



2018-2019 Board of Trustees

Mr. Thomas Bandyk

Mr. Bandyk is a long-term resident of the Grand Rapids area. He is graduate of Ferris State University with a degree in pharmacy. He later had careers in finance and insurance. Tom is an active member of Fountain Street Church serving on various committees and is currently on the music committee. Tom is a lifelong lover and supporter of the arts, especially music. This includes past and current board membership, leadership roles and committee participation with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, Grand Rapids Symphony Friends, Friends of the Opera and Opera Grand Rapids. He currently volunteers regularly at GRSO and FOTO events such as the fifth-grade concerts, summer POPS, and Celebration Cinemas Met Operas. He and his wife Suellen are active volunteers who also enjoy hosting visiting OGR and GRSO guests.

Mr. James S. Brady

Mr. Brady served Dykema as the Office Managing Member for the firm's Grand Rapids office and is now Senior Counsel. His practice is concentrated in the areas business and commercial litigation, white collar investigations, criminal law, media law, health care fraud and environmental and energy law. He represents clients from various business entities, executives, medical professionals and other individuals in criminal matters involving a wide array of corporate, government and individual crimes. He was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2003-2015 for multiple practice areas. Jim is a graduate of Western Michigan University and the University of Notre Dame.

Mr. Jim Cox

"Great guy" is a simple yet spot-on description of Jim Cox. He's great to talk with about many things, especially running a small to mid-sized business in the Greater Grand Rapids area. He also has a great sense of humor and the kind of smarts (and heart) that make you glad you know him – professionally and personally. As a client of Priority HR, you'll appreciate his pragmatic, "hands-on" approach and easy accessibility. Jim is a 7th generation Grand Raptidian and graduate of Grand Valley State University

Mr. Nyal Deems

Nyal is a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group. He focuses his practice on conveyance and lease transactions, land use approvals for various development projects including shopping centers, resorts, residential subdivisions, marinas and commercial projects, construction and permanent lending, on behalf of lenders and borrowers and real estate investment trusts. He has unique municipal experience having served as a member of the East Grand Rapids City Commission and Chairperson of its Planning Commission, Mayor of East Grand Rapids, and Chairperson of the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Council. Nyal served as a supply officer in the United States Navy and is a Vietnam veteran. He was recently named Grand Rapids Real Estate Lawyer of the Year by U.S. News - Best Lawyers.

Mr. Christopher Edgar (Chris)

Chris Edgar has been practicing law in Grand Rapids since May of 1975. His practice is focused on representing a wide range of closely held business owners and executives, their families and other individuals in matters including business, estate planning and will and trust administration. Chris addresses succession issues, asset protection, and various types of restructuring. He is a Fellow of the prestigious American College of Trust and Estates Counsel, listed in Best Lawyers in America and highly ranked by global Chambers & Partners in the High Net Worth Guide. Chris received the National Eagle Scout Association's National Eagle Scout of the Year Award for the President Gerald R. Ford Council. He and his wife Linda have three children.

Mr. Robert Evett (Bob)

Robert Evett is Director of Dealer Business Consulting at Steelcase. He leads a team of professionals who collaborate with dealer leadership to drive improved and sustainable business performance. Steelcase dealers are key to the company's competitive advantage and the consultants engage them in the creation and implementation of comprehensive business strategies through the development and application of tools and resources that increase their capabilities to ensure market leadership. Robert joined Steelcase in 1991 and is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University.

Mrs. Joan Gillett

Joan is a singer and performer with a business background. An indefatigable worker, she was one of the driving forces behind the founding of the Opera Association of West Michigan. She chaired the first organizational meeting, recruited the first board, served first as temporary chairperson and later as president and saw to it that the opera became a fully functioning organization. For six years she managed the company from her home, doing promotions, auditions, crafting contracts, fundraising and making the budgets. It is Joan's tenacity that has brought Opera Grand Rapids into being and kept it strong for 50 years.

