

## 2025 At- Large Nominating Committee Nominees



**Jennie Derby** retired in June of 2019 making Blowing Rock her full-time residence. A Certified Financial Planner, she owned LifeWorth Financial, a financial advisory practice, in Charlotte for 29 years. Her firm provided advice and asset management to individuals and businesses. She joined Rumple in 2006. She has served in various capacities including on the strategic planning, finance, search, strategic staffing and Fresco committees as well as the capital campaign. Jennie and her husband Leigh have two children and three grandchildren. Jennie enjoys, hiking, tennis, gardening, reading, entertaining family and friends and traveling.



**Kim Kincaid** has been an active member of Rumple since 1997, when she and her husband, Steve, moved to Blowing Rock from Lenoir. She is a retired health educator, holding a variety of positions in both rehabilitative and preventive medicine and industrial wellness. Kim has served on numerous committees over the years, including Missions, Worship, Finance, Endowment, and most recently Creation Care. She is a former Elder and has participated in the Children's Music Ministry and several task forces: Vision, New Building planning, Operations manager search, Stewardship, and Decoration of newly renovated Rumple House. Recently widowed (2020), Kim is grateful to be part of such a caring and active church and looks forward to exploring and deepening her faith and serving as a witness to God's love for all. Her daughter lives in Boone and her son in Denver with their two grandchildren. She enjoys family and friends, music, golf, yoga, reading and feeding her birds (and the occasional bear).



**Ralph (Tres) Abernethy** was born and raised in Lincolnton. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Beth), still maintain a residence in Lincolnton, but live primarily in Blowing Rock. Their daughter, Megan, and her husband, Steven, reside in Charlotte. Steven is a partner in Windle Terry Bimbo Construction Law. They have three children: Eloise (9), Stokes (7), and Frances Elizabeth (3). Their son, Michael, and his wife, Lena, reside in Lincolnton. Michael is General Manager of Abernethy Chrysler Jeep Dodge, and they have two sons: Jack (9) and James (6).

Tres began working in the family business (Abernethy Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Inc. and Abernethy Chevrolet Buick GMC) that is grandfather started as a young man. He continues to work and be involved in the daily operations there. Tres has been involved in Rotary since 1987, and he and his wife are members of the BRAHM, Blue Ridge Conservancy, Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, WFBR, and Blowing Rock Country Club. Tres currently serves on the Personnel Committee. Tres and Beth enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren, golfing, entertaining, and traveling.

## Class of 2027 Elder Nominees



**Bob Baker** is of counsel (no longer actively practicing law) at Moore & Van Allen, PLLC, in Charlotte, where he served on the management committee for ten years. Along with his wife, Laramie Williams, and their three children, scattered in Flagstaff, AZ, Charlotte, NC, and New York, NY, Bob has been coming to the High Country since 2000, and he and his wife have been permanent residents in the area since 2021 when they joined Rumble. In Charlotte, Bob and Laramie were members of Providence Presbyterian, where they served in the Stephen Ministry, a Christian active listening ministry for grief and other personal crisis support. At Rumble, Bob currently serves on both the Missions and Visitation Committees. Through God-led direction of Kathy Beach, Bob has become a regular volunteer with Homestead Recovery Center, which provides supplies and peer services to individuals with substance use disorder. With the Homestead

Team, Bob worked to gain recent unanimous approval of Boone Town Council for the rezoning of two residences in Boone to serve as recovery residences that are expected to be open in the fall. Bob has indicated that becoming a part of the Rumble family, the Homestead family, and this community has been the most meaningful and joyful time in the life that he and Laramie have led together, and they are very grateful to the people at Rumble, at Homestead, and to God.



**David Hardage** was born and raised in Charlotte, David spent many summers in the High Country as a youth. Blowing Rock was like a second home. He has been a Rumble member for about 8 years and has served on the Missions, Congregational Care, Properties, and Visiting Scholar Committees. He has also served on the Nominating Committee and the Associate Pastor Search Committee. David has been a deacon in a Charlotte church and has also been an usher and communion server at Rumble. His hobbies include hiking, reading, traveling, and gardening. David is retired from a career in sales and marketing. He has two sons, both married and being encouraged to provide grandchildren!



**Stacey Rex**, husband, Tripp, along with their high schoolers, Sam and Kate, relocated to Blowing Rock in spring 2021. After exploring various churches, they found a true home at Rumble Church, which warmly embraced them. At Rumble, Stacey is actively involved in the Creation Cares Committee, assists with youth events, and serves as a lay liturgist and usher. She is also a substitute teacher at Blowing Rock and the high school, and volunteers with the National Park Service at Rough Ridge.

Previously, Stacey worked in technology project management at Bank of America and ran a small business focused on all-natural skin care products. She enjoys reading, running, hiking, and playing tennis.



**Hope Squires** and her husband Chris joined Rumble in late 2019, and she got involved right away with Women Together and the Creation Care committee. She has worn a number of professional hats: first as a high school English teacher, then as a marketing and PR writer, and now as a writer and published author. Originally from Raleigh, where she was raised Methodist, she moved with Chris from Raleigh to California and back again before happily settling full time in Blowing Rock in 2019. Hope serves on the board of ZAP Endurance, volunteers with BR Cares, and is co-chair of Rumble's Creation Care committee. Despite not being what she considers "outdoorsy," she loves running, nature photography, gardening, hiking, and travel.