



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Nominees to Presbyterian Women's 2021–2024 Board of Directors

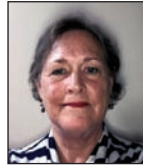
Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will begin a new triennium in 2021 with a new budget, new priorities for the work of the Board of Directors and a new leadership team. As an adaptive organization that looks at holistic ministries, good stewardship and vibrant partnerships with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ministries, the upcoming Board will have a modified structure. In 2019, voting representatives from PW's 2018 triennial business meeting approved changes recommended by the current Board of Directors to eliminate five national positions, beginning with the 2021–2024 triennium: one vice moderator, secretary/historian, new immigrant representative and two young women's representatives. Two young women's representatives at large are still included in the slate and two additional young women's representatives are nominated through Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries.

Erma Jones, chair of the 2018–2021 Search Committee, said of the proposed slate, "The nominations we received were excellent and will make a wonderful Board of Directors." The nominees named here will be presented for election at PW's triennial business meeting, which will be held August 4–5, 2021.

Moderator

Kathy Reeves

Manistee, Michigan
Presbytery: Denver
Synod: Rocky Mountains



Presbyterian women have always been leaders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The organization, Presbyterian Women, Inc., increases and strengthens our ability to provide leadership in the Church. During the 2021–2024 triennium, I would like to see Presbyterian Women, Inc. become an even more visible and prominent ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Church: Minister of Word and Sacrament (retired); served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as national staff of Worldwide Ministries 1992–2008 and Presbyterian Women from 2008–2018

Community: active in the Manistee Lakeside Club, a women's organization serving Manistee County

Education/Profession: MDiv, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Vice Moderator

Kathleen L. Keefer

Clarinda, Iowa
Presbytery: Missouri River
Valley
Synod: Lakes and Prairies



I would like to see Presbyterian Women become more vocal in advocating for racial justice, equal rights for women, climate change and climate justice, as well as to work more closely with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations and the Office of Public Witness, thus supporting the mission of the church. As 223rd General Assembly (2018) co-moderator Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri said, "Be bold, be audacious, be unapologetic."

Church involvement: coordinator, Synod Justice and Peace Committee; co-facilitator for synod-wide racial justice challenge; editor, synod newsletter and weekly presbytery newsletter; vice moderator, Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee; choir; member, Aesthetics Committee

PW: PWC—Bible study leader; PWP—moderator and newsletter editor; PW Churchwide—synod representative; sewer and stitcher for many hands-on mission projects

Community involvement: board of directors, Corner County Early Childhood Area; volunteer, board of elections; member of statewide taskforce for COVID-19 services/support

Education: BA in communication/advertising, Rowan University (Glassboro State College); teaching certification, secondary English education; MA in counseling/psychology; began an MA program in pastoral ministries; certification in spiritual direction and as Reiki master/teacher

Finance Chair

Susan Ochs

Norton Shores, Michigan
Presbytery: Lake Michigan
Synod: Covenant



I hope that Presbyterian Women will continue to promote and support the education of young girls and women worldwide and work to reduce poverty and abuse. Empowering women to more fully participate in society as equals will continue to be central to PW as they promote the vision of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Church: Altar Flower coordinator; choir; prayer shawl knitting group; Eight Founders Circle

PW: PWC—moderator; PWP—moderator, treasurer; PWS—treasurer

Community: member, Michigan Association of Special Education Administrators; volunteer, Red Cross

Education/Profession: BS, University of Michigan; MA in special education, University of Michigan; principal, Wesley School (centralized Special Education facility operated by Muskegon Area Intermediate School District); certified teacher of children with mental impairments; Medicaid coordinator, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District; chairperson, Supervisors of Low Incidence Programs; member, Council for Exceptional Children

African American

Member at Large

Janice (Jan) Grimes Lewis

Augusta, Georgia
Presbytery: Northeast Georgia
Synod: South Atlantic



During 2020, the year of clear vision, the world has seen undeniable evidence of discrimination, injustice and oppression, which fuels our racial divide. I am committed to engaging in bridge building dialogue, promoting intercultural understanding and sharing the light of Christ.

Church: ruling elder; co-chair, Pastor Nominating Committee; director, Vacation Bible School; presbytery moderator; co-chair, Committee on Ministry; chair, Leadership Development Ministry Team; member of Presbytery Search Committee and Examinations Task Force; commissioner, General Assembly

PW: PWC—moderator and moderator of search committee

Community: president, Advisory Committee, Board of Education; president, Barefeet Productions; member and executive board, Augusta Chorale; member, Interfaith Fellowship of Augusta; Celebrations Coordinator, Church Women United; president, Augusta–Aiken Chapter, Hampton University Alumni; volunteer, Lydia Project; member, Alpha Kappa Alpha; member, Retired Educators Association

Education/Profession: graduate of Hampton Institute (University); Cameron State University; Augusta State University

Asian American Member at Large
Sue Liu

Princeton, New Jersey
Presbytery: New Brunswick
Synod: Northeast



I would like to encourage the participation and involvement of Asian American women in Presbyterian Women's events, including Gatherings, Bible studies and the mission of the church worldwide. I hope to empower women, young couples and families with children to study the Bible regularly and build a strong faith community.