Dr. Thomas Haas

President Thomas J. Haas is Grand Valley State University's fourth president. Dr. Haas has had a distinguished career in higher education for more than 37 years. He has served as a tenured faculty member, department chair, dean, vice president and president. During his tenure, Grand Valley has seen a steady rise in enrollment to more than 25,000 students. During the same time, 32 new majors have been established, including the Doctor of Nursing Practice and nine other graduate programs. He has overseen a growth of 2 million square feet (40% increase) in facilities. He has degrees from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, the University of Michigan, Rensselaer Institute of Technology (New York), and the University of Connecticut. Haas has held fellowships at Western Michigan University and Yale and received an honorary doctorate degree from Kingston University in the U.K. and from Cracow University of Economics. Students affectionately call him "T-Haas."

Dr. Peter Hahn

Peter is the Chief Medical Officer at Metro Health-University of Michigan Health. A recipient of the Mayo Brothers Distinguished Fellowship Award and a former Mayo Foundation Scholar, Peter spent several years on faculty at Mayo Clinic. An accomplished physician executive, Peter has served in regional and national leadership positions and has lectured and published widely. Peter plays the violin attending Interlochen and Blue Lake Music camps while growing up in Okemos. He majored in Political Science at the University of

(continued next page)

(continued)

In Political Science at the University of Michigan, earned his Medical Degree at Michigan State's College of Human Medicine and has an MBA from the University of Tennessee. He enjoys traveling, reading about medieval history and spending time with his wife and two kids.

Ms. Cassandra Hayes

Cassandra Hayes leads executive communications and corporate affairs at Amway – Americas. She joined the company and the Grand Rapids community in 2012 from New York City where she held leadership roles in communications at Avon, New York Life and Goldman Sachs. Before the call of corporate America, Cassandra was an award-winning journalist at *Black Enterprise* magazine. A frequent guest on New York morning news shows discussing finance, small business and career management, Cassandra also penned the *Black Enterprise Guide to Building Your Career*. Her career was not always a 9-5 and while a student at Fordham University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Cassandra found time between her studies to also be an international flight attendant at American Airlines – a job she “retired” from in 2008. Her wanderlust has not waned, and she continues to travel the globe, mostly for work, often for pleasure and – when she can – with her Maltese-Shih Tzu named Bella.

Mr. John T. Jones

John T. Jones, originally from Sterling Heights, Michigan, now calls Grand Rapids, Michigan home after moving there in 2009 to attend Aquinas College. John graduated from Aquinas in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a dual major in business administration and communication. In his junior year, John began working on Amway’s North American Digital Marketing team where he stayed for nearly two years until accepting a digital marketing position at Family Christian Stores. After a year at Family Christian, John was recruited for and accepted the digital marketing and communication manager position at USA Financial, a position he has held since May 2014. A lifelong lover of music, John comes from a family of several generations of both professional and hobby musicians. As an organist and pianist, John has played at several churches in the Grand Rapids area and across the State of Michigan, and is a founding member of 92 Strings, a piano and viola performance group. In addition to being a trustee of the Opera Grand Rapids Board, John is president of the Friends of the Opera, a docent at the Frank Lloyd Wright Meyer May House, and a volunteer for the Grand Rapids Symphony and Opera Grand Rapids. He is a past board member and board secretary for the Chalfonte Foundation. When not volunteering, or enjoying music, John spends his time with family and friends, entertaining, traveling, cooking, gardening, and enjoying a good pot of tea.

Mr. Joseph Kozakiewicz (Joe)

Joseph Kozakiewicz earned bachelor’s and law degrees from Columbia University in 1985 and 1988, and an MSW from Grand Valley State University in 2000. Mr. Kozakiewicz worked for Ottawa County’s Family Court first as a Circuit Court Referee and then as Director of the Friend of the Court before he became Director of the MSU Chance at Childhood Program in 2003.

