

Mike Adamek (1 Year Term)

For the past 20 years, Mike Adamek has been serving as a lay preacher in NW Minnesota in 25 different churches of various denominations. His lay speaking began at a church picnic where Pastor Gary Barrett of the Newfolden Evangelical Free Church asked him to speak. Currently he has been speaking roughly twice a month at Teien Covenant Church near Drayton, North Dakota and in other area churches as well. Mike was also an AWANA leader and commander serving in that ministry for over 15 years. He is a graduate of Oak Hills Christian College where he was part of the original cohort of a new certificate program in **Rural Leadership and Ministry** the school began online in 2020. Mike worked for Arctic Cat in Thief River Falls for over 20 years in the publications department working with many various other departments as well as a time in Human Resources role. While at Arctic Cat he developed a mentorship program called ELEVATE which seeks to help employees “build one another up.”

Mike is married to Brenda (Dahl) of Newfolden, MN and they have three grown children (Jessica, Katya, and Ellert) who all grew up attending Cooperstown Bible Camp. We also have three grandsons: Henry, Thomas, and Fletcher, two of whom have already visited camp. Kayta and Ellert have both served as camp staff, in addition to Ellert getting married at CBC in 2023. Brenda began attending Cooperstown Bible camp in 1977 and Mike began attending in 1996 after he and Brenda moved to Newfolden, MN from the Twin Cities area. Mike grew up in Minneapolis and met Brenda there while she was working after attending Northwestern College in Roseville, MN. Mike & Brenda have been active volunteers at camp, including Mike serving three different weeks during the summer of 2024. Mike is a visionary and sees so much potential in the future of CBC and desires to use his God given talents to set the stage for the next 100 years at camp.

David Moquist (2 Year Term)

I was born and still live on a farm outside Crystal, ND. I graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. I was involved with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship at NDSU. After college, I spent 2 years in the Peace Corp in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Since then, I have been farming. We grow Potatoes, Sugar Beets, Wheat and Soybeans. Our family attends Cavalier Evangelical Church where we were charter members and have served on various boards over the years. My involvement with CBC has been from family camps and Mens Retreats. We have had two children work and counsel at CBC.

I am married to JoAnn and we have 5 children, Andy, Becca, Sarah, Emily and Jonathan. We now have 11 grandchildren. Some of those have started attending summer camp.

Paul Byron (3 Year Term)

Being the youngest of 4 brothers, I had to grow into a tough guy from Kentucky. I have always liked building/construction and hunting. So being able to be outdoors has been an enjoyment in my life. Uncle Sam brought me to ND, and I spent most of my Air Force time in Minot. I've had my own contracting business and went back to college to take up Architectural Drafting. Jamestown, ND was where my wife, Julie and I lived for 25 years. I designed churches while we were living there and did some hunting and fishing.

When we retired, we decided to move to the Portland, ND area to be near our daughter/grandchildren. We joined Riverside Evangelical Church and became involved with a great church family. We'd always heard about Cooperstown Bible Camp, but until 6 years ago, we hadn't been that familiar with CBC. When it was time to sign up for Family Camp, we were told how much FUN we would have. FUN?? We had the BEST FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND! We met so many new people and couldn't believe we had MISSED out on knowing about this camp!

I was asked to be on the CBC board 3 years ago and I said YES! It has been one of the best decisions of my retirement! Julie and I have had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer during the summer camps and other weekend events throughout the year. Also, to be a part of the camp family. It is a rich, fulfilling experience to be at camp and see the wonderful results from the young people that attend this camp. God has richly blessed so many, including us, while attending Cooperstown Bible Camp.

Mel Nelson (3 Year Term)

A former telecommunications and energy company executive, Mel Nelson brings over 50 years of leadership and organizational development experience to the table – including 25 years as an executive consultant. This experience includes numerous lay leadership endeavors in churches across the Northern Plains District and a decade of work with CBC as board coach.

Mel works with owners, CEOs, boards and leadership teams both for profit and not for profit organizations to develop cultures of integrity and trust.^[1] Mel and his wife Cia met at Cooperstown Bible Camp the year he graduated from high school. He worked as a counselor, lifeguard and drove a bus. Cia was a high school sophomore. Two years later, Cia enrolled at NDSU, caught Mel's eye ... and two years after that they were married. She served on the CBC board for six years. They have four children – all alums of CBC – and 11 grandchildren.

Monty Mertz (1 Year Term)

Monty was born in Bismarck, graduated from high school in Park River, ND, and attended UND. He graduated with a B.S. in Social Work and was commissioned as an Army Officer. Monty attended UND law on a delay from active duty. Monty entered the Army JAGC after graduation in 1981. After school in Virginia, he was stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. Monty left active duty after 4 years and moved back to North Dakota, settling in Fargo in 1985. He stayed in the Army Reserves, in the Trial Defense Service, until 1999. From 1985 until 2008, Monty was in private practice, concentrating in civil litigation, family law, and criminal law. He was also a Contract Public Defender from 1999 until becoming the Supervising Attorney in the Fargo Public Defender Office in November 2008. Monty grew up Lutheran and received Christ at age 14 at Park River Bible Camp. He worked at PRBC for 4 summers and met his wife-to-be there in 1975. Monty has been a member of Salem EFC in Fargo since about 1990. He served as the Chair of the Leadership Team at Salem for 10 years. He was a leader of the Stephen Ministry at Salem for about 15 years. He was a founder and Class Administrator of Men's Bible Study Fellowship in Fargo for 7 years. He was Chair of the Youth for Christ Youth Guidance Board. Monty has lead Bible studies and taught Sunday School. Monty and his family have been active attenders and supporters of CBC since about 1990. He served on the CBC Board of Directors from 2007 to 2013. He was the board's secretary most of that time. Monty's wife, Paula, passed away in November 2017. He has two married children and six grandchildren. Monty remarried in June, 2023, to Cheryl Montgomery of West Fargo, ND. Monty's interests include shooting, hunting, fishing, and studying history.