

Name: Michael Boers

Spouse: Kristyn Boers (VanderMaas)

Email: mike@boers.xyz

Employer: Datacomp Appraisal Systems, Inc.

Church: Seymour CRC

Children: Josh, Sophomore, Calvin College / Jacob, Senior, SCHS,
Kaitlyn, Freshman, SCHS

Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.



Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

Many large books have been written and many long sermons have been delivered on why Christian Education is important. For me, however, the most important reason for Christian Education is simple. If you accept that God is the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all creation how could you possibly attempt to educate anyone about that creation without the ability to acknowledge God's presence and role? From that initial point then springs all of the other benefits of Christian Education. As we learn about creation (science, math, and related subjects) we also learn more about God. As we learn about man's role in creation (history, language, economics, etc.) we also learn about God's relationship to us. In short, Christian Education provides a complete knowledge of the materials studied while at the same time helping us to mature as Disciples of Christ.

My children have, are, and will attend South Christian because of Kristyn and my commitment to Christian Education. We had several options for where our children could attend High School and after evaluating each we chose South Christian for our family.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

Grand Rapids South Christian High School is, in its essence, a group of parents with a common set of beliefs that have organized to create an institution in which their children can be educated according to those beliefs. These parents are dedicated to a reformed understanding of God, which are expressed in Articles II & III of South Christian's Constitution. I am very thankful that as a parent I was able to join this existing group of parents who have built on the work of the generations before them in creating this school.

What differentiates South Christian from many other private schools is that common set of beliefs combined with the deep understanding that the ultimate responsibility for education belongs to the parents and not the school nor the state.

Name: Michael Boers

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

My skills are primarily in the area of technology and administration. For the past 20 years have worked with technology including spreadsheets, databases, application development, website development, wired and wireless networking, hosting, and hardware maintenance. I have experience with project planning and administration. While I am neither an accountant or an attorney, I have worked closely with both and have been an effective liaison in situations where both were needed. I currently serve as the Co-President and COO of Datacomp.

I have served as a Deacon at Seymour CRC and as a Board Member at Dutton Christian School. My most recent volunteering has been as a sound technician for Dutton Christian and School Christian drama performances and maintaining statistics for the South Christian Cross Country Team.

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

I believe that there are two major challenges facing Christian Education in general and that they are related. The first challenge is maintaining high educational standards while at the same time remaining affordable to our parents. The second challenge is the seeming decline in interest in Christian Education. This second challenge is aggravated by the first because as affordability or excellence wane, disinterest in Christian Education accelerates.

I am unaware of any challenges that South Christian is facing specifically. In fact, the recent success in planning and funding a new campus points toward a healthy environment that surrounds this school. However, I am sure there are many challenges that I am unaware of and I would be honored to use the skills I have been given to meet those challenges.

Name: Boomstra Shawn

Spouse: Janna
Email: shawnboomstra@hotmail.com
Employer: Homestead Realty of West Michigan
Church: 1st Byron CRC
Children: Ethan 9th, SCHS



Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

My father was a Christian school teacher and I have seen in my life and my children's lives the impact Christian teachers and classmates have had on the faith of my children.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

I think the education at South adds Faith and Scripture into all aspects and subjects of the school. I think it teaches the saving grace of Christ should affect our complete lives.

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

I can't say I have any specific skills that make me stand out for the board. I have served on the Byron Christian board previously. I have been connected with South as a Sports Booster and a coach, so I am familiar with that side of the school.

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

The biggest challenge will be continuing to demonstrate the value of a Christ Centered education over the monetary cost. With quality public schools like Byron and Caledonia we need to communicate that not only can South offer a highly rigorous academic education but South also will have a major impact on the student's Christian Faith for their entire life.

I also think it will be important to maintain a high standard in our teaching staff. A high standard of enthusiasm, effort and modeling.

Name: Anita Charles

Spouse: Jey Charles
Email: jeynita@gmail.com
Employer: Our Daily Bread Ministries
Church: Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
Children: Nithya and Rupa Charles - 10th Grade at SCHS



Willingness to serve:
I am willing to serve on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

Christian Ed nurtured my faith when I was growing up and hence we felt it was important for our children to have Christian Ed.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

In my layity, I am passionate about knowing, understanding and obeying the Bible. I do not know what a Reformed understanding of Scripture is. I was born and raised in India and have diverse church experiences and I try to be faithful in studying the scriptures.

