

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS

Nominee Biographies

1. Elect the following to fill vacancies:

Budget Finance and Property Committee/Trustee, Class of 2018

Ruling Elder John Redman (Goshen)



John has served First Presbyterian in Goshen for over 25 years as Deacon and Elder. In addition he serves as Chairperson for planning the congregation's 300th Anniversary in 2020, and is enrolled in the Presbytery's CRE Program. He is married to vocal artist and teacher Mary Lee Farris and they have one son Jonathan, who is soon to be married. He is active on his local school board and in spare time enjoys anything in or on the water

2. Elect the Following to the Class of 2020:

Council

At-large Nominee, Ruling Elder Rhoda Ingberman (Katonah)



Rhoda was born and raised in Vermont in a farming community with her large extended family. For generations her family has been part of the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church in Vermont. She went to the University of Vermont where she studied Social Work. After living in Burlington for a number of years, she moved to New York and lived in Manhattan and Brooklyn. In Brooklyn, she served as Deacon of the Old First Presbyterian church, working on programs to support the community after Hurricane Irene, providing shelter to the homeless during the summer when some City Shelters close and fund raising to restore the historic church among other programs. She also served as Financial Secretary.

At-large Nominee, Minister of Word and Sacrament Martha Carlson (Bethlehem and Washingtonville)



Martha was born in Ohio and attended Pittsburgh Seminary. She and her husband Edd, also a Presbyterian minister, have four children and four grandchildren, and have lived and served in 9 presbyteries in two synods. Martha has served on PWCT's for the Synod of the Northeast and several Presbyteries including Hudson River, been part of mission partnership teams with Nicaragua, Malawi and Honduras, attended the Synod of the Northeast as Albany Presbytery's delegate, and has enjoyed serving on the strategy and vision committees of several Presbyteries. She feels called to bring balance and harmony to multi church parishes while supporting them in serving God. She loves gardening, sewing historical period costumes, and watercolor painting, hosting family gatherings and spending time outdoors.

Committee on Ministry

Ruling Elder Carol Dornbush (Naurausaun)



Carol is the Clerk of Session at the Naurausaun Church. She has served the Hudson River Presbytery on its Personnel Committee, several search committees, the Mediation Team, and is in her fourth term on the Committee on Ministry. A Philadelphia native and graduate of the University of Delaware, she worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 35 years and was the Director of Public Affairs for what is now Pfizer's consumer health division. In retirement she was a counselor to elderly women at risk in Rockland County, founded and accompanies a chorus for early-stage dementia patients, and is a supply organist in New York and New Jersey churches. A widow, she lives in Pearl River.

Minster of Word and Sacrament Martin McGeachy (Carmel)



Martin McGeachy has been a minister member of Hudson River Presbytery since 2002, when he began serving as pastor at Gilead Church in Carmel. He is currently the convener for HRP's Healthy Congregations/Mediation Team, and serves on Faith & Order. Previously, he served on Committee on Ministry and the presbytery PJC. Prior to coming to New York, Martin was pastor of Baker House Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, AR, and was a professional actor and playwright with many credits in regional theatres throughout the south and mid-west. Most recently, he's been seen in reenactments of 1940's radio plays with Gotham Radio Theatre in New York City. Martin is married to Cindy Kosacz, a retired veterinarian, and he has two daughters, Rebekah and Rachel.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Minster of Word and Sacrament – Jeff Geary (White Plains)



Jeff was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. He studied sociology and philosophy at Millikin University (one of our Presbyterian colleges), Christian Social Ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary, and is ABD in medieval history at SUNY Stony Brook. He is the Senior Pastor at White Plains Presbyterian Church, and works as a GreenFaith Fellow. Jeff is the husband of The Rev. Noelle Damico and father of August Xavier. He is an avid reader, rock climber, long distance hiker and drinker of Fair Trade coffee.

