

Introducing...
Karen (Hewitt) Cheng



Candidate for Elder at Creekside Church

To help provide a broader and stronger leadership base for Creekside Church, the current elders have prayerfully approached Karen Cheng and asked her to consider the prospect of becoming an elder at Creekside.

Brief Summary:

We approached Karen several months ago to ask her to consider joining the Elders Team. Karen took time to meet with many of us individually and in February 2026, Karen met with the elders to discuss the role in detail and to share her own faith journey. After much prayer and consideration, we believe this is the right time for Karen to consider the role of elder. Should Creekside members choose to elect Karen as an elder, she is committed to fulfilling this role.

Recommendation/Motion:

The elders recommend inviting Karen (*Hewitt*) Cheng to become an elder at Creekside Church. They will hold a membership vote on Karen's candidacy at the VISION 2026-2027 Meeting on Sunday, June 28th, 2026.

The motion proposed is as follows: *To elect Karen (Hewitt) Cheng as a volunteer elder for a three-year term.*

She will need to receive a minimum approval of 75% of all ballots cast before we can invite her to join the Elders Team.

Questions?

We encourage you to chat with Karen and the current elders about appointing Karen to the Elders Team. You can reach Karen at khewitt.cheng@gmail.com, and the elders at elders@creeksidechurch.ca.

Karen (Hewitt) Cheng

Faith journey

I have been a believer since I was very young. I grew up in a Christian home with my parents and my sister. My paternal grandmother lived right next door to us until she passed away when I was in grade 5. She was a devoted follower of Jesus and modelled prayer and Bible reading and really helped to introduce Jesus to me at a young age.

Although I decided to follow Jesus while young, I didn't fully understand what it meant to follow Jesus with my whole being. I recall going to youth camp in grade 9, and after one of the sessions the leaders asked us to split into groups depending where we were in our spiritual journey and I questioned where I belonged. Was I truly a follower of Jesus? I met with my counsellors and recommitted my decision to follow Jesus and put Jesus at the centre of my life. From there I got really involved in Youth Groups, bible studies, camp ministry and expanded my Christian lifestyle. Later, moving away to Waterloo to attend university at Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU), I was really involved in Laurier Christian Fellowship which grew my relationship with Jesus and other believers even deeper.

Since my early years as a Christian, I have grown through prayer and scripture reading. God is the centre of my life. I especially feel that God prompts me in serving others. I feel that God helps me to see needs around me and impresses on my heart ways to respond.

God continues to be faithful through the good and the challenging times. He allows me to lean hard on Him during the trials. I do my best to cast my burdens on Him and trust Him in all things.

I am so thankful that through our Christian faith and Christian community around us that our kids have also responded to the call of Jesus and are living out loud for Him too.

Background

Family: I have been happily married to Wayne for over 21 years. We have 2 sons, Tanner and Connor. Tanner is in 3rd year BBA at WLU and Connor is wrapping up high school and plans to take a gap year next year including a term at Tauernhof Bible School (Torchbearers) in Austria before pursuing training in the electrician field.

Career: I am an accountant and have worked in both the automotive and insurance industries for my career. I am currently not working outside the home, and am thankful to have the time to be more involved in ministry and with my family.

Interests: I love to gather with family and friends. I love to travel, spend time in or on the water, especially kayaking. I'm always up for a chat over a tea or for a walk in nature.

Baptism: I was baptized at Creekside (then Community Fellowship) at the YMCA location in 1998. It was important to me to be baptized as a believer, even though my parents choose to baptize me as an infant.

Vision

I love that Creekside is committed to Follow Jesus. Love God. Love People. It is so great to see the body of Christ working together to be the Church each and every week, both inside the church walls and beyond. As part of Creekside's missions team, I am thankful for the support that Creekside provides to our global partner locations in Ecuador and Uganda.

I love serving at Creekside. I have served in the kids' ministry since starting attending Creekside almost 30 years ago. And the grade 5/6 room is where I have served most recently for almost 10 years. I am passionate about helping people get plugged into serving where they are gifted. It is a wonderful way to bless others, serve God, and also meet new people serving along with you.

I am also really excited about the new connections being made through the women's ministries at Creekside. Even as a long-time member of Creekside, I am amazed how many new and beautiful women I continue to meet at the Thursday bible studies and at the women's events. I am very thankful to the group of women at Creekside leading these initiatives to improve the sense of community for women in our church.

My hope and prayer is that all who call Creekside home will find a place they love to serve, plug in and a place that they can connect and grow in their relationships with Jesus and with others.

Wayne Cheng

Wayne's story

I was born in Taiwan and moved to Toronto when I was eleven with my Mom and my older brother, who was born with disabilities. My father remained in Taiwan and supported us from afar. After arriving in Canada, my family did attend church occasionally, although I had no interest in attending.

My first true exposure to Christianity that made me curious about faith and a relationship with Jesus was during second year at WLU. Somehow, during first year God had surrounded me with Christian friends without me even being aware. Early in second year, some of them invited me to a Laurier Christian Fellowship retreat, but at the time I didn't even know what I was signing up for! I just went to have fun with my friends, but God started His work in me.

I continued my friendships, which included driving my friends to church and attending with them, going to additional LCF gatherings and retreats. Near the end of university I started attending Creekside (Community Fellowship). Things started to click for me. Faith was making sense and the Holy Spirit working in me drew me to Him to make a decision to follow Jesus. I was soon after baptized.

Over the last 25 years, I have gone through life's up and downs. I have learned my strengths and weaknesses. I show God I love Him by loving people.

Work and Interests

I am a realtor with a background in financial planning. I love helping people with the big decisions around everything real estate. Playing tennis is a regular part of my routine. I also enjoy going to sporting events and travelling when I can.

My thoughts on Karen as an elder

I am supportive of Karen taking on this role of being an elder if voted in by Creekside members. She has leadership gifts that would be valuable to this role. And she is passionate about serving at Creekside.

What is an elder?

The Biblical discussion as to the responsibilities and qualifications for an elder is as follows:

1 Timothy 3:2-7

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Titus 1:6-9

An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Our elders

Our current Elders Team consists of two staff elders and four volunteer elders. Elder candidates at Creekside Church are people whom the Elders Team have carefully observed, approached, and interviewed before recommending to the congregation. The church members prayerfully consider the elder candidate and seek to recognize if appointing this person to the office of elder would please God. Church members then vote on whether or not to appoint the candidate to the Elders Team. If the candidate receives 75% affirmative votes of all ballots cast, they receive a warm welcome! Volunteer elders shall serve a term of three years, with no restriction on the number of consecutive terms an elder can serve. All elders are accountable to God, to each other and to the congregation.