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

My experience is in Project Management in the IT world. I work in a global Christian non-profit organization. Being born and raised in a Hindu country helps me have a different perspective. I am also passion about education for young girls and to about help help build bridges with the community with regards to immigrants.

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

Will discuss face to face if needed.

Name: Rick DeRuiter

Spouse: Marlys
Email: Rick.deruiter@graybar.com
Employer: Graybar Electric Company
Church: Kelloggsville CRC
Children: Kennedey, Senior, Calvin / Peyton, sophomore, MSU-JM/
Isaac, 10th SCHS, Levi, 8th, Dutton Chr.



Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

I believe that to be educated in a Christ centered way, as it relates to all subjects, is a biblically accurate framework for a reformed perspective on education.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

I believe that when a school chooses to teach from a reformed perspective they are taking on a responsibility that while encouraging excellence, also incorporates the grace and forgiveness of a broken world. SCHS should never be a Private / Parochial school only accessible by those with money or privilege. My hope would be that every child taught at SCHS would realize God's call on their unique and individual life, that they would leave SCHS with that call as they head out into God's world.

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

I have a background as an electrician serving the last 21 years in different roles from purchasing, management and sales. I have had the privilege of serving on multiple boards in church and school as well as youth ministry and sports boosters. I enjoy roles in leadership and working with a team of people willing to humbly serve others.

Name: Rick DeRuiter

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

I feel one of our strongest challenges is continuing to lean into what God is calling SCHS to do in west MI. How are we investigating change and yet staying reformed in a growing community, but also in a world that is diverse and yet changing faster and faster in so many ways. How is SCHS staying relevant in that reality. My hope in 2018 is that we continue to foster an atmosphere that allows teachers to teach well but also encourages kids to live into Gods call on their lives.

Name: Kevin Gabrielse

Spouse: Karen Gabrielse

Email: kgabrielse@godfrey-lee.org

Employer: Godfrey-Lee Public Schools

Church: InSpirit Church

Children: Cierra, 10th, SCHS. Jordan, 8th, Moline Chr.

Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes



Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

As a product of the South Christian circle, I know full well that the type of education that I received has been a major influence on how and why I live my everyday life, and how I set my goals for my family, career and personal attainments. My wife and I both teach in the public school system. In doing so, we are able to see and compare what a Christian Education system looks like, and what constraints are placed on us in the public schools. This can be a daily reminder of why we send our own children to the South Suburban Christian School.

The direct influence of faith into the classroom on many different levels (from K-12), especially with the TtT happening at all levels is a reinforcer of that intentional integration of Christ and his life into my children. This will have a lasting effect on their decision making, and morals throughout their lives. The teacher's influence on our children both with content and with actions helps our children to strive for a Christ-like lifestyle.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

Being raised in the CRC and a product of South Christian, I realize that we do not know all the answers to life and death. But we do know that our Lord and Savior has a master plan that each of us play an integral role in His kingdom. The teaching staff is the biggest difference between SCHS and other schools in the area. The inclusion of Christian Doctrine, Biblical Ethics are easy ways to see the surface of SCHS Reformed education, but it is in the other classrooms that sets this school apart. ALL teachers can have the same Biblical influence on students, not just the teachers of "Bible" classes. Doctrines and belief statements are just a bunch of words until they are put into actions, and that is what the staff does on a daily basis.

Name: Kevin Gabrielse

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

The strengths that I could bring to SCHS include: I have been a teacher in the public schools for 19 years building a very strong instrumental music program, served on the BoE at Moline Christian School, current chairperson for the Strategic Planning Committee at MCS, served on the negotiations committee at Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, department chair for the Fine and Performing Arts for the past 15 years, and operate a small business on our fruit farm in Moline.

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

In my view, there are several areas of concern for SCHS. We have seen BC Public test scores rise above that of SCHS in the past 4 years. Elitism, whether true or perceived. Charter and Homeschool numbers rising at an enormous growth rate in our area. Lack of ethnic diversity within the school system itself, from K-12. A lack of a unified South Suburban Christian Schools association is another, but on a different level than the aforementioned items.

Many of these concerns are public relation nightmares. Promotions and educational committees are no longer just about hiring and printing shirts, but now about looking to those who are in the classroom daily and utilizing the strengths of the staff to spread the Word of God and his good deeds, but to speak in a positive way about SCHS. Parents too need to talk about the good things which happen within the school to keep the Christian Education viable.