Commissioned Ruling Elder – Harriet Sandmeier (Cornwall)



Harriet is Commissioned Ruling Elder for Preaching and Teaching for the Presbytery. A member of the Cornwall Presbyterian Church she has served the Presbytery of Hudson as well as PCUSA in a variety of capacities. In the 1970's she served two terms on the Cornwall Session where she also was a member of the choir and for several years conducted a children's choir. She then was named to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and from that role she was elected as Moderator of the Presbytery. Her other experiences include 15 years as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and 9 years on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Northeast. She also served a term as President of the National Association of Stated Clerks, and was the Moderator of the Polity Committee at the 1996 General Assembly. She is now called upon frequently to be pulpit supply in HRP's churches as well as in neighboring presbyteries. Currently she is a member of HRP's Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Commission Ruling Elders as well as member and clerk of HRP's Permanent Judicial Commission.

In her "other" life her career was in senior administration in health, mental health and educational settings. She has three children and six grandchildren, and lives in Cornwall-on-Hudson with her husband, Max.

Grants Committee

Minster of Word and Sacrament J. Edward Lewis, Sr. (Calvary, Newburgh)

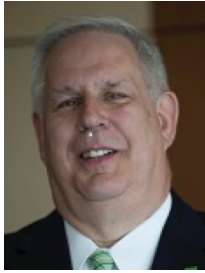


J. Edward is a native of Toledo, Ohio and was born into a religious family as the son of a Baptist minister. He has a B.A. from Bowling Green State University and had done graduate work at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University where he took his Master of Divinity degree in 1977. He currently serves as Protestant Chaplain for the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision and Pastor and Teaching Elder at historic Calvary Presbyterian Church, Newburgh with standing in the Hudson Mohawk region, United Church of Christ and the Hudson River Presbytery, Presbyterian Church, USA. He is the cofounder of the Truth and Reconciliation Project and founder of Mustard Seed Woodworks LLC—an organization for the continuing development of returning citizens cultivating family and community values through sustainable work opportunities.

He is a resident of Newburgh, New York for thirty years and married to Dr. Cynthia McCollie Lewis, an Associate Professor of English at New Jersey City State University and the parents of adult two children

3. Elect the following leadership for 2018:

Moderator of the Presbytery: Ruling Elder Keith A. Brokaw (Monroe)



Keith and his wife Lesley have been married for over 30 years and live in Washingtonville. They have three children and one Grandson. He is an Elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe he has served for the past 6 years on the Committee on Ministry for the Hudson River Presbytery, and continues to be the liaison for the FPC, Montgomery in their pastoral search. Keith grew up in New Jersey as the son of a Presbyterian minister, who is now retired but still active in the Albany Presbytery. He is a Senior Commercial Loan Officer for TD Bank in New Windsor, NY and has worked in the banking industry for 37 years.

Moderator Elect of the Presbytery: Minister of Word and Sacrament Lori Knight-Whitehouse (New Hempstead)



Lori was brought up in Savannah, GA and educated at University of South Carolina, University of Warwick, Columbia Theological Seminary and the Toronto School of Theology. She was ordained by Cherokee Presbytery in 1990, and received into membership of Hudson River Presbytery in 2005. She has been the pastor of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church since then. She has been on mission trips to Nicaragua and Texas. She makes time to read, play with mixed-media art, travel, and walk. She lives with Howard, her husband of 34 years, her father, and 4 very spoiled cats.

Budget, Finance and Property Chair/ President of the Board of Trustees: Commissioned Ruling Elder Tom Buchanan (New Rochelle)



Tom was born, raised and educated in Virginia. He moved to NYC after the Navy and “came back” to the church about 1980. He was a very involved member of Fifth Avenue Church where he heard extraordinary preaching and soaring music. Moving to the ‘burbs and leaving the tall steeple took some adjusting he confesses. He’s been active in Presbytery for more than 15 years serving twice as Treasurer; served on Synod’s Early Ministry Institute, and was a Commissioner to the 219th General Assembly. “I am currently the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle because others believed in me and God is relentless.”

Committee on Ministry Co-Chairs: Erin Moore and Lisa Niven
Minister of Word and Sacrament Erin Moore (Chester)



Erin was born and raised in Northern NJ in a small church and active community and graduated York College with a degree in biology, afterwards accepting a position in quality control with a small bio-medical company. In her second year, there she received a call to ministry when a close co-worker noticed the “glimmer” in her eyes upon return from mission work and pointed out how God may be calling her to something similar. Within a year, she was at Princeton, earning her MDiv in 2014. Erin has been serving at the FPC, Chester since Sept. 2014 and absolutely loves small church ministry and the Chester congregation. She loves gardening, making music, hiking and enjoying the great outdoors, spending time with her extended family and enjoying snuggles from her two cats.

