

Mennonite Church USA Nominees for churchwide boards



*Elect as moderator-elect for two years (2023-25)
followed by a term as moderator for two years (2025-27)*

Marty Lehman, Goshen, Ind. Lehman is a member of College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Having served as a former associate executive director for Churchwide Operations for MC USA, she has a deep affiliation with and affection for the denomination.



“I love our church and believe in what our church is doing and trying to do,” said Lehman. She said she hopes that we can “be known as people that are reaching out and caring for the most vulnerable in [our] communities ... people that show up ... people who serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, so that God’s healing and hope can flow through us to the world.”

The third of six children, Lehman was raised on an Amish Indiana dairy farm. Her parents migrated to a Conservative Mennonite congregation when she was 10 years old. Later they joined an Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference congregation.

After high school, she attended Rosedale Bible College, Irwin, Ohio. Lehman completed her studies at Indiana University in South Bend, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in public affairs. Lehman began her professional career as a social worker in Elkhart, Indiana, advocating for abused children. She joined the staff of Goshen College in 1990, serving as the director of admissions for eight years.

In 1998, when the merger between Mennonite Church (MC) and General Conference was starting to stir, Lehman joined the MC Mennonite Board of Missions as vice president for internal operations. During the merger transition, she served as interim president of the Mennonite Board of Missions and also as senior executive for advancement for its soon-to-be successor organization, MC USA’s Mennonite Mission Network. Lehman said that she feels this experience has helped prepare her for the role of moderator-elect.

“Going through the merger process helped me understand the historic ways that our two denominations worked,” she said. It also helped her connect with people across the denomination, something she said she is looking forward to continuing as moderator-elect.

In 2004, Lehman accepted the position of MC USA associate executive director for Churchwide Operations. She managed denominational funding, stewardship education, The Corinthian Plan, communication, advancement, the archives and more during her 10 years on the Executive Board staff. Lehman then served as the administrative pastor at her home church, College Mennonite Church, a multi-generational, multi-cultural church in Goshen, where she supervised the pastoral and non-pastoral staff from 2014-2018.

Lehman relaxes by cooking and reading and often can be found with her hands in the soil. “I find gardening very therapeutic,” she said.

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 four persons for a four-year term:



Phil Helmuth
(1st term, 2023-27, DA) –
Harrisonburg, Va., Park View
Mennonite Church, Virginia
Mennonite Conference. Phil
is MDS Disaster Response
Coordinator for Southern
Louisiana



Rosetta Landis
(1st term, 2023-27, DA) –
Croghan, N.Y., Lowville
Mennonite Church, Lowville,
N.Y., New York Mennonite
Conference. Rosetta is
employed by North Country
Family Health Center as a
Nutritionist at WIC.



Todd Lehman
(2nd term, 2023-27), 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.



Jerrell Williams
(1st term, 2023-27, DA) –
Moving to Newton, Kansas, in
July to begin on August 1 as
lead pastor at Shalom
Mennonite Church, Newton,
Kansas, Western District
Conference. Jerrell is a writer
for *Anabaptist World*.

Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly



Richard R. Aguirre (1st term, 2021-25, DA) – Goshen, Ind., Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Goshen, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Richard is the City of Goshen’s Clerk-Treasurer and is a Goshen College faculty adviser of the Latino Student Union.



Linda Dibble (past moderator, 2023-25, 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.



Jon Carlson (moderator, 2023-25, DA) – Lancaster, Pa., Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pa., Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. Jon is lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church.



Emily Merolli (1st term, 2021-25, DA) – Takoma Park, M.D., Hyattsville Mennonite Church, Hyattsville, M.D., Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Emily is an attorney with the Federal government.

Members appointed by the Executive Board



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



Chaiya Hadtasunern (1st term, 2021-25, EB) – Thornton, Colo., Rocky Mountain Hmong Menn. Church, Westminster, Colo., Mountain States Menn. Conference, represents network of Asian Mennonite congregations. Chaiya is pastor of Rocky Mountain Hmong Menn. Church.



Susan Hart
 (1st 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.



Mitch Kingsley (1st term,
 2021-25, EB) – Bluffton,
 Ohio, First Mennonite Church,
 Bluffton, Ohio, Central
 District Conference. Mitch is a
 retired attorney, serves on the
 Bluffton Village Council and
 other boards, and also works
 with MDS.