Name: Duane Oetman

Spouse: Sheri

Email: dsoetman@gmail.com

Employer: Spectrum Health

Church: Rush Creek Bible Church

Children: Josh 12th, SCHS/ Hudson 10th, SCHS/
Caden 8th, BCCS/ Maci 6th, BCCS



Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

I feel Christian Education is very important for our children. I believe that it is a privilege for them to hear about Christ and learn about Him while at school as well as at home and at church. I feel that the teachers are living as examples of Christians, and they truly care about their students lives--both academically and spiritually. The students continue to grow in their faith and establish their foundation while they are challenged in their Bible classes as well as the other subjects. I believe they are better prepared through their training for the secular world they are about to face when they graduate. They know whom they believe in and why. They can better make a stand for Him and share their faith about Him when confronted by others who do not know Him.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

I believe that a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world is taken from Calvinism. It includes believing that God is sovereign. He is fully in control. Nothing surprises Him. He gave His Word--which is infallible. It is God's Truth and has power to direct us and teach us and lead us in all aspect of our lives today. I believe salvation only comes through grace through Christ--that He chose us, undeservingly, to deliver us from sin and death, and receive eternal salvation. It is not on our accord or based on anything that we do. We only have to receive it freely. I also believe we need to share the gospel with others. We need to tell others about this loving God and his gift of salvation through his Son. Then the Holy Spirit can work in their hearts to turn them to Him. I also believe God works through covenants--starting with Abraham and later through Christ in the New Testament, even through families today. Each individual is still responsible for receiving Christ into his or her own heart, but God makes his promises to families to be their God, and for us to be His people.

Name: Duane Oetman

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

I bring a strong Christian faith and a willingness to serve to the Board. I am dependable and follow through on projects. I work with people on a one to one basis all day long at work. I am comfortable in one on one settings. I enjoy working with numbers. I am involved with leadership at Spectrum Health--leading our office physicians--and lead a life group at church.

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

Our biggest immediate challenge will be the move over to the new campus in the upcoming year. These are exciting times for South Christian. Strong, wise leadership is very important during this transition. I feel I can help provide that leadership. We also are challenged in our faith by the community and world around us. Christian children are leaving churches in large numbers as they advance to college or graduate from high school. We need to develop a strong Christian worldview in our children and help make their faith real to them. We need to help them take ownership of their faith--and that is by growing them in their faith, and then challenging them in their thinking and application of those beliefs.

Name: Christine Sall

Spouse: Kevin Sall

Email: christinesall@yahoo.com

Employer: Self - Floral Elegance

Church: Corinth Reformed Church

Children: Noah (Fresh, Cornerstone University), Gideon (11th, SCHS),
Tristan (9th, SCHS), Wyatt (5th, MCS), Tehya (3rd, MCS),
International Student: Johnson (9th, SCHS)



Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

Years ago, I heard a teacher at MCS say, that the purpose of a Christian school isn't to put our students in a bubble, protect them or shelter them, but rather to enlist them in "boot camp". To that statement, I say, "Amen!"

We have our children at South Christian High School, not only so they can receive a high quality education, but to be challenged, equipped and trained to become devoted and passionate followers of Jesus, willing to stand strong in their faith in a world that will try to pummel them to its submission.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

I'm quite certain trying to summarize a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world in 10 lines is like trying to eat an elephant in one bite, but I'll do my best to keep this brief:

1. We all need Jesus and God's GRACE (God's Riches at Christ's Expense) because we all have sinned. God wants to be in a relationship with us, however, because of our sin there is a "chasm" between us that is only bridged by Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.
2. Infallibility of Scripture, and that, while written by humans, it is God-breathed.
3. "All of life is religion" and therefore we are called to live our day to day life wrestling with and experiencing what it means to glorify God in this world. Loving. Forgiving. Serving.

Name: Christine Sall

(Continued)

At South Christian, the Word of God is the cornerstone upon which the entire school is founded. Each class, teacher and coach is challenged to play a vital role in what we are teaching our children at home:

1. It's all about GRACE. Yes, you will make mistakes, but Jesus has freely paid the price for your sins, forever. (However, through those mistakes, you can and should learn and grow.)
2. If anything you face in life seems to go against God's Word, it isn't to be trusted.
3. "All of life is religion." At South Christian High School, we believe our children are challenged and equipped to be Christians living in a Covenant Community.

