

# 2021 Leadership Slate Bios

## Cindy Petersheim, Moderator (2nd term – 1 year only)



*Note to delegates: Cindy is not available to serve a full second term, but is willing to extend for one year. This will be especially helpful to bring continuity to our Executive Committee as Jon Carlson is stepping off as Assistant Moderator to serve the broader church; MC USA continues the Membership Guidelines discernment in 2022 and as we continue to experience the COVID-19 impact in our congregations. Your vote is only to affirm Cindy extending for one year.*

Cindy Petersheim retired in 2015 from Messiah College after 15 of her 28 professional years in development fundraising. Her career included training and expertise in charitable estate planning, major gifts, annual fund, and donor relations. Additionally, she worked as Director of Development at LMS. She lives in Morgantown with her husband (Bob), where he served as pastor of Conestoga Mennonite Church. Past and present Board involvements include Home International (Indian orphanages), Bridge of Hope – National, Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Church first co-youth Minister; Tel Hai Retirement Board and UDS. Bob and Cindy have two grown daughters and five grandchildren. Her hobbies include traveling with friends, book club participation; Guardian for children and seniors without family support; and best of all keeping up with grandchildren

## Todd Gusler, Executive Committee Assistant Moderator (1st term)



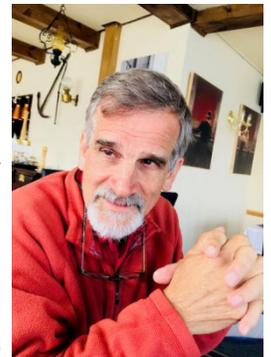
Todd Gusler has served as the pastor of Rossmere Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA since 2014. He is a graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and has previously pastored in Indiana and served as a house leader of the Service Adventure unit in Raleigh, North Carolina. Todd has been serving on the ACC Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large. He lives in the city of Lancaster with his wife Leah and 3 children.

## Steve Crane, Executive Committee Member-at- Large (1st term)



Steve Crane is a member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church and is currently serving as part-time interim pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, Birdsboro, PA. He also ministers as a part-time chaplain for Norristown State Hospital. He has served ACC churches in a variety of ways, as pastor, interim-conference minister for NYC, and continues as a clergy misconduct investigating team trainer. He is married to Francesca, has two adult daughters, 5 grandchildren, and one special needs adult son, David, who lives at home. Steve enjoys playing the guitar and volunteers at Tel-Hai Retirement Community with the Ukulele Band.

## Lynn Brubaker, Exec. Committee Secretary (2nd term)



Lynn Brubaker attends Frazer Mennonite Church where he serves as a regular worship leader and as a member of the Worship Team. In the recent past he has also served as moderator of the congregation and participated on the Ministry Team as Lay Minister for Peace, Justice and Evangelism. He is a retired public school teacher, having worked for over thirty years as a mathematics teacher and department head in a number of high schools in the School District of Philadelphia. In the more distant past he was an intern teaching supervisor in the Temple Graduate School of Education. He is currently treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, a residential community for special needs adults, where he also volunteers. He has worked in education and development in Tanzania, Sudan and Kenya. Lynn and his wife, Debra Hutchinson, live in Kimberton and Scotland, and have two daughters and two grandsons (and did I forget, two accomplished sons-in-law).

## Addie Banks, Exec Committee Member-at-Large (1st term)

Addie serves as an Elder at Manhattan Mennonite in New York City. She is a practiced spiritual mentor and holds credentials in spiritual direction. Prior to joining MMF Addie served as a member of the Pastoral team at King of Glory, a Mennonite congregation in the Bronx for well over 25 years. She is currently the executive director of The Groundswell Group, a Peace and Justice Resource Center rooted in Anabaptist values. Addie has served two terms on the Executive board of MCUSA and has also served as a member of the executive committee of the board. She recently completed her second term on the Mennonite education agency board. Addie is passionate about the gospel and the presence and power of Christ to transform lives and enjoys the many opportunities and venues NYC affords to share the good news. Addie lives in New York City with her husband Philip Lyn. She has 2 daughters, five grandchildren and one grand pup.



## Keith & Ruth Miller, Peace & Justice Committee Co-Chairs (1st term)

Keith Miller recently retired from the Geology Department of Kansas State University, and is currently an adjunct faculty at Messiah College in Grantham, PA. His teaching and research interests are in Earth and life history, climate science, public science literacy, and in exploring the interface of science and Christian faith. Ruth Douglas Miller retired in 2017 from teaching electrical engineering at Kansas State University. She advised the solar car racing team, solar house design team and wind turbine design team at KSU, and through the KSU Wind Applications Center taught renewable energy classes and gave numerous presentations to the general public and to K-12 classes on both wind and solar energy. She designed and monitors the two solar arrays that power the Miller farmstead near Morgantown.