**Lesley Francisco
 McClendon**
 (1st term, 2023-27, EB) –
 Hampton, Va., Calvary
 Community Church,
 Hampton, Va., Virginia
 Mennonite Conference,
 representative of African
 American Mennonite
 Association. Lesley is
 Senior Pastor at Calvary
 Community Church.



Karen Zehr (1st 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.



Margie Mejia-Caraballo
 (2nd term, 2021-2025, EB) –
 Rock Island, Ill., Templo
 Alabanza Church, Central
 Plains Conference,
 representative of the Iglesia
 Menonita Hispana. Margie
 is a government employee.

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 two for a four-year term:



Lauren Good
(2nd term, 2024-27, DA) – Seattle, Wash., Seattle Mennonite Church, Pacific Northwest Conference. Lauren is the Senior Program Officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



Sunday Adie Obri
(1st term, 2024-27, DA) – Twinsburg, Ohio, Lee Heights Community Church, Cleveland, Ohio, Ohio Conference. Sunday is employed by Summa Health System as a System Director, Neuroscience & Pulmonary Service Line.

Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly



Katelyn Nafziger Leichty
(1st term, Jan. 2022-Dec. 2025, DA) – Goshen, Ind., Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Central District Conference. Katelyn is a tax partner for Kruggel Lawton CPAs.



Ruth Suter (1st term, Jan. 2022-Dec. 2025, DA) – Brisbane, Calif., First Mennonite Church of San Francisco, Calif., Pacific Southwest Mennonite. Ruth is Vice President, Head of Global Portfolio Strategy | Epilepsy & Rare Syndromes for UCB, Inc.

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.

Elect the following two for a four-year term:



Nathan Alleman
(2nd term, 2023-27, DA) –
Waco, Texas, Hope
Fellowship, Western District
Conference. Nathan is the
associate professor of Higher
Education Studies at Baylor
University.



Erick Josue Martinez
(1st term, 2023-27, DA) –
Grand Prairie, Texas, Iglesia
Menonita Monte Horeb,
Dallas, Texas, Western
District Conference. Erick is a
Workplace Planning
Associate for Fidelity
Investments.

MEA member appointed by the Executive Board



Rose Bender Cook
(1st term, 2023-27, EB) –
Allentown, Pa., Whitehall
Mennonite Church,
Whitehall, Pa., Mosaic
Mennonite Conference.
Rose serves as pastor at
Whitehall Mennonite
Church and is Associate
Director of Mosaic
Institute.

Members appointed by MEA

Jessica Clopton-Robinson (1st term, 2023-27) –
Tampa, Fla., College Hill Mennonite Church,
Mosaic Mennonite Conference. Jessica is a
senior adjuster for Allstate Insurance.



Judy Hostetler Mullet, (1st term,
2023-27) – Harrisonburg, Va.,
Lindale Mennonite Church,
Linville, Va., Virginia Mennonite
Conference. Judy is an adjunct
professor at Eastern Mennonite
University.

MHS ASSOCIATION

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.

Elect the following person for a four-year term:



Charlene Epp (1st term, 2023-27, DA) – Anacortes, Wash., Community of Hope, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Charlene is employed by Island Health as a Self-Pay Representative.

Members appointed by the MC USA Executive Board:



Roy Teramoto (1st term, 2021-25, EB) – Phoenix, Ariz., Trinity Mennonite Church, Glendale, Ariz., Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Roy worked for the Indian Health Service for 38+ years and is now retired.



Larry Miller (1st term, April 1, 2019-March 31, 2024, EB) – Harrisonburg, Va., Community Mennonite Church, Allegheny 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.

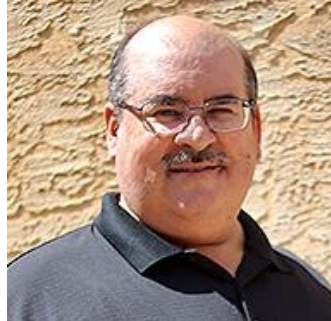
MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK

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 four for a four-year term:



Cindy Cumberbatch
(3rd term, 2023-27, DA) –
Brandon, Fla., College Hill
Mennonite Church, Mosaic
Mennonite Conference. Cindy
is an attorney and assistant
director of Let’s Talk College
mentorship program.



Noel Santiago (1st term, 2023-
27, DA) – Souderton, Pa.,
Blooming Glen Mennonite
Church, Blooming Glen, Pa.,
Mosaic Mennonite Conference.
Noel is Leadership Minister for
Missional Transformation for
Mosaic Mennonite Conference.



