

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES - BIOGRAPHIES**

*Be In Christ Church of Canada Board of Directors Nominees 2026*

### **- Tonia Blenkarn -**

I have been aware of God's presence since childhood. My family was Islamic but it never felt like home. After moving to the Parry Sound area in 1998, I began attending a Christian church, where I came to understand Jesus as the Son of God and experienced a deep sense of belonging. For the past 25 years, I have been faithfully following Him.

My husband and I built and operated a family business for nearly 25 years, growing it to 70 employees before selling it in 2022. Through this, I gained experience in leadership, operations, HR, and organizational management.

I am part of the Parry Sound Community Church (formerly The Meeting House Parry Sound). My greatest passion though has been serving in the church. I began in children's ministry and later led KidMax. Most recently, I served as Chair of The Meeting House Board, helping lead through the season of dissolution. This was a deeply challenging experience that strengthened my faith and taught me the importance of discernment, humility, and trust in God.

I am drawn to the BIC for its Jesus-centered theology and commitment to peace. The Anabaptist focus on living out the way of Jesus resonates deeply with my faith journey. I bring experience in leadership, governance, and navigating complex change. I am passionate about serving both the church and my community. I look forward to serving on the BIC Board Of Directors.

### **- Tanya Aitken -**

At the age of ten I chose to follow Jesus personally and felt a strong call to missions. I have been involved in ministry most of my teenage years in some way, whether volunteering in the nursery or Sunday School or with our youth group. I was always exposed to missions, having missionaries stay in our home and hearing about their work, which was always exciting to me!

I am a proud graduate of EBC, where I completed my Bachelor of Religious Education in Counselling and Missions. These were definitely years of growth for me in every area of my life and I'm grateful for my College experience.

Shortly after graduation I became a full time missionary with CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ontario) where I coordinated summer backyard clubs and mentored a group of teens participating in their summer missionary program. This was a fantastic experience, but I felt a tug on my heart toward overseas missionary work, particularly with Operation

Mobilization (OM), specifically the Ships ministry (2003 - 2006). I worked in the kitchen for my first year, which I loved, and then spent two years as the Manager of Onboard Programs. During these years I traveled to and worked with people from over 40 countries. These were definitely challenging and rewarding years which helped to form me personally and spiritually. When I returned from the Ship I spent two years working in the OM Canada Office in Port Colborne (2006 - 2008) where I was the Coordinator of Short Term Missions. I spent two years doing various reception and secretarial jobs and then was hired as a Client Support Worker at Hannah House Maternity Home in Niagara Falls (2010 - 2015), supporting teen moms, teaching life skills programs, counselling (Yay! Finally using my counselling degree!), cooking and basic household chores.

I got married to Jeff Aitken in 2014 and was placed into one of the most challenging and rewarding roles of my life as a wife and “bonus mom” to two young girls, Madison and Eden. A few years after we were married Jeff and I said yes to the lead pastor position at TrinityLife Church in Sherkston. We have been blessed by the church family there and love to call TLC home.

Jeff and I participated in an MCC trip to Ethiopia in 2020, and I was amazed by the work that MCC is doing there. This trip definitely educated me on the work of MCC and gave me a real love for this ministry.

Since my College days I have had an interest in Church Planting. Jeff and I were participants in the Exponential Conference in Florida in March 2025, and this definitely stirred up that interest and excitement again.

Now I fill my days as a wife, mom, pastor’s wife, and a sales representative at Ruffins Pet Centre in Fort Erie, where I see my role as a ministry to my coworkers and the pet owners of Fort Erie!

I’m excited for what comes next!

**- Craig Hogg -**

Hello, my name is Craig Hogg, Lloyd’s middle boy. This is how I was introduced and later introduced myself for over three decades in BIC circles. I was immediately identified, my family history outlined with this simple phrase. Dad’s service in the church was lifelong and selfless. I inherited, and he passed on to me a love of God, and a desire to serve in the church. He did not pass on to me his love of Robert’s Rules, or the fascination of reviewing a financial report. I will share with you a brief summary of my testimony, family life, church involvement, and my professional background.

I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour at the age of 8 at Camp Kahquah. I was baptized at Heise Hill BIC church at the age of 11. I grew up in the church, but as with most young kids, my faith was my parent’s faith as it was all I knew. As a young adult, going off to university and exposed to other world views, my faith was challenged, but not shaken, and I

made it my own. In my 40s, I became uncertain as a physician, how to reconcile my faith and science. It seemed that you couldn't believe in both. Two books that influenced and helped me greatly through this period are, A Reasonable Faith, by William Lane Craig, and The Language of God, by Francis Collins. I realize now that you can believe in science, but there is still enough mystery in the universe that demands a creator God. I have continued to grow in my faith and obedience. My major life goal is to experience God every day in His Word, in my relationships and in His creation.

I was born February 8, 1960. My parents are Lloyd(deceased) and Lorna Hogg. I have an older brother Larry, and a younger brother Brad. I met my wife Trish at NCC. We were married in 1983. Together we have 4 living children Ryan, Alison, Graeme and Kieran, all well established in professional careers. We have 6 grandchildren.

I graduated from NCC in 1978, and Grade 13 in 1979. I attended the University of Guelph for two years prior to being accepted to medical school. I graduated from the University of Toronto School of Medicine in 1985, and did a rotating internship and a one year GP Anaesthesia Residency in Toronto. From 1987-1997 I had a general practice in Elliot Lake ON. This included anesthesia, Emerg, ICU and obstetrics. From 1997-1999 I served as a Medical Officer at Macha Mission Hospital under BIC World Missions in Zambia Africa. In 1999 we moved to Port Colborne ON. From 1999-2006 I worked at the Port Colborne Hospital in the Emerg, and doing Anesthesia. From 2006 -2019, I practiced Anesthesia full time with Niagara Health. From 2019-2025 I was a full time Surgical Assistant. I retired in April of 2025.

I started teaching Sunday School in my early teens at Heise Hill BIC church. I have taught all levels, nursery to adult at First Baptist Church in Elliot Lake and Port Colborne BIC. I was on the Deacon's board in Elliot Lake. I have served in music, as a Song Leader in Elliot Lake, and on Worship teams at Port. I was the music Coordinator at Port BIC from 2003-2013. I currently serve as the Director of Men's Ministries at Port BIC. I served for three years on the Canadian Conference Finance Committee in the early 2000s.

I look forward to continuing to serve Christ and His Church as a member of the BIC Board of Directors.