

Slate for 2018-2019 Nominating Committee

Remaining members on this committee:

Karen Howard (2020) and Keith Swartzendruber (2019)

(will elect one of these two for a 3 year term (2018-2021))



Elaine Mercer

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Belleville, PA

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Congregation: University

Elaine Mercer and her husband Mike Bratt moved from San Francisco to Belleville in 1992. They attended Maple Grove until 2000, when they made the change to University. In San Francisco Elaine was Housing and Registration Manager for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In Belleville she had a Bed and Breakfast until retirement a few years ago. She chairs the Fellowship Committee at University Mennonite Church. She has always been involved in hospitality in one way or another.



Leah Lumeya

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Congregation: University

I would describe myself as curious, inquisitive, artsy, a life-long learner. These words help to explain many of the somewhat challenging and diverse choices I've made in my life. I have worked as a waitress; a farmer; an entrepreneur (3X's); a township supervisor; a social worker; professor; behavior support specialist, community organizer, and clinical supervisor. I have two biological children, and seven children adopted from the foster care system. Each experience and each person has expanded my knowledge and my heart, and I am grateful for every one!

Currently, I live with my husband, Fidele, and son, Nathanael, in Altoona, Pa. where I am employed as a Clinical Specialist developing programs for adults with intellectual disabilities who suffer from traumatic stress. Fidele and I also work together to grow and develop our not-for-profit organization in Kinshasa, DR Congo—the Kinshasa Peace Institute--a branch of Lumeya International Ministries. Hobbies include photography, writing/blogging, art of any type, reading, travel, being outdoors/nature—This list would be shorter if I named things I do not enjoy!

My first experience with a Mennonite community occurred when Fidele took me on a date to Hyattsville Mennonite Church. After a lifetime of religiosity, judgement, and doom HMC appeared as a bit of Heaven-on-Earth to me. They enfolded me within their love and I knew I had found home. That home extended to include the community of University Mennonite Church when we moved to PA two years ago.

My mission in life is to serve. It is my privilege to do so in any capacity open to me.

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Bill is a member of Stahl Mennonite Church. He and two of his sons operate a grain and beef farm operation in Davidsville, PA. Bill is also a salesman for Pioneer seeds. In the past Bill has been a youth adviser, Sunday School teacher, and has served on church council.

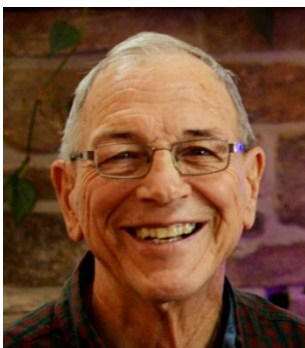
Bill Hunsberger

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Congregation: Stahl



Paul Lehman

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Congregation: Crossroads

Paul is a member of **Crossroad Community Church**, Johnstown PA, where in the past he served as elder. He helped plant Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Gainesville Florida, where he was involved as a church leader and elder.

For most of his career he was a plant pathologist working in Brazil and Florida and working in international development.. After retiring as a plant pathologist, he is now trying to semi-retire using sustainable organic practices on the farm where he was born near Boswell, PA. He also serves on the board of International Christian Aid. He and Mary Ellen have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He enjoys sharing his love of nature and bird watching with family and friends.