

Fall 2016, New ACC Minister Recognition

Elizabeth Soto Albrecht

Position & Location: Lancaster Theological Seminary. Coordinator of field education and advisor for cross cultural education

Date of Ordination/Installation: October 17, 2004 as pastor of Armenia Mennonite Church in Colombia, South America

Family: Spouse: Franklin D. Albrecht; Children: Yentli Elis Soto Albrecht 23 yrs old and Sara Liliana Albrecht Soto 20 yr. old

Education: D. Min. International Feminism from San Francisco Theological Seminary; M.A. in Religion from Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras/AMBS; BA in Health Education, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

Hobbies: walking in the woods every Sunday afternoon, watching movies that have a challenging message and reading novels from Isabel Allende.

Life Bible verse: John 3:28 "And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free"

A recent joy: Seeing our oldest daughter graduate with honors from Princeton University and our youngest daughter return from a semester study abroad in Serbia.

A challenge ahead: Discerning next steps in my life and providing support for my elderly parents back in Puerto Rico.



Miriam Cruz

Family: Spouse: Jesus Cruz; Children: Daniel Shank Cruz and Christina Cruz

Education: Masters of Ed., Lehman College, Bronx, NY; 3 units of CPE, Philhaven

Hobbies: Reading, travel, puzzles, walking & biking

Life Bible verse: Verse for ministry: *Isaiah 50:4*

A recent joy: A trip to Glacier National Park with my husband hiking and marveling at the peaks and lakes and rivers.

A challenge ahead: Within the next few years I will retire and get to explore new ways of using my time and gifts.



Liliana Potes Echeverry

Position & Location: Candidate for pastor at the First Mennonite Church of Brooklyn

Children: Laura Osorio, 26 yrs old, Lina Osorio, 25 yrs old

Education: National University of Colombia, Arts; Bogota Colombia, School Development Center of Colombia Mennonite Brethren Ministerial

Hobbies: Reading, games for PC

Life Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

A recent joy: New work for my daughters

A challenge ahead: Grow in wisdom, favor with God and men, working full-time as pastor.



Keith Espenshade

Position & Location: Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor, Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster, PA

Date of Ordination/Installation: Ordained in 1992, at LGH since 1998

Family: Spouse: Linda; Children: Jeremy & Jessica (adults)

Education: B.A. – Messiah College; M.Div. – Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; CPE – St. Luke’s Hospital and Asbury Methodist Village

Hobbies: Kayaking, bagpipes, woodworking, gardening, fishing

Life Bible verse: Romans 8:38-39

A recent joy: Our son’s wedding in June.

A challenge ahead: Keeping my focus on priorities.



Joanne Dietzel

Position & Location: Atlantic Coast Conference Minister

Date of Ordination/Installation: November 20, 2016 (Ridgeview Mennonite Church)

Family: Spouse: Dan; Children: Andrew (Julie), Angela; Grandchildren: Adelyn, Brenna

Education: Eastern Mennonite Seminary Certificate in Ministry Studies

Hobbies: Reading, piano, flower gardens, time with friend

Life Bible verse: Philippians 4:4-7

A recent joy: The careful and thoughtful processes congregations are engaging with to think about conference affiliation.

A challenge ahead: Sorting and downsizing after living in our home for 36 years



Todd Friesen

Position & Location: Lead pastor, East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church; Ordained 2002, at ECSMC since 2013

Family: Spouse: Dennette Alwine; Children: Jasmine

Education: BA, history, Goshen College 1985, MA Chinese studies, U. of VA, 1992; MDiv AMBS 2000; Certificate in spiritual direction, AMBS 2013.

Hobbies: Biking, gardening, birdwatching, Chinese cooking.

Life Bible verse: Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God.”

A recent joy: Becoming a trained presenter in Centering Prayer with Contemplative Outreach.

A challenge ahead: Not so much a challenge as something I’m really looking forward to: building new relationships in Atlantic Coast Conference



Beth Good

Position & Location: Health Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee

Congregation: Blossom Hill Mennonite Church

Family: Spouse: Clair Good; Children: Rebekah Good Charles (husband, Derrick Charles; children, Lia, Silas, ?), Esther Good (husband, Yohannes Worku; children, Natnael, Elilta), Hannah Ford (husband, Pierce Ford; child, Evalyn), Naomi Yoder (husband, Andrew Yoder)

Education: PhD, Nursing Science

Hobbies: Reading

Life Bible verse: Isaiah 58

A recent joy: My family is a past, present and consistent joy!

A challenge ahead: Moving to eastern DR Congo to serve with MCC...leaving all my beautiful children and grandchildren



Clair Good

Position & Location: Program Coordinator for eastern DR Congo

Date of Ordination/Installation: Ordained in 1990 under a tree in Maasailand Kenya, by Kenyan bishop. Joined ACC in September 2016

Family: Spouse: Beth Good; Children: see Beth Good

Education: MACL Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Hobbies: Building, mechanics,

Life Bible verse: Jeremiah 1:4-10

A recent joy: The birth of our granddaughter Evelyn Joy.

