

## Mennonite Church USA Nominees for churchwide boards

*Elect as moderator-elect for two years (2021-23)  
followed by a term as moderator for two years (2023-25)*



### **Jon Carlson, Lancaster, Pa.**



Jon is lead pastor of and a member of Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa., Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference.

Stan Shantz, chairperson of the Leadership Discernment Committee, described Carlson as having a firm focus on the vision, mission and goals of the denomination, as well as the gifts needed to lead in this role. “There’s a graciousness about the way Jon leads,” said Shantz. “He does well at inviting others’ perspectives into the discussion. Jon builds bridges between people.” Shantz also said that Carlson offers a fresh perspective that “will be healthy and bring a sense of hope to the church.”

“It’s an honor to be considered for a role like this,” said Carlson. “I love the Mennonite Church dearly and believe that God is at work in our world through the Mennonite Church in unique and valuable ways.”

After working in creative services and media production for 10 years, Carlson was called to ministry in 2010 as a part-time, interim pastor at Oley Valley (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church. It was a 15-minute drive, but a world away from Carlson’s urban life in Reading, Pennsylvania. Carlson served there for four years. “They were a phenomenal congregation to serve and were incredibly gracious to this young and inexperienced pastor who didn’t have seminary training,” he said, smiling. Four years later, in 2014, Carlson followed his wife’s career path to Lancaster and accepted the position as lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church. While serving there, he completed his Certificate in Ministry Studies in 2017 from Eastern Mennonite Seminary and enrolled in the Master of Divinity program.

In 2018, Carlson was part of the Journey Forward writing team who drafted the Renewed Commitments for MC USA, a living document to articulate common commitments as a broader church. Not growing up Mennonite, Carlson said he appreciated the opportunity to be part of the Journey Forward rediscovery process.

Carlson joined MC USA’s Executive Board in 2019 and served on the Membership Guidelines Advisory Group in 2020, which he described as hard, but worthwhile work. “We are a church community that takes Jesus’ message of reconciliation very seriously, and I love that,” he said. “But sometimes we come to dramatically different conclusions about what our faith looks like and what our faith requires of us. I try to remind myself that the reason this is hard is because we take it seriously.”

Looking ahead to the future of MC USA, which he refers to as “this big, beautiful, messy thing,” Carlson said he sees the need to continue to do the difficult work of reconciliation. “I believe the good news of Jesus is the hope of the world, especially in this moment of heightened polarization,” Carlson said, “and the Mennonite Church has a wonderful gift to offer in the midst of all this.”

Carlson and his wife, Lyn, an educator with Lancaster Mennonite Schools, have three children.

## 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 as either DA or EB.

#### Elect the following for a four-year term:



**Richard R. Aguirre** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, DA) – Goshen, Ind., Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Richard is employed by Goshen College as its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator and is a board member of the Center for Healing and Hope.



**Emily Merolli** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, DA) – Takoma Park, M.D., Hyattsville Mennonite Church, Hyattsville, M.D., Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Emily is an attorney and is employed by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly



**Linda Dibble** (moderator, 2021-23, DA) – Albany, Ore., Albany Mennonite Church, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Linda is a retired chaplain and she cares part time for two of her grandchildren in addition to her MC USA moderator duties.



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



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



**Todd Lehman**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, 2019-23), DA– Hesston, Kan., Hesston Mennonite Church, South Central Conference. Todd serves as Executive Director with Offender/Victim Ministries, Inc., a local non-profit focused on community-based restorative justice.



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

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**Members appointed by the Executive Board**



**Chaiya Hadtasunsern**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EB) – Thornton, Colo., Rocky Mountain Hmong Menn. Church, Westminster, Colo., Mountain States Mennonite Conference, representative of the network of Asian Menn. congregations. Chaiya is pastor of Rocky Mountain Hmong Mennonite Church.



**Mitch Kingsley** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EB) – Bluffton, Ohio, First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, Ohio, Central District Conference. Mitch is employed as an Attorney Associate by Samuel W. Diller, CO, LPA.in Bluffton.



