

Mennonite Church USA

Nominees for churchwide boards



Affirm as moderator-elect for two years followed by a term as moderator for two years:



Linda Dibble

(moderator-elect and moderator, 2019-2023) – Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, Oregon, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Linda Dibble, a chaplain and member of the MC USA Executive Board, has been called as the nominee for moderator-elect. Dibble has served in several capacities in broader church leadership and she currently serves on the Pastoral Leadership Team for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference and chairs the Albany (Oregon) Mennonite Church Leadership Team. Her nomination has been approved by the Executive Board and was affirmed at the Constituency Leaders Council meeting held March 1.

“Linda comes to the moderator-elect role with a non-anxious presence to lead and guide during celebrations as well as challenging times,” said Cal Zehr, chair of the Leadership Discernment Committee (LDC). “I sense that her training as a spiritual director equips her to listen closely in deliberation and create space for all voices to be heard.”

Dibble works as a special projects and interim chaplain at Mennonite Village in Albany, Oregon. She received an M.A. in Spiritual Formation from George Fox Evangelical Seminary in 2016 after 20 years of working in accounting. She holds a B.S. in Business Management and a Certificate in Human Resources Management. She also serves on the Western Christian School Board of Directors.

Dibble said she accepted the nomination after prayer and consulting with family and church leaders. “I felt if I was being asked to serve in this role that God was leading me to say yes,” said Dibble. “For me, part of learning how to be a servant is recognizing that leadership and connecting people are some of my gifts and that people find value in that.”

“The LDC selected Linda because she comes with a desire to carry forth the MC USA vision into the future,” said Zehr. “She has a love for God and the church which showed throughout her service as the moderator of the Pacific Northwest Conference during times of reorganization and leadership transitions.”

Dibble also manages a five-acre Christmas tree farm that she and her husband own, where she has grown and sold vegetables as well. “I enjoy working in the dirt and in the flower beds with all of God’s color. It’s therapeutic,” said Dibble.

She and her husband have four adult children and six grandchildren. She said they enjoy going to the Oregon coast for refreshment and riding on their recumbent tadpole trikes.

“My prayer for the church is that we would be faithful,” said Dibble. “That we would listen through the hard discussions that come and be able to love and bless those that disagree with us. And that’s really hard to do, so I’m also preaching to myself.”

The moderator-elect is selected by the LDC, and if affirmed by delegates at the [MC USA Convention](#) in Kansas City, Dibble will serve two years as moderator-elect followed by two years as moderator and chair of the Executive Board, presiding over the 2023 MC USA Convention.

Mennonite Church USA

Nominees for churchwide boards



EXECUTIVE BOARD

The membership of the EB shall be comprised of up to 21 people. Two members shall be the moderator and moderator-elect; up to four members are appointed by the EB; the four recognized Racial/Ethnic groups shall each appoint one member; and the remaining members are elected by the Delegate Assembly. Members are eligible to serve two full four-year terms. The outgoing moderator is eligible to serve two years as past moderator if he or she chooses to serve and the incoming moderator agrees. The types of terms are noted below as either DA or EB.

Affirm the following for a four-year term:



Jon Carlson
(1st term, 2019-23, DA) – Lancaster, Pa., Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Jon is lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church and served on the Journey Forward writing team.



Leslie Francisco, III
(2nd term, 2019-23, DA) – Hampton, Va., Calvary Community Church, Virginia Mennonite Conference. Leslie is pastor of Calvary Community Church. He is president of the African- American Mennonite Association.



Jim Caskey
(2nd term, 2019-23, DA) – Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Jim is Vice President of Goshen Health Foundation and Director of the Campaign for Goshen Health.



Todd Lehman
(1st term, 2019-23), DA– Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church, South Central Mennonite Conference. Todd most recently served as campus pastor at Hesston College.



Michelle Dula
(2nd term, 2019-23, DA) – Lancaster, Pa., Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Michelle is lead pastor of Blossom Hill Mennonite Church.



Phil Rich
(2nd term, 2019-23, DA) – Archbold, Ohio, Zion Mennonite Church, Ohio Conference of MC USA. Phil is a retired car dealership owner. He also serves on the MEA investment committee.