Ms. Madelaine Lane

Madelaine is a partner at Warner Norcross + Judd LLP specializing in white collar criminal defense. She represents witnesses and defendants in complex criminal cases and proactively conducts internal investigations for major corporations and the higher education industry. Madelaine also regularly coordinates responses to grand jury subpoenas for individuals and corporations and counsels witnesses and targeted

(continued next page)

(continued)

individuals. When she is not in the courtroom, Madelaine is a soprano who has appeared in venues throughout the United States and Europe. She has sung Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Countess (Le Nozze di Figaro), the United States and Europe. She has sung Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Countess (Le Nozze di Figaro), Mimì (La Bohème), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Countess (Le Nozze di Figaro), Mimì (La Bohème), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Countess (Le Nozze di Figaro), Mimì (La Bohème), La Cenerentola (Suor Angelica), and Cousin (Madama Butterfly) with companies including Opera Grand Rapids, New York Lyric Opera, West Michigan Opera Project, and Kent Philharmonic Orchestra. In past seasons, Ms. Lane was a Sherrill Milnes Studio Artist.

Dr. Gilbert Padula (Gil)

Gil has been a resident of West Michigan since 2002. During that time, he has led the Department of Radiation Oncology at Lacks Cancer Center while simultaneously practicing. Gil also led the Cancer Research Consortium of West Michigan (CRCWM) which is a cooperative effort between all the health systems on the west side of the state to secure National Cancer Institute funding. Working together, they were able to secure a 10-million-dollar Grant for the patients of West Michigan. Gil is currently the Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair of Oncology at Summa Health and maintains a part-year residence in Grand Haven with his three children--twins Isabella and Nino age 14 and Gabriella age 10. Growing up in an Italian-American household in suburban Detroit, a deep appreciation of the Opera was instilled in him at a very early age. Gil is honored to join the Board of Opera Grand Rapids and help to enhance an appreciation for this remarkable art form in our region. He has served on the Saint Mary's Foundation Board as well as the John Ball Zoo Board and looks forward to bringing a new crop of sustainable, loyal donors to Opera Grand Rapids. Gil also looks forward to helping bring Opera to a younger audience!

Ms. Shari Schwanzl

Shari is responsible for planning, organizing and directing hospital operations, and nursing services at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Shari has been a nurse for 30 plus years and has 20 years of leadership experience. She was vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer at Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio and chief nursing officer at Toledo Children's Hospital. Shari earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. She also holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio. She enjoys spending time with her husband, four children and three grandchildren more than anything. She also enjoys hiking, camping, reading and shopping.

Ms. Diane St. Claire

Diane St. Claire is an attorney who represents neglected and abused children, and incapacitated, developmentally disabled, and mentally ill persons. She is a current board member of CASA, and a past board member of the Adoptive Family Support Network and Michigan's Children. She and her husband Tom Northway have one daughter, Emelyn, who is co-founder of Of Mercer, a women's workwear clothing line. Diane and Tom love dogs, especially big ones; they currently enjoy their fourth gentle giant, a Leonberger. In addition to attending Opera Grand Rapids, Diane and Tom love to attend The Met when they visit their daughter in New York City; their daughter is also an opera fan, having become hooked in sixth grade, after attending *Aida* at the Van Andel Arena.

Mr. Craig Stucky

Craig Stucky has enjoyed living in Heritage Hill for over 20 years since moving to Grand Rapids, which he is proud to call home after growing up in North Carolina and Minnesota. He and partner Heather Zinn spend all the free time they can with their daughter Amelia. Craig volunteers at Amelia's school, helps out at startup Liberty Footwear, and with Heather's business The Cheese

(continued)

Lady in Grand Rapids. Previous positions over 25 years in manufacturing include General Manager, Plant Manager, Six Sigma Black Belt, and Plant Engineer. He is a graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and holds an MBA from Michigan State University.

Rev. Dr. Weldon Frederick Wooden

Fred came to Fountain Street Church (FSC) in March 2005 from Brooklyn, New York where he went to the Met and the NYC Opera every chance he could. Before entering clergy life he was a music composition and conducting student where he mounted a concert production of Mozart' "Impresario" in 1974. That was his one and only appearance on the operatic podium. He and his wife of 41 years have two grown sons.