



# GARY SIMON

## DISTRICT #1 TRUSTEE NOMINEE

### BIO

I grew up on a farm south of Morland and graduated from Morland High School in 1980. After High School I earned a degree from Sterling College in Elementary Education and subsequently taught school for the next 4 years. Along with teaching I also worked as a farm hand in the summers. While in college I married Jacki Beaver who has been my wife for nearly 43 years.

Together we have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. In the late summer of 1989, we moved our family to Denver to attend Denver Seminary where I graduated with a MDiv degree in 1994. We spent nearly 10 years in Denver while I attended school, worked in auto sales, construction, and pastoral ministry. In May of 1999 we moved to Hays to Pastor the Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church and in October of 2017 we moved to Mt Pleasant Baptist Church in rural Sheridan County, and I currently serve there as their Pastor.

I have been in full time pastoral ministry for the last 34 years and along the way I have also worked on the side. I have done independent contracting in home repair, renovation, and remodeling. I have maintained close ties to the family farm and have helped and worked on it during the last 30 years. The rural life with its values have been important to me.

I believe the wide diversity of my life experiences and the lifetime spent working with and ministering to people has given me a strong sense of wisdom and understanding.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Morland High School 1980  
Sterling College BS Elementary Education 1984  
Denver Seminary MDiv 1994

### DO YOU HAVE ANY AWARDS OR HONORS TO SHARE?

Probably just a note of interest. I was a recipient of the trip sponsored by Western Electric to Steamboat Springs in the summer of 1979

### WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNITY OR BOARD EXPERIENCE?

Ellis County Ministerial Alliance 1999-2017 - Spent turns as President and Vice President  
Hoxie Area Ministerial Alliance 2017-present - Currently serving as President  
Camp Christy Board of Directors 2020-present- Currently serving as Vice President

### EXPLAIN THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

The cooperative difference is a business model where members are both owners and users.

### WHAT ARE THREE CRITICAL ISSUES THAT YOU BELIEVE THE COOPERATIVE SHOULD FOCUS ON IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

First a continuation of providing for the power needs in our rural areas with the same professionalism and consistency that Western is known for. Second, maintenance and modernization of equipment. Third would include growth potential. Certainly, I would need to grow and learn much more than I know now.

### WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST ABOUT SERVING ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

A greater understanding about how power is provided and maintained, especially in our rural farming areas.

### WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE WOULD YOU BRING TO WESTERN'S BOARD AND MEMBERS?

I believe the wide range of life experiences and the wisdom gained from dealing with people from every background help me to think with an open mind. Also, a natural curiosity and desire to understand things drives me to make good decisions. My experience and leadership in organizations that require cooperative decisions will also serve well on a Board that is represented over a wide range of geography and needs

### AS A TRUSTEE, HOW WOULD YOU PROMOTE THE COOPERATIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Certainly, by speaking positively about Western's service and its people.

### WHAT MAKES YOU THE IDEAL TRUSTEE?

I'm not sure that ideal is how I would describe what I might bring to the Board right away. I would, however, say that the experience of dealing with and interacting with people of varying dispositions and backgrounds serves me well in life and leadership. People have looked to me for leadership and decision making for many years now. I believe that God has blessed me in this way, and I try to express wisdom in humbleness in everything I am involved in.