Continuing members previously affirmed by the Delegate Assembly



Dawn Yoder Graber
(1st term, 2017-21, DA) – Sarasota, Florida, Covenant Mennonite Church, Central District Conference. Dawn is a senior consultant for Design Group International.



Joy Sutter
(moderator, 2019-21) – Harleysville, Pa., Salford Mennonite Church, Franconia Mennonite Conference. Joy is a hospital administrator at Penn Medicine in Philadelphia and works in the cancer service line.

Members appointed by the Executive Board



Earl Kellogg
(2nd term, 2017-21, EB) – Member of First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana, Central District and Illinois Mennonite conferences. Also attends Shalom Mennonite Church, Tucson, Ariz. Earl is a retired professor and consultant.



Joyce Kusuma
(2nd term, 2019-23, EB) – Upland, Calif., Upland Peace Church, Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Joyce is a nurse practitioner and represents the network of Asian Mennonite congregations.



Margie Mejia-Caraballo
(1st term, 2017-2021, EB) – Rock Island, Ill., Templo Alabanza Church, Central Plains Mennonite Conference, Representative of the Iglesia Menonita Hispana. Margie is a government employee.



Zenobia Sowell-Bianchi
(2nd term, 2019-23, EB) – Chicago, Ill., Bethel Mennonite Community Church, Illinois Mennonite Conference. Zenobia is a dentist and represents the African-American Mennonite Association.

Native Mennonite Ministries representative to be appointed (1st term, 2019-23, EB)

EVERENCE

The board consists of 12-15 members. Four members are elected by the Delegate Assembly (DA) of Mennonite Church USA, up to eight are appointed by the Everence board subject to confirmation by the Executive Board and three are appointed by other Anabaptist denominations participating in Everence. The majority of members must be from Mennonite Church USA. Members are eligible to serve three full four-year terms. Terms for Everence board members begin January 1 and end December 31 of the years listed below.

Affirm the following for a four-year term:



Nicole Francisco Bailey
(3rd term, 2020-23, DA) –
Hampton, Va., Calvary
Community Church,
Virginia Mennonite Conf.
Nicole is Executive
Director of Calvary
Community Church.



Lauren Good
(1st term, 2020-23, DA)
– Seattle, Wash.,
Seattle Mennonite
Church, Pacific
Northwest Mennonite
Conf. Lauren is the
Senior Program Officer
for the Bill & Melinda
Gates Foundation.

Continuing members previously affirmed by the Delegate Assembly



Sandra Vielman
(3rd term, 2018-2021,
DA) – Goshen, Ind.,
Hively Avenue
Mennonite Church,
Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference.
Sandra is an ENL
Collaborator for Goshen
Community Schools.



Katelyn Nafziger Leichty
(Sept. 2018- Dec. 2021,
completing term for
Karen Lehman) –
Goshen, Ind., Eighth
Street Mennonite Church,
Central District
Conference. Katelyn is a
CPA.

The remaining members are appointed by the Everence board or by other Anabaptist denominations who are part of Everence.

MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY

Six board members elected by the Delegate Assembly (DA), five appointed by the Executive Board (EB) and up to two additional members selected by MEA with confirmation by the Executive Board. Members are eligible to serve three full four-year terms. The types of terms are noted below as either DA or EB.

Affirm the following for a four-year term:



Nathan Alleman
(1st term, 2019-23, DA) –
Waco, Texas, Hope
Fellowship, Western District
Conference. Nathan is the
associate professor of Higher
Education Studies at Baylor
University.



Alicia Manning
(1st term, 2019-23, DA) –
Hampton, Va., Calvary
Community Church,
Virginia Mennonite
Conference. Alicia was an
educator and assistant
principal. She is a minister
at Calvary and educational
entrepreneur and
consultant.



Melissa Hofstetter
(1st term, 2019-23, DA) –
Pasadena, Calif., Pasadena
Mennonite Church, Pacific
Southwest Mennonite
Conference. Melissa is a
clinical psychologist.

Continuing member previously affirmed by the Delegate Assembly



Addie Banks
(2nd term, 2017-2021, DA) –
Bronx, N.Y., Manhattan
Mennonite Fellowship,
Atlantic Coast Mennonite
Conference. Addie is a
former MC USA pastor.

