidates are identified in consultation with the Staff Leadership based on their spiritual maturity and gifts, personal skills, suitability for the CLT, and sense of calling. Shortlisted candidates are then approached, and both the CLT and the candidate spend time in prayer and discernment before mutually agreeing to proceed with the nomination. Standard recruitment checks are completed, and nomination is endorsed by both the CLT and Staff Leadership.

While uncommon, Partners may also nominate individuals independently. Such nominations would be expected to follow the same rigorous process.

You will receive a ballot form upon sign-in at the ACM. We ask that you prayerfully consider the candidates and their suitability to serve on the CLT before voting.

Affirming the following CLT Members



Peter Abrahams



Jan Reardon



Karen Hewitt

Bio's for CLT Nominees

Bronwyn Thornton



Bronwyn has been part of GRLC since September 1995. Over three decades, she has served in numerous capacities including establishing the crèche ministry, (which grew to 22 children under three years old), coordinating various children's programs for nine years, and leading Small Groups. She has also led women's ministry, served on the prayer team and Strategic Prayer Team, and led the Life Stream of the Georges River Life College for several years.

Bronwyn was part of the initial Life Care team, running the parent education program for ten years and serving on its management committee. Over 1,000 parents participated in her programs across the church and broader community, including tailored courses, personalised coaching, and programs run in other churches. After responding to God's call, Bronwyn has spent almost four years serving at the Chipping Norton site. She has served on the CLT this year since March 2025.

Professionally, Bronwyn began her career in the Commonwealth Government in various leadership roles, including involvement in change management programs where she wrote executive briefings and business manuals. She then transitioned to the not-for-profit sector, where she has worked for 26 years helping people navigate difficult periods in their lives. She has worked with families, the frail-aged, and people with disabilities.

As a teacher in the international Arrowsmith Program, Bronwyn helped children and young adults with learning difficulties improve their literacy, numeracy, logic, reasoning, and social skills. Currently, she works as a coach for carers throughout the Commonwealth-funded Carer Gateway program, having conducted over 1,700 coaching sessions. She helps carers understand their care recipient's conditions, develop effective care strategies, and maintain their own wellbeing through self-care practices.

Bronwyn is passionate about creating programs that help others grow, overcome difficulties, and live well. She loves sharing her faith journey when opportunities arise, planting seeds for spiritual transformation. Bronwyn looks forward to continuing to help GRLC grow in facilitating spiritual transformation along Georges River and beyond for all the glory of God and the building of His kingdom.

Margaret Thompson



Margaret has been a Christian since 1982. She is married to Alan, and they have two adult sons. They joined GRLC in 2012 and have been actively serving in various capacities from the beginning.

Currently, Margaret co-leads a Small Group with Alan and previously served on the Safe Church Team and as a Youth Leader. She has been serving on the CLT for the past three years, including the last two years as Chair during the Senior Pastor transition and the Pastor Selection Team leading to the successful appointment of Pastor Ben Rusin.

Margaret's professional background included seven years in the banking industry and seven years in senior management in an Australian manufacturing/retail furniture company, where she developed expertise in strategic planning, team building, and business strategy. She then spent seven years with Vision Australia in roles including National Contact Centre Manager and National Employment Services Manager. Currently, she works as Operations Manager for Partners in Ministry, where she is part of the Executive team. Partners in Ministry provides church consultancy, leadership development, pastoral supervision, and related support services for churches across Australia and New Zealand. Margaret holds a Graduate Diploma in Business Management.

Margaret is passionate about Jesus's love and acceptance for people right where they are, and about championing those around her in their walk with Christ. She believes in the vital role of the local church in both an individual's walk with God and its impact on the local community. Margaret is committed to the mission of Georges River Life Church in building disciple-making communities along the Georges River and beyond.

Bruce Stevenson



Bruce Stevenson attended Panania Uniting Church as a child but came to understand and respond to the gospel in faith while at university. He then attended Beverly Hills Uniting Church for many years and subsequently Church on the Green (an independent evangelical church). Bruce came to GRLC approximately 15 years ago.

Bruce and Julie have been married since 1989 and have two children - Lindsey and Emily. Julie, Lindsey and Emily all serve as River Kids Leaders.

His main areas of church service involve Bible teaching, including preaching and leading a Small Group. He served as an Elder for many years at Beverly Hills Uniting Church and on the Board of Church on the Green. He was also a Board Member of St George Christian School from 2008-2021. Bruce has served the last three years on the CLT during our Senior Pastor transition and the Pastor Selection Team leading to the successful appointment of Pastor Ben Rusin.

Professionally, Bruce has worked as a Chiropractor in private practice for over 30 years.

Bruce's passion is to help people grow in their understanding of the truth which is found only in God's word, and which comes from studying the scriptures in their entirety and allowing God's voice to speak out from them.