Church: deacon of Taiwanese/American Fellowship Presbyterian Church (TAFPC); children's ministry (Sunday school) and nursery; Mission Team; lead TAFPC women's Bible study group

PW: monthly *Horizons* Bible study group; PWS—webservant for PWS website

Community: work in circulation at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library

Education/Profession: BS in Business Administration, Tunghai University, Taiwan; MS in Computer Science, University of Memphis, Tennessee

Hispanic/Latin American Member at Large
Letty Heredia

Hillside, New Jersey
Presbytery: New York City
Synod: Northeast



Being a part of PW's Board is an awesome opportunity to join the vision, mission and goals of PW and work together to achieve them. I'm willing to support the purpose of Presbyterian Women with my skills, the experience gained in the different positions that I have held, contribute with ideas and be a good team player in any task assigned.

Church: ruling elder; participant in a number of congregational social justice programs; vice president, Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in Latin America (AIPRAL)

PW: vice-moderator, Hispanic Latin Presbyterian Women (HLPW) in New York City; moderator, national HLPW

Community: active in denouncing and advocating for the end of the violence against girls and women

Education/Profession: engineering, drafting and design, Universidad APEC in Santo Domingo; engineering drafter

Korean American Member at Large
Chol Sik Kim

Hinesville, Georgia
Presbytery: Greater Atlanta
Synod: South Atlantic



I am honored and grateful to be nominated by Presbyterian Women to the position of Korean American Member at Large. I give honor and glory to the Lord. I will do my best to diligently dialogue and visit Korean churches and encourage the women to become involved with PW.

Church: Congregation Missionary; Prison Ministry; 11th District Leader; Moderator for KCPW

Community: City of Hinesville Downtown Development/Redevelopment Committee; board of directors for Liberty County Chamber of Commerce; volunteer with Georgia Department of Correction

Education: Political Science, University of Alabama

Middle Eastern Member at Large
Adina Yacoub

Whippany, New Jersey
Presbytery: Palisades
Synod: Northeast



I would like to highlight the work of PW in the Middle Eastern church throughout the country. I would like to energize young women to be involved and help carry on the good work started by our generation and previous generations that needs to be continued and built upon. My prayer is for Presbyterian Women to be a beacon of light in our troubled times and spread the love of Jesus wherever we go.

Church: first woman ordained at Mideast Evangelical Church; youth leader; Sunday school teacher; member of various congregation and presbytery committees; member of Presbytery Council

PW: PWP moderator and treasurer

Education/Profession: BA Business Administration and Religion, Rutgers University; executive director, Bergen County Board of Social Services; union president, Communications Workers of America, Local 1089

Native American Member at Large
Gina Enos

Sacaton, Arizona
Presbytery: Grand Canyon
Synod: Southwest



I believe I would be an asset as a Native woman with a strong faith and a desire and ability to encourage peaceful and compassionate communication. I try to follow Jesus' example by living a grace-filled life, loving

*others and offering and asking for forgiveness. "God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called."**

Church: ruling elder; choir; youth group leader and Sunday school teacher; programs chairperson, Pima-Maricopa Presbyterian Elders & Deacons Association; volunteer for many ministries

PW: 2020–2022 co-moderator, Native American Presbyterian Women

Community: provide transportation, spiritual support and prayerful presence for many in the community who are in need; visiting and sharing the Word with individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, or who are ill at home

Education/Profession: Gila River Career Center; Illinois School of Commerce; Haskell Indian Junior College

Young Women's Representative at Large
Mary Kate McAlister

Charlotte, North Carolina
Presbytery: Charlotte
Synod: Mid Atlantic



I look forward to building relationships within Presbyterian Women and in particular, to engaging in the work related to racial equity, justice and the beloved community. As a community of church leaders, I hope to see this important work expanded, distributed and engaged with openly and with great fervor.

Church: ruling elder; summer intern, Christian Discipleship; interim middle school youth leader

Community: intern, UKirk Atlanta; scripture reading preceptor, Columbia Theological Seminary

Education/Profession: Sewanee: The University of the South; Columbia Theological Seminary

Young Women's Representative at Large
Rachel Potts-Wells

Louisville, Kentucky
Presbytery: New Covenant
Synod: Sun



I will support the Purpose of Presbyterian Women by being a leader in my community in Louisville. I will continue to work for racial justice, LGBTQ justice as an ally, and food justice in our community and in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I will also be committed to grow in faith myself and continually learn from others.