At SC, our children are free to wrestle with and seek answers to, or wisdom for, their everyday struggles, questions and doubts. They are also encouraged to serve, to give as God has given them and to love one another as God has loved us.

(Oops! I didn't even come close to answering this in 10 lines... :)

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

After many years, I have discovered that I am an outgoing, driven and personable individual that drives great pleasure and satisfaction from organization and doing a job thoroughly and well.

For more than a decade, I have been the owner of Floral Elegance, a floral company that specializes in custom wedding and event flowers. I have volunteered at South Christian High School through Pasta Lunches, the Anchors Aweigh Sailor 5K, Sports Boosters, Music Boosters and the Capital Campaign Committee. Currently, I am the co-chair of Moline Christian School's Mini Bazaar and just handed over the reigns of their Annual Fall Auction after a record breaking year. At Corinth Reformed Church, I am a worship and Corinth Kids Sunday Mornings leader and also am serving on their pastoral search team.

Name: Christine Sall

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

Christian education today faces the daunting task of trying to demonstrate to parents the difference between cost vs. investment when it comes to the education of their children. In the past years, there has been a general lack of commitment and sacrifice for the gift of a Christian education, which only creates an even greater challenge.

Today, we, as a South Christian community, need to face this challenge head on. Compelling parents to see the immeasurable worth of investing in their child's faith and education, rather than categorizing it as something that costs them too much and is not worth sacrifice.

Name: Greg Schreur

Spouse: Kristen Schreur
Email: gregschreur@att.net
Employer: Grand Rapids Public Schools
Church: Hillside Community Church
Children: Annie, 11th, SCHS / Jack, 8th, Legacy
Charlie, 6th, Legacy



Willingness to serve:

I am excited about the possibility of serving on the Board.

Agree with Statement of Belief: Yes

Why do you feel Christian Education is important? Why are your children attending South Christian High School?

Even as products of Christian education ourselves, the choice to send our own children to Christian schools was not a foregone conclusion but was one made with deliberate consideration. We made our choice, and continue our support, in part because Christian schools as an institution in, and a choice for, a local community is a concrete way of having God's Kingdom be explicitly present in that community. While we have clearly witnessed the value of this education on our own children, we have seen this blessing as well to the community we are blessed to be a part of. We strive, therefore, to be a blessing to the community even as we are blessed ourselves.

Education at South Christian is based on a Reformed understanding of Scripture and the world. What does this mean to you, and how does this make South Christian different from other private or parochial high schools?

We are called to be image bearers of our unseen God. This requires faith but it also calls for faithful imaginations as we work out our eternal salvation in this world, which means that this world and our individual roles in it matter. It is more complicated than narrow obedience to and basic knowledge of facts and regulations, which may be the focus of other parochial schools. It means we must be in the world but not of it, and being in a broken world requires our reforming it through the worldview presented in scripture. Education at South focuses on the different aspects of creation and places emphasis on our active roles in that creation as imaginative image-bearing reformers.

Name: Greg Schreur

What specific skills or abilities do you see yourself bringing to the Board? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fund raising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) Also, identify any leadership or volunteer experiences you have been involved in.

I can offer a broad and varied perspective to education: I am in my eighteenth year of teaching for Grand Rapids Public Schools, currently teaching English at City High Middle School; I have my Master's degree in secondary education and am a Teacher Consultant for the National Writing Project; I also served on the school board of Legacy Christian School as chair of the finance committee and as school board president, continuing now as an ad hoc member of the education committee. These various roles have forced me to consider the sometimes conflicting pressures that schools continue to face. My skills include communication, budgeting, organizing and leading committee work, and insight into what constitutes quality education. My children are also involved in sports and I have volunteered with Sports Boosters, so I am also invested in extracurricular activities.

What challenges do you see facing Christian education in general (and South Christian specifically) in the coming years? Feel free to share ideas you may have for facing these challenges.

I currently see more opportunity than challenge for South in the upcoming years. Of course, with opportunity comes the challenge of maximizing the impact while avoiding the distractions and dangers that accompany opportunity. The amazing blessing of new facilities comes with the potential for drawing in new families and adopting new ways of doing things, but also the need remain true to the principles that are fundamental to the school's existence. The gradual implementation of Teaching for Transformation as a way of more intentionally integrating a creation worldview into teaching can serve to enhance and deepen students' education, yet all policies and procedures must be put in place with people in mind as well as the need to prepare students for the demands and expectations of post-secondary education as well as a broken world that does not present easy lessons.