Ruling Elder Lisa Niven (Irvington)



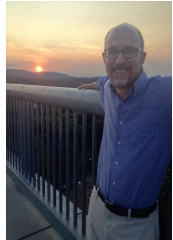
Lisa is a member of Irvington Presbyterian Church where she is Director of Christian Education. She has served on the Committee on Ministry and the former Commissioned Lay Pastor Committee. She is also Executive Director of the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a small arts foundation. Lisa grew up in Washington DC (6th generation!) and lives in Dobbs Ferry with her husband, John Golden. They have two sons, Nick and Kyle.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Chair: Minister of Word and Sacrament Elizabeth Smith- Bartlett (Larchmont)



Elizabeth serves as Associate Pastor of The Larchmont Avenue Church. A native Texan, she is a graduate of Hendrix College and Union Presbyterian Seminary, and completed a CPE Residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital; she has served churches in Connecticut and New York with a focus on Christian education, youth ministry, mission and pastoral care. She is married to the Rev. Jonah Smith-Bartlett, who is the Youth and Family Minister at the Reformed Church of Bronxville. In her spare time, Elizabeth enjoys vegetarian cooking, strength training, and yoga.

Faith and Order Committee Chair: Ruling Elder Rob Trawick (Germonds)



Rob is a ruling elder at Germonds Presbyterian Church in New City, NY and a professor of philosophy and religious studies at St. Thomas Aquinas College. Rob has served as moderator for the Hudson River Presbytery and currently serves the denomination as the communications chair for the Israel / Palestine Mission Network and as a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

Personnel Committee Chair: Minister of Word and Sacrament Paul Seelman (Huguenot)



Paul was born in rural, southern Illinois, ordained a ruling elder as a teenager in his home UPC congregation. He went to Wake Forest University where he studied English and Politics. A Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New Orleans sparked a first career in Winston-Salem, North Carolina as a planner and administrator. Sensing the call to ordained ministry, Paul and family traveled to Richmond, Virginia where he received a Master's in Divinity from Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Paul has served St. Charles Avenue PC in New Orleans, FPC Mocksville, North Carolina, Preston Hollow PC in Dallas, Texas, and now is the Senior Pastor at Huguenot Memorial Church in Pelham. During his previous calls, Paul served on the Personnel Committee at Salem Presbytery and the Budget & Finance Committee at Grace Presbytery. Paul and his wife of 26 years Kathy have 3 children.

4. Elect the following commissioners:

Commissioners to the 235th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

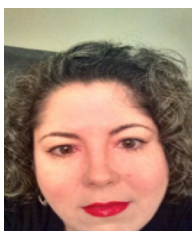
Ruling Elder Elizabeth Bostwick (Germonds)



Betsy is from Germonds Presbyterian Church. She has served there as an elder, a deacon, and Clerk of Session. Betsy is currently in the CRE/CLP program and she does pulpit supply all over Rockland County. Betsy and her husband Randy have lived in Spring Valley for 33 years. They have one son and one daughter-in-law, Sam and Becca. Betsy is traveling a twisting, turning path to vocational ministry. She spent 1 year at New York Theological Seminary as an MDiv student. Had to let that go due to family issues. She has finally finished the coursework for the CRE/CLP program with courses at Dubuque. She is currently working as a Housing Specialist at Helping Hands Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless of Rockland County.

Commissioners to the Synod of the Northeast: Minister of Word and Sacrament Kathryn Rivera-Torea

Synod Mission and Ministries Commission: Minister of Word and Sacrament Kathryn Rivera-Torea (Haverstraw)



Katie is a graduate of the College of Wooster and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Ordained in 2004, she is currently serving as Stated Supply at the Central Presbyterian Church of Haverstraw. In addition, Katie is serving her first term on the Committee on Ministry and as the Moderator of the Albany Presbytery SARC for the Synod of the North East. Katie and her husband Juan Pablo are celebrating their tenth anniversary this fall—twice (as usual) once for the courthouse and once for the church service. We like a party and really hope that someone is planning the next presbytery prom