



2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

COA Nominating Committee: Jena Dunn (chair), Elaine Phillips, Charles Faber

NOMINEES FOR THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

Four Year Term (2024-2028), vote for one: Evan Posey OR Lee E. “Rusty” Waller

Evan T. Posey, Executive Vice President and Provost, Luther Rice College and Seminary (GA)

- PhD (Theology and Apologetics), Liberty University; MDIV/MA (Apologetics), Luther Rice College and Seminary; BBA (Accounting), Georgia State University
- Ministry in higher education since 2007 has included serving in the roles of Student Accounts Manager, Director of Online Education, Undergraduate Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Accreditation Liaison, and Executive Vice President and Provost
- Service to ABHE includes presentations at ABHE Annual Meetings and Leadership Development Conferences
- Enjoys teaching courses on theology, worldviews, and apologetics
- Cherishes quality family time and actively serves the local church as a worship leader



Lee “Rusty” Waller, Distinguished Professor of Education, Baptist University of the Americas (TX)

- PhD (Higher Education), University of North Texas (TX); MS (Mathematics/Statistics) & BSE (Special Education/Mathematics) Stephen F. Austin State University (TX), MTh & BTh (Theology) Texas Baptist Institute (TX).
- Experience in higher education since 1985 has included service in the roles of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Distinguished Professor, Associate Dean, Dean, Associate Provost, & President. Duties include Dean of Denton County Campuses, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation, Dean of Applied Sciences, Associate Provost of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and President.
- Ten years of international service in the United Arab Emirates.
- Enjoys teaching courses in mathematics, statistics, digital applications, leadership, assessment, pedagogy/andragogy, theology, and overseeing doctoral dissertations.
- Service as senior pastor for 39 years.
- Passionate about teaching and enriching the lives of students.
- Family includes his wife of 45 years, 1 daughter, 3 sons, and 9 grandchildren.



Four Year Term (2024-2028), vote for one: Aaron Profitt OR Alicia Plant

Aaron D. Profitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, God's Bible School and College (OH)

- PhD (Educational Studies), University of Cincinnati; MA (English), University of Kansas; BA (English and Political Science), University of Kansas
- Ministry in Bible college education since 2004, including service as Admissions/Financial Aid Director, General Studies Division chair/faculty member, Director of Institutional Research, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs, VP for Academic Affairs
- Service to ABHE includes 11 ABHE Accreditation Teams as chair, Academic Evaluator, Administrative Evaluator, and Student Services Evaluator. Also, has served on task forces and presented at Annual Meetings and Leadership Development Conferences
- Participated in self-study and hosting work for 11 comprehensive and focus site visits for 1 programmatic and 2 institutional accrediting agencies and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (including addition of online and graduate programs)
- Teaching experience includes English literature and composition, communication, statistics, US government, and a worldview BA capstone course
- Serves in teaching and other roles in his church
- Married to Lisa for 23 years; they have 3 sons
- Enjoys reading, minor-league baseball, learning new spreadsheet formulas, drinking good coffee, trying new food, and exploring new cities with his family



Alicia Plant, Associate Academic Dean, Beulah Heights University (GA)

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS (in progress); Doctor of Ministry (D.MIN.), Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA, 2016; Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Duke University, Durham, NC, 2005; Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Religious Studies, Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA, 2002
- Ministry and Education Experience: Over a decade of progressive teaching experience across undergraduate and graduate level disciplines, consistently rated "excellent" on teaching evaluations, serving as the Associate Academic Dean and previously as the Director of Digital Learning and Doctor of Ministry program director.
- Service to ABHE includes participation in ABHE Standards 1-3 Taskforce, ABHE Evaluation Team Fall 2023 (Standards 4 and 5), and regular participation in ABHE's Day of Prayer.
- Enjoys teaching courses in theological research and writing, spiritual formation, and managing online learning.
- She is passionate about using online learning/education to advance the Gospel and being a Godly example for her teenage daughter, mentees, and students.