Church: member of Activators at Austin College (a team that plans and leads regional Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) youth ministry events); Young Adult Volunteer in Kerala, South India

Community: coordinator, Student Pantry at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS); member, Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; member, LPTS Gender and Ministry Committee; involved in LPTS campus group for LGBTQ rights; involved in Louisville chapter of Showing up for Racial Justice (SUR)

Education/Profession: BA in religious studies and gender studies, Austin College; pursuing MDiv and MA in marriage and family therapy, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Search Moderator

Bonnie Thompson

Tucson, Arizona
Presbytery: de Cristo
Synod: Southwest



As moderator of the Search Committee on PW's Board of Directors, my goal is to continue conversations and actions on antiracism. One approach is a review of barriers to participation of our under-represented Presbyterian sisters, such as our Native sisters. The Doctrine of Discovery isolated Native people and made them largely invisible to the wider culture. They are a vital part of our family and should be intentionally welcomed.

Church: deacon; ruling elder; member of the Nominations Committee, Benevolent Committee, Home Communion Team, Communion Preparation Team; member of Northminster Christian School Board; Bible study leader; disaster preparedness instructor; weekly Bible study participant; Presbytery—Mission Committee, Leadership Commission and an Administrative Commission

PW: PWC—moderator and secretary; PWP—moderator; PWS—moderator and treasurer; participant in 2014 Global Exchange to the Caribbean and Reformation tour

Education/Profession: BA in education and MA in educational counseling, University of Arizona; taught for 36 years

Search Committee, Northeast and Boriquen Region

Lorraine J. Cuffie

Elizabeth, New Jersey
Presbytery: Newark
Synod: Northeast



In a world that is constantly evolving, young people (especially young women) are emerging as powerful and innovative agents of change. I would like to see PW's Board of Directors create more welcoming spaces for young women, recruit them to plan and execute programs, and eventually establish them as high-level directors, fully equipped to lead our organization into a dynamic and hope-filled future.

Church: ruling elder; moderator, Church Nominating Committee; co-moderator, Personnel Committee; co-moderator, Worship Committee; liturgist; member, Newark Presbytery's Service and Witness Team; commissioner, Synod Administrative Commission; commissioner, General Assembly (2018)

PW: PWC—moderator; PWP—member of Search Committee, chair of Fall Gathering, moderator; PWS—member of Search Committee, vice moderator; voting representative, 2012 PW Churchwide Business Meeting

Community: member, National Black Presbyterian Caucus; secretary, Church Women United (Newark unit and New Jersey State)

Education: BA in French, New York University

Search Committee, Southeast Region

Tami White Richardson

Lexington, South Carolina
Presbytery: Trinity
Synod: South Atlantic



I would like to involve younger women in the work of PW. I would like to see PW be responsive to the needs of young women and to minister to those needs, while empowering young women to go out and minister to the needs of others in their communities.

Church: ruling elder; clerk of session; member, Northminster Social Justice Ministry and Northminster's Drama Ministry

PW: PWC—GRACE Circle leader, participant, moderator; PWP—Spiritual Enrichment

Community: member, MORE Justice, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., National Education Association, South Carolina Education Association, Wisteria Garden Club

Education/Profession: BA, University of South Carolina; MA, Southern Wesleyan University

Search Committee, East Central Region

Erin Focke

Cincinnati, Ohio
Presbytery: Cincinnati
Synod: Covenant



I would like to help the Board explore existing plans to connect with and engage with younger women and then develop and implement a plan to support engagement. I am looking forward working with Presbyterian Women at the national level.

Church: secretary and clerk of session; council member and chair of the Network Resource Committee, Presbytery of Cincinnati; coordinator, SERRV

PW: PWC—active participant; PWP—member at large; PW Board of Directors—Synod Representative; 2017 Global Exchange to Indonesia

Education/Profession: BA in communications, MA in elementary education, University of Cincinnati; director of regional services, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Search Committee, Western Region

Laurie Peil

Puyallup, Washington
Presbytery: Olympia
Synod: Alaska Northwest



As I write this, it is a time of great uncertainty, fear and change. I hope Presbyterian Women will be able to find new ways of reaching and supporting our women, and ways of encouraging, uplifting, educating and holding one another in prayer as we all navigate uncharted waters.

Church: deacon, ruling elder

PW: PWC—moderator, vice moderator and Coordinating Team; PWS—historian and Communications Team

Community: secretary, COA Board; member, BRAQ (retired teachers association)

Education/Profession: Green River Community College; Central Washington University; a number of other colleges to keep up with credit requirements for my teaching certificate

Search Committee, West Central Region

Christy Abraham

Lincoln, Nebraska
Presbytery: Homestead
Synod: Lakes and Prairies



I am humbled to be able to serve in this role. I want to continue the work of Presbyterian Women with authentic inclusivity, truly listening to others, expressing gratitude and spreading the joy of being a part of PW. I look forward to the journey of finding amazing, talented women to serve in leadership positions for PW.

Church: ruling elder; member of numerous congregational committees, including Worship and Sacrament Committee, Mission and Social Justice Committees; play handbells for church choir; social justice coordinator for Homestead Presbytery

PW: PWC—co-moderator

Community: service on several statewide boards focusing on violence against women and civil liberties; member of personnel committee, City of Lincoln

Education/Profession: BS in psychology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Juris Doctor, University of Nebraska College of Law

Note

* Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2016), 78.