Both Ruth and Keith are Fellows of the American Scientific Affiliation, an association of Christians in the sciences. They are members of the Conestoga Mennonite Church of Morgantown, and have served on the ACC Peace & Justice



Committee for two years. Keith is also a member of the Creation Care Subcommittee, and was a presenter at the recent ACC workshop on “Caring for God’s Earth: a hopeful response to the climate crisis.” Ruth serves presently on the Antiracism Task Group. Creation care and stewardship are important principles guiding Keith and Ruth as they seek to manage the property entrusted to them by God.

## Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, Gift Discernment Committee Member (1 term only)

Elizabeth was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and in the last 30 years has been a proud resident of the southeast part of the city of Lancaster. She worked 10 yrs with Lancaster Theological Seminary as Professor of Practice, coordinating field education, designing the cross-cultural courses and teaching. Served a little over 7 yrs as a Chaplain-Interpreter at W&B Hospital/LGH. Elizabeth was ordained as a minister in Colombia, South America in 2004, and since 2016 the Atlantic Coast Conference of Mennonite Churches holds her credentials. Most recently she completed 14 months serving as a consultant with Mennonite Disaster Service as the administrator of the response on Hurricane Maria’s disaster in Puerto Rico. Elizabeth has a MAR from Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico & Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart IN. In 2005 Elizabeth completed a doctorate in ministry emphasis on International Feminism. She published her D. Min dissertation in 2007 with Orbis Books on the theme of Family Violence and Theology of Non Violence of Jesus. Most recently her long dream project came out in September 2020, published by T&T Clark, she co-edited *Liberating the Politics of Jesus: Renewing Peace Theology Through the Wisdom of Women*. She has been a writer on other projects both in Spanish and English for leadership formation in her denomination in the US and Latin America/Caribbean. She is passionate on women’s issues/Latina identity, racial justice and community development for the unprivileged.

Elizabeth served as Moderator of Mennonite Church USA from 2013-2015, being the first Latina to serve in that position. She is married to Frank Albrecht, a high school teacher, and a loving mother of two young adult daughters and her spouses. Currently her church is Laurel St. Mennonite church in the south west of the city and works as a Spanish Interpreter in local hospitals and school districts.



### **LaVern Yutzy, Gift Discernment Committee Member (1 term only)**

LaVern is a member of Landisville Mennonite Church. His work history includes 30 years at Philhaven as a clinical social worker and then as CEO. He is currently a part-time consultant to faith based non-profits in the areas of executive coaching and board development. LaVern and Janie have two children and three grandchildren. In addition to various volunteer involvements, hobbies include birdwatching, biking and pickleball.



### **Karyn Nancarvis, Youth Committee Chairperson (3rd term)**

In June, Karyn Nancarvis earned her Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. She is now employed full-time as Campus Chaplain at Garden Spot Village, and serving on the Board of the Shalom Project in Lancaster. She and her husband Tim are members of Laurel Street Mennonite Church, living in Lititz with three of their five teenage and emerging young adult children.



### **Dawn Ranck-Hower, Ministerial Leadership Committee Chairperson (1st term)**

Dawn Ranck-Hower has been the pastor of New Holland Mennonite Church for 7 years. Previously, she served as the Associate Pastor at Plains Mennonite in Hatfield, PA for 11 years. Dawn graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. She lives with her husband Bryan, and their furry “children” (a dog and 3 cats), in New Holland, PA. She enjoys entertaining, kayaking, reading, and playing games with friends.



### **Lyndell Thiessen, Gift Discernment Comm. Chairperson (3rd term)**

Lyndell lives in Akron with her husband Bruce and her two cats. She is a member of Blossom Hill Mennonite Church where she has been involved with worship and youth group leading. Lyndell volunteers her time at Booksavers (part of ReUzit on State in Ephrata) where she lists textbooks on-line to raise money for MCC. She has lived in Germany (3 yrs) and Brazil (6 yrs) and enjoys speaking multiple foreign languages. She also enjoys playing piano, knitting, playing cards, and traveling. She is currently cooking her way through the cuisines of 18 of the foreign countries she has visited.