**Susan Hart**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EB) – El Reno, Okla., Koinonia Mennonite Church, Clinton, Okla., Western District Conference, representative of Native Mennonite Ministries. Susan is pastor of Koinonia Mennonite Indian Church, Clinton, Okla.



**Margie Mejia-Caraballo**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2021-2025, EB) – Rock Island, Ill., Templo Alabanza Church, Central Plains 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.



**Karen Zehr** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25,  
EB) – Wichita, Kan., Hope  
Mennonite Church, Wichita,  
Kan., Western District  
Conference. Karen is employed  
by Builders, Inc., in Wichita  
and serves as their controller.



**Thomas Dunn** (1<sup>st</sup>  
term, 2021-25, EB) –  
Akron, Ohio, Crown  
Hill Mennonite Church,  
Ohio Conference.  
Thomas is pastor of  
Crown Hill Mennonite  
Church, Rittman, Ohio.

## EVERENCE

The size of the board shall be between twelve and fifteen members. Four members shall be elected by the Delegate Assembly. Three members shall be elected or appointed by other Mennonite/Anabaptist denominations participating in the Everence programs. Five additional members shall be appointed by the seven elected members, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board. The selection process shall assure that members of Mennonite Church USA constitute a majority of the full board. Up to three additional members may be selected by the elected and appointed members of the board subject to confirmation by the Executive Board. Members are eligible to serve three full four-year terms. Everence terms begin January 1 and end December 31 of the years listed below.

### **Elect the following for a four-year term:**



**Katelyn Nafziger Leichty**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, Jan. 2022-Dec. 2025, DA, previously filled an unexpired term) – Goshen, Ind., Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Central District Conference. Katelyn is a CPA.



**Ruth Suter** (1<sup>st</sup> term, Jan. 2022-Dec. 2025, DA) – Brisbane, Calif., First Mennonite Church of San Francisco, Calif., Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Ruth is Vice President Market Access & Public Policy, and Fintepla Program Lead for Zogenix, Inc., Emeryville, Calif.

### **Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly**



**Nicole Francisco Bailey**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> term, 2020-23, DA) – Hampton, Va., Calvary Community Church, Virginia Conference. Nicole is Executive Director of Calvary Community Church.



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

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

## MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY

The size of the board shall be not less than five and not more than seven directors. One member shall be appointed by the Executive Board after consultation with the Mennonite Education Agency Board of Directors and Executive Director. One member shall be elected by the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly of Mennonite Church USA. Additional appointments shall be made in accordance with the bylaws of Mennonite Education Agency.

**No open seats for Delegate Assembly election at this time.**

**Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly**



**Nathan Alleman**  
(1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, 2019-23, DA) – Hampton, Va., Calvary Community Church, Virginia Conference. Alicia was an educator and assistant principal. She is a minister at Calvary and educational entrepreneur and consultant.



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

**MEA member appointed by the MEA board subject to confirmation by Executive Board**



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

**MEA member appointed by the Exec Board**



**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.

## MENNONITE HEALTH SERVICES

The size of the board shall be between nine and fourteen members. Six members shall be appointed by the Relating Denominations and of these six, four shall be appointed by the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly, and two shall be appointed by the other Relating Denominations. Six additional members should be elected by vote of the Membership and must be a chief executive officer or trustee of a Member organization.

**No open seats for Delegate Assembly election at this time.**

### **Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly**



**Maribel Hinojosa**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2019-23, DA) –  
College Station, Texas, Houston  
Mennonite Church, Western  
District. Maribel is a clinical  
psychologist.



**Don Tyson**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2019-23, DA) –  
Harrisonburg, Va., Lindale  
Mennonite Church, Virginia  
Conference. Don is a professor  
of nursing at Eastern Mennonite  
University.

### **Members appointed by the MC USA Executive Board:**



**Roy Teramoto**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EB) –  
Phoenix, Ariz., Trinity  
Mennonite Church,  
Glendale, Ariz., Pacific  
Southwest Mennonite  
Conference. Roy is semi-  
retired and serves as a  
medical officer for Phoenix  
Area Indian Health Service.