MEA members appointed by the Executive Board



Lynette Bontrager
(2nd term, 2017-21, EB)
– Archbold, Ohio, Zion
Mennonite Church, Ohio
Conference of MC USA.
Lynette is a church and
community volunteer
and retired nurse.



Roy Williams
(3rd term, 2019-23,
EB) – Land O’ Lakes,
Fla., College Hill
Mennonite Church.
Roy is pastor of
College Hill
Mennonite Church,
Tampa, Fla.



James Logan
(1st term, 2017-21, EB)
– Richmond, Indiana,
Seventh Ave.
Mennonite Church,
NYC. Dr. Logan is the
Associate Academic
Dean at Earlham
College.

MEA members appointed by the MEA board subject to confirmation by Executive Board



**Richard Thomas,
chair**, (1st term 7/1/18
to 6/20/22, MEA) –
Ronks, Pa., Ridge-
view Mennonite
Church, Atlantic
Coast Mennonite
Conference. Dick is a
retired teacher,
principal, administrator
and superintendent.



Linwood Rush
(2019-21, MEA),
Portland, Ore., Portland
Mennonite Church,
Pacific Northwest
Mennonite Conference.
Lin is a retired hospitality
services director and
volunteers as a tax
preparer for the AARP
Tax Aide program.

MENNONITE HEALTH SERVICES

Twelve members serve on the board with six elected by MHS Alliance member organizations and six appointed by sponsoring denominations. Of the denominational members, Mennonite Church USA Executive Board appoints two members, Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly elects two members, and Mennonite Brethren and Brethren in Christ each appoint one. Members are eligible to serve up to two 4-year terms (per bylaws amended in 2013). Terms end in April of the years listed below.

Affirm the following for a four-year term



Maribel Ramírez Hinojosa
(2nd term, 2019-23, DA) – College Station, Texas, Houston Mennonite Church, Western District Conference. Maribel is a clinical psychologist.



Don Tyson
(2nd term, 2019-23, DA) – Harrisonburg, Va., Lindale Mennonite Church, Virginia Mennonite Conference. Don is a professor of nursing and Director of MSN Programs at Eastern Mennonite University.

Continuing members previously appointed by the MC USA Executive Board:



Ertell Whigham
(2nd term, 2017-21, EB) – Harleysville, Pa. East Norristown Mennonite Church, Franconia Mennonite Conference. Ertell is Associate Pastor at Nueva Vida Norristown New Life Mennonite Church.



Larry Miller
(1st term, April 1, 2019-March 31, 2023, EB) – Harrisonburg, Va., Community Mennonite Church, Virginia Mennonite Conference. Larry was CEO of Everence and is now retired.

The remaining MHS board members are appointed by the member organizations or other denominations that are part of MHS.

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK

Seven board members elected by the Delegate Assembly (DA), six appointed by the Executive Board and up to two additional members selected by the Mission Network with confirmation by the Executive Board (EB). Members are eligible to serve three full four-year terms. The types of terms are noted below as either DA or EB.

Affirm the following for a four-year term:



Steve Breidigan
(3rd term, 2019-23, DA)
– Douglassville, Pa.,
Vincent Mennonite
Church, Franconia
Mennonite Conference.
Steve is an accountant.



Jim Kielsmeier
(1st term, 2019-2023, DA) –
Falcon Heights, Minn.,
Emmanuel Mennonite
Church, Central Plains
Mennonite Conference. Jim
is founder and board chair
of the Growing Hope Farm
and We Are Growing Hope
initiative.



**Susan Hertzler
Burkholder** (2nd term,
2019-23, DA) – Denver,
Colo., First Mennonite
Church, Denver, Colo.,
Mountain States
Mennonite Conference.
Susan is a nonprofit
administrator.



David Nickel
(1st term, 2019-2023, DA)
– Lincoln, Neb., First
Mennonite Church,
Lincoln, Central Plains
Mennonite Conference.
David is pastor of First
Mennonite Church in
Lincoln, Neb.



Cindy Cumberbatch
(2nd term, 2019-23,
DA) – Brandon, Fla.,
College Hill
Mennonite Church.
Cindy is an attorney
and assistant director
of Let's Talk College
mentorship program.