David Nickel
(2nd term, 2023-27, DA) –
Lincoln, Neb., First Mennonite
Church, Lincoln, Central Plains
Mennonite Conference. David is
pastor of First Mennonite Church
in Lincoln, Neb



George Thompson
(1st term, 2023-27, DA) –
Goshen, Ind., Waterford
Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.,
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite
Conference. George served 9
years on Ind.-Mich. Conference
Missional Leadership Team. He
is retired and actively volunteers
in his community.

Continuing members previously elected by the Delegate Assembly



Kelsey Hochstetler (1st
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.



Randall Justice
(1st term, 2021-25, DA,
(completed unfinished term
ending July 2021) – Akron, Pa.,
Akron Mennonite Church,
Atlantic Coast Conference.
Randall is the owner/partner of
Savoca Justice, LLC law firm.



Horace McMillon (1st 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.

Mennonite Mission Network members appointed by the Executive Board



Sarah Augustine (1st 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.



Rachel Springer Gerber (1st term, 2021-25, EB) – Bloomington, Ind., Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Menn. Conference. Rachel is Associate Director of the Career Development Center at Indiana University & operates Rachel Gerber Coaching, LLC.



Don Kempf (2nd term, 2023-27, EB) – Shickley, Neb., Salem Mennonite Church, Shickley, Neb., Central Plains Menn. Conference. Don is the owner of Nebrana Farm Inc.



Anthonia Onye (1st term, 2023-27, EB) – Los Angeles, California, Wholicare Community Missionary Church, Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Anthonia is employed as a teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District and founder of “In the Loving Arms Ministries.”

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



Aaron Kauffman (3rd term, 2022-26, VMissions) – President, Virginia Mennonite Missions, Harrisonburg, Va.



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

MENNOMEDIA

The size of the board shall consist of a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eleven (11) directors, as determined by the MennoMedia board. The Board of Directors shall consist of up to five (5) directors from the United States and up to three (3) directors from Canada appointed as follows: Two (2) or three (3) directors from the United States (the “elected United States directors”) shall be elected by the delegate body of Mennonite Church USA. Two (2) directors from the United States (the “appointed United States directors”) shall be appointed by the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA, or its designee. Two (2) or three (3) directors from Canada (the “Canadian directors”) shall be appointed by the Joint Council of Mennonite Church Canada, or its designee.

Elect the following person for a four-year term:



Jack Swaim
(1st term, 2023-27, DA) –
Eagle, Idaho, Hyde Park
Mennonite Fellowship,
Boise, Idaho, Pacific
Northwest Mennonite
Conference. Jack is the
PNMC moderator and
serves on PNMC finance
team.

Continuing member selected by the Executive Board (10/2021) to fill an open Delegate Assembly slot:



Nelson Okanya
(1st term, 2021-25, DA) –
Lancaster, Pa., James Street
Mennonite Church,
Lancaster, Pa., Atlantic
Coast Mennonite
Conference. Nelson is a
Global Missions President
at Center for Serving
Leadership.

Members appointed by the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board



Rafael Barahona, Jr.
(3rd term, 2023-27, EB)
– Goshen, Ind., Berkey
Avenue Mennonite
Church, Indiana-
Michigan Conference.
Rafael owns and
operates a design
consulting business.



Edith Yoder
(2nd term, 2023-27, 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 (CLC) and elected by the Delegate Assembly (DA)

Elect the following person, nominated by the CLC, for a four-year term:



Joanne Gallardo
(1st term, 2023-27, CLC-DA) – Goshen, Ind., Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend, Ind., Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Joanne is conference minister for Ind.-Mich. Mennonite Conference.

Continuing members previously elected by Delegate Assembly after nomination by CLC



Sandra Montes-Martinez
(2nd term, 2021-25, CLC-DA) – Dallas, Tex., Iglesia Menonita Monte Horeb, Western District Conference. Sandra serves as associate conference minister 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.

Members appointed by Executive Board



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 retired from the biotechnology industry.



Melissa Stoner (1st term, 2023-26, EB) – Philadelphia Praise Center, Mosaic Mennonite Conference. Melissa is a Donor Liaison and Gift Planning Partner with American Friends Service Committee.



Isaac Villegas (1st term, 2021-25, EB) – Durham, N.C., Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, Central District Conference. Isaac is a PhD student in religion at Duke University. He is also a contributing editor for *The Christian Century* magazine.