**Larry Miller**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, April 1, 2019-March  
31, 2023, EB) – Harrisonburg,  
Va., Community Mennonite  
Church, Virginia 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

The size of the board shall be between thirteen and fifteen members. Expansion in the number of members subsequently will be by action of the board of the Agency. Seven members shall be elected by the Delegate Assembly. Six members shall be appointed by the Executive Board after consultation with the board of directors and the executive officer of the Mission Agency. Up to two additional members may be selected by the elected and appointed members of the Mennonite Mission Agency, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board.

### **Elect the following for a four-year term:**



**Kelsey Hochstetler** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, DA) – Millersburg, Ohio, Berlin Mennonite Church, Berlin, Ohio, Ohio Conference. Kelsey is the Executive Director of Strategic Communication for Keim in Charm, Ohio.



**Horace McMillon** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, DA) – Jackson, Miss., Open Door Menn. Church, Jackson, Miss., Gulf States Mennonite Conference. Horace is pastor of Open Door and is a manager at Miskelly Furniture in Pearl, Miss.

### **Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly**



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



**Jim Kielsmeier** (1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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



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



**Mennonite Mission Network members appointed by the Executive Board**



**Sarah Augustine** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EB) – White Swan, Wash., Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, Wash., Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Sarah serves as Executive Director for Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties.



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



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



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



**Rachel Springer Gerber** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EB) – Bloomington, Ind., Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Rachel is employed by Indiana University as their Assistant

Director for the Career Development Center and also operates Rachel Gerber Coaching, LLC

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



**Aaron Kauffman** (2nd term, 2018-22, VMissions) – President, Virginia Mennonite Missions, Harrisonburg, Va.



**Marvin Lorenzana** (1<sup>st</sup> term, 2021-25, EMM) – President, Eastern Mennonite Missions, Lancaster, Pa.

## MENNOMEDIA

The size of the board shall be between six and eleven members. Expansion in the number of members subsequently will be by action of the board of the Agency. Two or three members shall be elected by the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly. Two members shall be appointed by the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA or its designee. Two or three members shall be appointed by the Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada, or its designee. All of the above appointments shall be made after consultation with the board of directors and the executive officer of the Mennonite Publishing Agency. Up to three additional members may be selected by the members of the board of the Mennonite Publishing Agency, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA, or its designee (for persons from MC USA) or by the Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada, or its designee (for persons from MC Canada).

**No open seats for Delegate Assembly election at this time.**

### **Continuing member previously elected by the Delegate Assembly:**



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

### **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 Conference. Rafael  
owns and operates a design  
consulting business.



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

## LEADERSHIP DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Membership. The committee shall consist of up to eight members, half of whom are appointed by the Executive Board and half of whom are nominated by the Constituency Leaders Council and elected by the Delegate Assembly.

### Elect the following for a four-year term:

#### Members nominated by Constituency Leaders Council for action by delegates.



**Sandra Montes-Martinez**  
(2nd term, 2021-25, CLC-DA) – Dallas, Tex., Iglesia Menonita Monte Horeb, Western District Conference. Sandra serves as a pastor and staff for Western District.



**Stan Shantz**  
(2nd term, 2021-25, CLC-DA) – Lancaster, Pa., James Street Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Conference. Stan is lead pastor at James Street Mennonite Church.

#### Continuing members previously elected by Delegate Assembly after nomination by CLC



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



**Ruth Yoder Wenger**  
(1<sup>st</sup> term, 2019-23, CLC-DA) – Bronx, NY, North Bronx Mennonite Church, Atlantic Coast Conference. Ruth serves as pastor at North Bronx Church and is the ACC Conference Minister for NYC.

#### Member appointed by Executive Board



retired from the biotechnology industry.

**Doug Basinger**  
(2nd term, 2021-25, EB) – Seattle, Wash., Seattle Menn. Church, PNMC. Doug has been actively involved in Mennonite congregations in California and Washington. He served with MCC and Mennonite Board of Missions. Doug is recently