Continuing member previously affirmed by the Delegate Assembly



Angie Williams
(1st term, 2017-21, DA)
– Harrisonburg,
Virginia, Virginia
Mennonite Conference.
Angie is a speaker and
writer.

Mennonite Mission Network members appointed by the Executive Board



Andrew Bodden
(3rd term, 2019-2023, EB)
– Lancaster, Pa., Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Andrew is the East Coast Program Director with Mennonite Central Committee.



Sunoko Lin
(3rd term, 2017-2021, EB) – Van Nuys, Calif., Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Sunoko is pastor of Maranatha Christian Fellowship.



Randall Justice
(1st term, 2019-23, EB, to fill an unexpired DA position) – Akron, Pa., Akron Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Randall is the owner/partner of Savoca Justic, LLC law firm.



Madeline Maldonado
(3rd term, 2017-2021, EB) – Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Madeline serves on a pastoral team at College Mennonite Church.



Don Kempf
(1st term, 2019-2023, EB) – Shickley, Neb., Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, Neb., Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Don is the owner of Nebrana Farm Inc.

Members selected by Mission Network Board with confirmation by the Executive Board



Aaron Kauffman
(2nd term, 2019-23, VMBM) – President, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, Harrisonburg, Va.



Gerry Keener
(1st term, 2019-23, EMM). – President, Eastern Mennonite Missions, Lancaster, Pa.

MENNOMEDIA

The size of the board shall be between six and eleven members as determined by the MennoMedia board. Two or three are elected by Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly. Two members are appointed by the Executive Board. Two or three members are appointed by the Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada. Up to three additional members may be selected by the members of the agency, subject to confirmation by the EB or the Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada. Members are eligible to serve three full four-year terms. The types of Mennonite Church USA terms are noted below as either DA or EB.

Affirm the following for a four-year term



Lee Schmucker
(Chair, 2nd term, 2019-23, DA)
Wichita, Kan., Hope Mennonite Church, Western District Conference. Lee owns and operates a business consulting firm.

Continuing member previously affirmed by the Delegate Assembly



Byron Pellecer
(1st term, 2017-21, DA) – Grand Prairie, Tex., Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Esperanza, Dallas., Western District Conference. Byron is associate conference minister for WDC.

Members appointed by the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board



Rafael Barahona, Jr.
(2nd term, 2019-23, EB) – Goshen, Ind., Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Rafael owns and operates a design consulting business.



Edith Yoder
(1st term, 2019-23, EB) – Philadelphia, Pa., Frazer Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Edith is the Executive Director of Bridge of Hope National.

LEADERSHIP DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Four members nominated by the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) and elected by the Delegate Assembly (DA), four members appointed by the Executive Board (EB). Members are eligible to serve two full four-year terms or partial terms. The types of terms are noted below as either CLC-DA or EB. One position will remain open and one is yet to be filled.

Affirm the following for a four-year term

Members nominated by Constituency Leaders Council for consideration by delegates



Marty Lehman
(1st term, 2019-23, CLC-DA) – Goshen, Ind., College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Marty is a retired pastor and denominational executive.



Ruth Yoder Wenger
(1st term, 2019-23, CLC-DA) – Bronx, NY, North Bronx Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Ruth serves as pastor at North Bronx Church.

Continuing members previously affirmed by Delegate Assembly after nomination by CLC



Sandra Montes-Martinez
(1st term, 2017-21, CLC-DA) – Dallas, Tex., Iglesia Menonita Monte Horeb, Western District Conference. Sandra serves as a pastor and staff for Western District Conference.



Stan Shantz
(1st term, 2017-21, CLC-DA) – Lancaster, Pa., James Street Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Stan is lead pastor at James Street Mennonite Church.

Members appointed by Executive Board



Doug Basinger
(1st term, 2017-21, EB) – Seattle, Wash., Seattle Mennonite Church, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Doug has been actively involved in Mennonite congregations in California and Washington. He served with MCC and Mennonite Board of Missions. Doug is recently retired from the biotechnology industry.



Nan Kanagy
(2nd term, 2019-23, EB) – Fleetwood, PA, Hope Community Church, Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Nan is youth and worship pastor at Hope Community Church.