A challenge ahead Move and live in Eastern DR Congo.



Dawn Ranck Hower

Position & Location: Pastor, New Holland Mennonite Church

Date of Ordination/Installation: Ordination – January 30, 2005 / Installation – September 14, 2014

Family: Spouse: Bryan Hower

Education: Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, VA; Master's of Divinity; Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA, BA in Sociology

Hobbies: Travel, Games, Volleyball, Scrapbooking,

Life Bible verse: *Ephesians 3:16-21*

A recent joy: This past summer my husband and I spent 2 weeks in Hawaii celebrating our 50th birthdays.

A challenge ahead: To help to lead our church into a new way of being church in the New Holland community



Robert Keener

Position & Location: Retired June 30 this year from Director of Spiritual Care at Menno Haven Retirement Communities Chambersburg PA. I served as Chaplain there 1998 - 2016. I served as congregational pastor at East Goshen Mennonite Church 1988 - 1997.

Date of Licensing: September of 1988; Ordination: May 12 of 1991

Family: Rhoda and I have 3 adult children (Jean. Gloria. Steve) and 4 grandsons aged 6 - 13

Spouse: Rhoda Shenk Keener

Education: HACC; Messiah College; Goshen College BS EI Ed; AMBS MDiv

Hobbies: birding; photography; hiking; reading; travel

Life Bible verse: Romans 8: 37-39 "...nothing can separate us from the love of God..."

A recent joy: "finishing well" at Menno Haven and having more time with family and grandchildren.

A challenge ahead: purpose and goals in this next chapter



Kevin Kanagy

Position & Location: Teaching Pastor, Hope Community Church of Fleetwood

Date of Ordination/Installation: June 1, 2016

Family: Spouse: Nan Kanagy; Children: Hannah, 10 - Madi, 8 - Ellie, 6

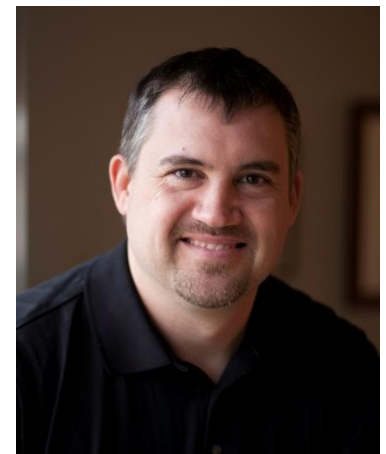
Education: Goshen College, MDiv from Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Hobbies: Enjoys photography, painting, hiking and reading theology.

Life Bible verse: Ephesians 1:4-6

A recent joy: watching our girls adjust to country life

A challenge ahead: Growing new friendships and connections



Nan Kanagy

Position & Location: Pastor of Worship & Youth Ministries; Hope Community Church of Fleetwood

Date of Ordination/Installation: June 1, 2016

Family: Spouse: Kevin Kanagy; Children: Hannah, 10 - Madi, 8 - Ellie, 6

Education: Goshen College; MACL from EMS

Hobbies: Loves gardening, hiking, singing and directing a homeschooling Co-op

Life Bible verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

A recent joy: Seeing my nephew born and expecting a new niece as well

A challenge ahead: How to balance ministry, family and education



Barry Kreider

Position & Location: Pastor at Pilgrims Mennonite Church, Akron, PA

Date of Ordination/Installation: Began at Pilgrims September 1, 2000.
Ordained April 22, 2012

Family: Spouse, Erika Kreider; Children, Karina, Anya

Education: Eastern Mennonite Seminary, M.Div.; Eastern Mennonite College,
B.A. in Christian Ministries, German

Hobbies: Backpacking, beekeeping, woodworking, anything related to energy conservation



Life Bible verse [verses?!]: Philippians 2:1-5, "Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus." **AND** 2 Timothy 1:7, "God didn't give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled."

A recent joy: Assisting in Pilgrims creating a "Little Free Pantry"

A challenge ahead: Along with Pilgrims, learning what it means to live invitationally.

Dorcas Miller Lehman

Position & Location: Just completed nine months as Interim Pastor at Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship, Vermont; previously served as Campus Pastor at Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, PA. I also teach pastoral studies in EMU's STEP program, and offer spiritual direction.

