



Board of Trustees

President of the Board - Ricky Garner, Pastor at Bethel Hope Bible Church

President Emeritus - Alan Cumming, VP Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

Board Secretary - Mary Berry - Retired Educator and Non-Profit Administrator

Board Treasurer - Krista Wallace, Director of Learning Innovation, Elevate USA

Board Member - Brian Brandt, CEO Core Insights

Board Member - Tom Brown, Attorney, Tom J. Brown, PLLC

Board Member - Cynthia Freeman, Retiree Post-Master

Board Member - Nate Hill, Experienced Ministry Director

Board Member - John Morrison, Strategic Financial Advisor/Certified Public Accountant

Board Member - Jeanne Elizabeth Ramirez, Retired Pharmacist & Stay-at-Home Mom

Board Member - Cynthia Riter, Community Volunteer, Riter Family Foundation

Board Member - Trey Yarbrough, Managing Attorney, Yarbrough - Wilcox PLLC

Board Member - Ivette Zavarce, Fuzion Outreach Director & On Air Host

Ricky Garner is President of the Board of Trustees. He is also Lead Pastor at Hope Church Tyler. He grew up in Tyler and is a product of the community Promise seeks to serve. Ricky studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and served as a senior pastor in Dallas/Fort Worth before returning to Tyler.

Alan Cumming holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from LeTourneau University in Longview and a Masters of Business Administration in Finance from the Stern School of Business at New York University. Alan is with Morgan Stanley here in Tyler. Alan and his family attend Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Mary Berry, now retired, spent 45 years in the workforce as an educator and as an administrator in various settings, including colleges, universities, nonprofit and home health care agencies. She holds a BS in Home Economics from Alcorn State University, and a M.Eds in Library Science and an Ed.S. in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University. Mary attends New Days Community Church in Tyler.

Krista Adams Wallace is an international Christian educator and consultant. She is the founder of the Doulos Discovery School and spent 19 years in the Dominican Republic working in missions and educational development. In 2016, Krista co-founded InspirED Educational Consulting, which provides professional development and leadership coaching to faith-based schools. Krista serves on the board of directors at Promise Academy.

Brian Brandt has spent his life supporting the transformation of individuals and organizations. He is the C.E.O. of Core Insights, a Texas-based company providing premier training, strategic guidance, leadership coaching, and keynotes for businesses, nonprofits, and associations. In his three decades of leadership experience, he has served in such roles as a C.E.O., public relations director, national sales director, executive pastor, and college tennis coach. Brian holds a Master of Global Leadership, as well as a Bachelor of Accounting. Brian volunteers for and serves on the board of numerous non-profit agencies. He co-authored *Blind Spots: What you don't know CAN hurt you*, with Ashely Kutach. Brian attends Grace Community Church.

Tom Brown, has practiced 38 years as an attorney. He focuses his practice on estate and asset preservation planning for clients through the use of trusts, wills, partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations, tax planning and other planning techniques. He is a member of the Board of Hospice of East Texas, Christus TMFHS Foundation, Tejas Missions, and he is the former President of Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization. Tom and his wife, Julie, have been married for 41 years. Have two children, Katie and Adam, and three fabulous grandchildren, Will, Eleanor, and Piper. Tom attends Marvin United Methodist Church.

Cynthia Freeman is a retiree of the USPS North Texas District Operations Support, which she was responsible for the East Texas 755-759 Area. She holds a business degree in Accounting from Tyler Commercial College. She moved to Tyler after graduating from school in Jacksonville, TX. Cynthia is very active in the Promise community as evidenced by her work with children, youth, and parents. Cynthia attends Bethel Hope Church.

Nate Hill has been the Area Director for Young Life since June of 2017. Nate is a strong community and social services professional that studied Christian Leadership at Southwestern Christian University. Nate is an experienced Ministry Director as he has also worked as The Mentoring Alliance's Mentor Coordinator and as the Executive Pastor/ Community Outreach Coordinator at New Holy Trinity Church. He is skilled in Fundraising, Leadership, Nonprofit Management, Community Outreach, and Youth Development. Nate attends Bethel Hope Church.

John Morrison grew up in Tyler, Texas, graduating from Robert E. Lee High School. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's of Taxation from Baylor University, where he also met his wife, Ashley. After graduation, John and Ashley pursued opportunities in Texas and Alaska, but family commitments and a desire to return home and open an accounting practice led them back to Tyler. They have two beautiful daughters, and a resident mutt named Earl who keeps an eye on the whole crew. Throughout his career, John has used his financial insight and knowledge of tax law to assist his clients through their toughest challenges with outstanding results. He holds both a Texas Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license and a Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) certification, is a Real Estate Broker and is an active participant in several professional and charitable organizations.

Jeanne Elizabeth Ramirez a stay at home mom. She grew up in New Mexico and graduated from the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy in 1991. She was a Pharmacist in the ICU at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas where she met her husband, Rigo. They have been married for 25 years and have 3 children. She has served on the school board at Grace Community School for 5 years and also on various committees there. They attend church at Grace Community Church.

Cynthia Riter has been an active community volunteer in Tyler for many years. She was an educator in Austin and Houston before moving to Tyler 39 years ago. She also currently serves on the board of the Literacy Council of Tyler and is on the Advisory Council for the School of Education and Psychology at the University of Texas at Tyler. She also served as a board member and past president of the Alzheimer's Alliance of East Texas. Cynthia has been married to her husband, Whit, for 43 years, and they have a son and daughter-in-law, Paxton and Elise, and two grandsons, Dub and Boots. She is a member of Grace Community Church.

Trey Yarbrough is an attorney with Yarbrough - Wilcox, PLLC, and has been in private practice in Tyler for forty years. He has previously been a board member of All Saints Episcopal School and mentors a young man through Mentoring Alliance. He and his wife, Paula, a Tyler native, have been married for thirty-nine years, and have two adult children and two grandsons. Trey is a member of Christ Episcopal Church.

Ivette Zavarce was born in Caracas, Venezuela and came to Tyler 12 years ago with her dear husband and two young children. Ivette has a degree in Advertising and Social Communication and has worked many years in the Marketing area. Since she came to Tyler, she has served in many different non-profit organizations, such as Children's Advocacy Center, The Mentoring Alliance, Texas Children's Hospital and also worked at Brookshire's Grocery Store Company as a Multicultural Marketing Coordinator for many years.

Ivette is now serving the Lord at Encouragement Media Group in the Spanish speaking radio, Fuzion. Her family has grown up and they now have a precious grandson and a wonderful daughter in law whom they love. They are very proud of their son who is a great dad, husband and drummer. Their daughter studies Psychology and works with children. She is sweet, smart and kind! Their family also includes four puppies, 3 rescues and a Bull Terrier. Ivette is very happy and immensely grateful for God's grace and mercy. Ivette's family are members at Bethel Bible Hope.