Four Year Term (2024-2028), vote for one: Curtis Essenburg OR Brian Sherstad

Curtis Essenburg, Dean of Students and Work, Kuyper College (MI)

- Doctoral Candidate (Educational Leadership), Western Michigan University; MEd (Educational Leadership), Grand Valley State University; BS (Educational Ministries) Kuyper College
- Served in the area of Christian Higher Education since 2008 including serving in areas of Residence Life, Adjunct Professor, Director of Student Life, and Dean of Students and Work.
- Service to ABHE includes serving on a variety of ABHE Accreditation teams, serving as the Student Affairs Evaluator as well as assisting with other standards.
- Passionate about designing a campus environment and a co-curriculum that is firmly rooted in scripture that supports students in their academic, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical growth.
- Dedicated to serving in biblical higher education and committed to the growth and development of ABHE institutions and the common mission of spreading the gospel through training and equipping future Christian leaders. He does this alongside his wife Ann (who also serves at an ABHE institution) and with his three children as they live on the campus of Kuyper College.



Brian Sherstad, Executive Vice President, Grace Christian University (MI)

- MA (Intercultural Studies), Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; BTh (Pastoral Ministry), Grace Bible College
- Service in higher education since 2000 in roles including Dean of Students, Vice President for Community Life, and Executive Vice President
- Service to ABHE includes serving on nine ABHE Accreditation Teams as the Student evaluator, chairing five of those teams
- Serves on the Board of Directors of Grace Ministries International and has engaged in cross-cultural ministry on several missions trips including 2 ½ years teaching in Tanzania. Actively involved as an elder at Celebration Bible Church
- Enjoys tandem cycling adventures with his wife, Pamela, of 34 years



Four Year Term (2024-2028), vote for one: Joel Badal *

Joel Badal, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Professor of Leadership Studies, The College of Biblical Studies (TX) since 2010.

- PhD, Lancaster Bible College (Leadership Studies), MDiv., and BA (Pastoral Studies), Moody Bible Institute
- Over 20 years of pastoral experience in shepherding, preaching and leading.
- Prior experience: High School Teacher (2004-2009), Campus Pastor of Village Bible Church, Interim Pastorates for EFCA Churches, Elder
- Ordained by First Baptist Church, Conservative Baptist USA, Licensed by the Evangelical Free Church of America
- Translators for the Assyrian Bible New Testament and currently advising translation work on the Old Testament.
- Other roles include: Undergraduate and graduate teaching in traditional, accelerated and online formats; Subject Matter Experts for Online courses; and Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Philosophy Research Mentor.
- Current Role: Lead the institution institutional planning and reporting for regulatory agencies.
- ABHE: Served on self-study teams, Chaired Self-Study Teams, Chaired Grievance Committee
- Joel and his wife Lisa live in the Chicago area and have 5 children. He helps coach his kids sports and both are involved in leadership roles at River Valley Evangelical Free Church. Joel is preaching regularly, and Lisa organizes the worship services.



Four Year Term (2024-2028), vote for one: Elaine Phillips *

Elaine W. Phillips, Provost, Family of Faith Christian University (OK)

- MA (Christian Education), Oral Roberts University; BA (Christian Education), Southwestern University.
- Ministry in higher education since 1995 has included serving in the roles of Registrar, Vice-President of Student Affairs, Director of Accreditation and Assessment, Academic Dean, and Provost.
- Service to ABHE includes service on 10 ABHE Accreditation Teams as Chair, Academic Evaluator and Administrative Evaluator. Also, has presented sessions at ABHE Annual Meetings and Leadership Development Conferences.
- Enjoys teaching courses on discipleship, evangelism, missions, and teaching the Bible, and overseeing student practicum experiences.
- Passionate about interceding for and taking the gospel to the nations of the world with her family which includes her husband of 31 years, John, 3 daughters, 2 international sons-in-love, grandchildren, and her church family. Also loves reading, baking, and walking.



**incumbent Commissioner, eligible for re-election, running unopposed*