Date of Ordination/Installation: Credentialed with License for Specific Ministry by Lancaster Conference in February 2002

Family: Married to Glenn Lehman; Daughter Sarah, married to Ryan Schrock; Son Joel, married to Stephanie Miller Lehman; grandchildren Leah Schrock, Noah Schrock

Education: M.Div. Eastern Mennonite Seminary; M.S.W. Columbia University School of Social Work; B.A. Hood College

Hobbies: good conversation, reading, music, art, writing, taking walks, philosophical discussions, staying tuned to the next generation, and being with grandchildren

Life Bible verse: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79

A recent joy: discovering a good fit between my calling and a solo interim ministry

A challenge ahead: saying good-bye to Mennonites in Vermont



Samantha Lioi

New Minister Name: Samantha E. Lioi

Position & Location: Associate Pastor, East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church

Date of Ordination/Installation: ordination was September 13, 2015 in Allentown through Franconia Mennonite Conference. Installation at ECSMC - November 22, 2015

Family: Brother and sister-in-law: Jason and Becky, who live in Los Angeles
Parents: Joan and David, selling their house in my homeland of N.J. and moving to northern Delaware

Education: BA in Creative Writing from Houghton College, 2002; M.Div. w/concentration in Peace Studies, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 2010

Hobbies: bike riding, photography, singing, reading, listening to music or an occasional episode of On Being, vegetable gardening (hope to return to it!)

Life Bible verse: I generally haven't thought in terms of a life verse, but if I were to say, it would be either 1 Cor 1:25 (really at least vv. 21-31) or 1 John 4:16ff - ...we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them...

A recent joy: I just started a spiritual direction training program through Oasis Ministries, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity, for my peer group leader and for my peers! I believe this will help me deepen my relationship with God and grow in wisdom.

A challenge ahead: As our congregation navigates some big changes, we continue to be challenged to move toward each other when we differ and to affirm the good. In anxious times, this is more difficult than one remembers during times of ease!



Gary Lloyd

Position & Location: Oley Valley Mennonite Church, Oley ,PA

Date of Ordination/Installation: June 5, 2016

Family: Spouse: Nancy Lloyd; Children: Our grown children, Cherie, Crystal. Cody and Chad married to Melissa and 2 Granddaughters

Education: Hudson County Community College, Chesapeake Bible College, Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Hobbies: Model Railroading, Hiking, and Fishing at mountain Cabin

Life Bible verse: Matthew 3:3

A joy: Spending time with my Granddaughters Adelyn and Kaya Lloyd

A challenge ahead: Growing Gods church in the Oley Valley Area



Robert Martin

Position & Location: Retired minister, Elder at New Holland Mennonite Church

Date of Ordination: November 23, 1975

Family: Wife, Sarah Jane Martin, and 4 grown children, Betsy, Bobbie, Bill and Beverly

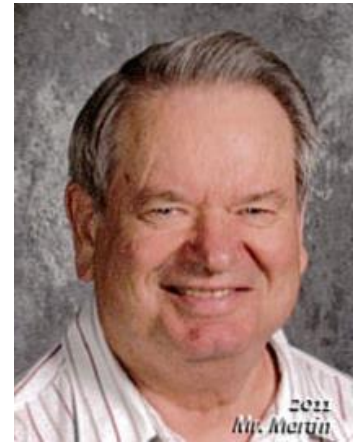
Education: Two years of seminary

Hobbies: Like to build things with wood

Life Bible verse: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

A recent joy: Welcomed our second great grandchild into the world

A challenge ahead: Dealing with health issues in the family



Valentina Satvedi Leydon

Position & Location: Melbourne, Australia

Ordained in The Church of Brethren, Pacific Southwest District, 1998. Ordination transferred to/received by Lancaster Mennonite Conference, 2013.

Family: Married to Thomas Leydon.

Education: Master of Divinity (Peace Studies); Master of Arts (Social Justice)

Hobbies: Reading, Nature Walking/Hiking, Gardening, Upcycling/Craft,

Life Bible verse: Isaiah 40:31

A recent joy: Celebrating milestones with family members near and afar.

A challenge ahead: Discerning where God is leading us and stepping through the door that God opens for us.



Ruth Yoder Wenger

Position & Location: Pastor, North Bronx Mennonite Church, Bronx, NY

Date of Installation: Installation as Pastor -1996, License for Specific Ministry -2001

Family: Spouse: David A. Wenger; Children: 3 adult children – Stefan David (39) m. Rachel Wynne; Kirsten Naomi (33) m. Marvin Cooper; Marin Ruth (30).

Education: BA in English and Secondary Education, Eastern Mennonite College; MA in Education, Columbia University Teachers College

Hobbies: NY *Times* Sunday crossword puzzles, Jigsaw puzzles, Zentangles, Reading mysteries

Life Bible verse: Isaiah 43:18-19

A recent joy: Welcoming our first grandchild, Nathaniel Lexington Cooper, in January 2016 and watching him grow while providing full-time daycare for him.

A challenge ahead: Discerning holy stewardship of gifts and resources

