

2016 ACC Leadership Slate Bios



Jon Carlson, Assistant Moderator

Jon Carlson has served as lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church since May 2014. Prior to that, Jon served as pastor of Oley Valley Mennonite Church. Jon and his wife, Lyn, reside in Manheim Township, Lancaster County with their three young children—Collette, Micah, and Adalyn. Lyn teaches at Lancaster Mennonite High School. Jon's hobbies include running, photography, and reading (nonfiction and fiction). In ministry, Jon appreciates good conversation and good coffee, and tries to cultivate an awareness that God is always at work in our world.



Kevin Ressler , Executive Committee Member at Large

Kevin Ressler graduated from Eastern Mennonite University studying Justice, Peace and Conflict Studies; he also has a variety of minors but his most prized possession is his Theater Minor saying "I spent more time on that minor than on my major. My major is basically a JPCS degree in Theater." This joy of storytelling and the narrative of faith also influenced his decision to get his Masters of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary. He now uses his energies to do community organizing and professionally is Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Lancaster. He grew up at Forest Hills Mennonite but now attends Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster with his wife Melissa and daughter Acacia.



Brenda Martin Hurst, Executive Committee Member at Large

Brenda Martin Hurst has gratefully served as the pastor of Frazer Mennonite Church, Frazer, PA since September 2007 and is open to serving on the ACC Executive Committee as a member-at-large. She brings significant experience of serving in other conferences in PA, VA and KS and in MC USA. She has always taken an interest in strengthening the relationships between congregations and their area conference and in the broader work of her conference and denomination. Prior to her role at Frazer, Brenda taught at Eastern Mennonite Seminary as an Assistant Professor of Practical Theology. She has a PhD degree in History, Theology and Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. She earned her MDiv degree from what is now called Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She previously served as co-pastor with her husband, Ray, at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS from 1986-1997. Brenda and Ray have two young adult children, one daughter-in-law and a 1-year-old grandson. Brenda enjoys quilt making, reading and traveling in her spare time.



Larry McJunkin, Finance & Stewardship Committee Chair

Larry and his family are from Kansas. They moved to Pa to take positions with Mennonite Central Committee where Larry worked in the finance department. He is currently employed with Sharp Shopper in the corporate office. He and his wife Cheryl are members of Forest Hills Mennonite Church. They have two adult children and one granddaughter.



Larry Massanari, Gifts Discernment Committee Member

Larry Massanari and his wife, Paula, are members of Frazer Mennonite Church. He is a retired senior executive and commissioner with the Social Security Administration. He currently chairs the board of Mathematica Policy Research and serves on the board of Everence Trust Company. Larry is a former board member at Tel Hai Retirement Community and Bridge of Hope National. He has four children and six grandchildren.



Julie Dunst, Gifts Discernment Committee Member

Julie is an elder and active member of Zion Mennonite Church in Birdsboro, PA. Having served for two terms as ACC Executive Committee Secretary, she has had the pleasure of meeting members of other congregations in ACC. Julie lives with her husband Jim and children in Reading PA. She is currently enrolled as a PH.D. student at Alvernia University where she also teaches.