

Church in the Vineyard Board Member Profile



Name: Sandy Ahmed

How old are you? Flint Hill Crossing in Landenberg

Marriage/Family Details: I am married to Kyle McDuffie. He is both my best friend and my Business Partner. Through my marriage to Kyle, I am a Stepmother of three daughters: Mya (20), Ryley (18) and Danica {Nikki} (16).

Where do you work? I am a Vice President of a Laboratory Informatics Consulting organization, for whom I am also a majority owner.

What do you do for fun or relaxation? I am an avid hiker and enjoy reading. I also own a Thoroughbred who I enjoy riding in Fair Hill Park. Kyle and I also enjoy spending time with our families and our friends.

Did your family go to church when you were growing up? If so, what kind of church? My parents, sister, and I sporadically attended an Episcopal Church. At age 16, my parents stopped attending Church and I started attending a Baptist Church with my sister.

How did you come to know Jesus personally? At age 11, I accepted Christ as my Savior, while attending a Vacation Bible School with my cousins at our summer home.

What is one thing God has shown you or taught you in the last year? When we truly follow Him, he will take the 'mess' of our lives and transform it into something beautiful. A favorite verse for me is Isaiah 61:3.

As a Board member... In this verse, God promises: ...to provide for those who grieve..., to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness

instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

What experiences have you had inside/outside the Church that you believe will help you serve in this capacity?

I have been attending CTV for about 18 years (even before Chip and Audrey came). I have taught 'Sunday School' and Adult classes and participated in the Women's ministry for many years. I have watched our church evolve to become a Church with core values of authenticity and vulnerability and a heart/mission to reach those who do not know God.

I was also involved in a very difficult marriage for 25 years that resulted in a divorce and eventually led to my second marriage. I have experienced Church discipline, grace and restoration at CTV. I have watched many people come and go over the years; some of these individuals 'blossomed' and found CTV to be a true home, and some left upset or disgruntled.

Outside of church, I have been in Sales and Leadership for over 25 years. I have been involved in three start-up Technology Companies. In this capacity, I have learned a great deal about communication and problem solving and motivating and leading people.

I believe all of these experiences have led me to a place of humility, dependence on God, and a compassionate heart for people. My heart's desire is to bring what I have learned from Church life, my own personal failures and victories; and my many years of success in business, to a role through which I can serve both God and fellow CTV attendees and members.

What is your vision or dream for Church in the Vineyard?

My Dream for CTV is for it to become a 'home' and a 'catalyst' for those on the Journey towards God and with God. By a home, I mean, a safe place where people can be both real and vulnerable and accepted just as they are. By a 'catalyst' I mean, an environment and supporting

'systems' where God's love for us and our love for each offer the motivation, tools, knowledge to challenge and empower us to pursue God, first; whereby transforming Church to be exciting, vibrant and full of life.

What do you see as unique about Church in the Vineyard as compared to other churches in our area?

Its love and lack of judgment for both those outside of the Body of Christ and Christians. Its openness to honor God and meet people's needs in non-traditional and non-threatening ways. Its practice of focusing on the most important areas of Christian Doctrine: Man's 'Helplessness,' God's Love, Salvation through Christ, and Experiencing Life with Christ, Now and Forever; rather than disunity, created by disputing secondary things.

What criteria will you use in determining the approval and priority of new programming ideas?

First, to always apply God's two most important Commandments: does this program encourage our Church to love and honor God and next, does this program help us better love our 'neighbors' as ourselves?

Second, to analyze and *pray about* all of the practical, financial, and resource allocations required to make the program real. The Bible encourages us not to start a new venture ('build a new tower') without considering all of the 'costs.'

Why and how will you build trust with the congregation as an individual board member and for the board as a whole?

By being approachable and listening first to what people have to say and continually seeking God's wisdom when I need to answer their questions. Also, by committing to live out my faith, every day, in everything I do and by being willing to ask for forgiveness when I fail.

Do you have a relationship that is confident enough with Pastor Chip to provide both encouragement and challenge?

Definitely, as mentioned above, I have known Chip for over 16 years and have had much opportunity to both encourage and challenge him.