

2017-2018 Slate of Nominees

Position: **Board of Directors** President-elect
Name: Anna Yoder Schlabach
Congregation: Assembly Mennonite Church
Occupation: Stay at home mother of twins



Anna is just wrapping up a term on Assembly's Leadership Group (church board). She plays cello in the community orchestra. Anna has four-year-old twins, Sophie and Caleb. She received an MDiv from Iliff School of Theology.

Position: **Board of Directors** Member-at-large
Name: Jorge Vielman
Congregation: Hively Avenue Mennonite Church
Occupation: Peace and Justice Coordinator at MCC Great Lakes



Jorge has been with MCC for more than 10 years, prior to joining MCC Great Lakes, Jorge worked as a pastor and counselor for eight years. He graduated from Goshen College with a BA double major in Sociology/Anthropology and Hispanic Ministries. His master's work in Peace Studies was completed at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Jorge has also served with the Damascus Road team for MCC Great Lakes and is part of the Peace and Justice Network in the U.S. He served as a facilitator for several Borderland Learning tours to the Mexico/Arizona border. Jorge is married to Sandra, and they have two sons, a daughter, and three granddaughters. They currently reside in Goshen and are members of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church where he is serving as a deacon and leads Sunday school on occasion.

Position: **Ministerial Committee**
Name: *Ardean Friesen
Congregation: Silverwood Mennonite Church
Occupation: Application Analyst/Registered Nurse



At Silverwood, Ardean has served on the Discipleship Commission, and is currently a Junior High Sponsor and Sunday School teacher. He has also served on the pastoral search committee at Silverwood. Outside of work Ardean volunteers at the Center for Healing and Hope as a nurse, is a Big Brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and is a legal guardian for an adult handicapped man. Ardean's family includes four living brothers and three sisters, many nephews and nieces and many great nephews and nieces along with many adopted as his own. Ardean lives with his dog Finnegan.

Position: **Ministerial Committee**
Name: ****Brenda Sawatzky Paetkau**
Congregation: Eighth Street Mennonite Church
Occupation: Pastor



Over 23 years of ministry at Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Brenda's appreciation for Central District Conference has deepened. The vibrant worship, the easy laughter, the genuine conversations easy and difficult are all signs of our collective trust that the church is God's project that we get to join in! Golfing at annual sessions is just a bonus!

Brenda is married to Don Paetkau, a biology professor at Saint Mary's College. They are parents to three young adult children.

Position: **Missional Church Committee**
Name: Karla Minter
Congregation: Open Table Mennonite Fellowship
Occupation: Mennonite Mission Network



Beginning in her post college years, Karla worshipped in emerging congregations and fellowships in Paoli, IN, West Lafayette, IN, Raleigh, NC and Goshen, IN. She participated with these congregations, not as a church planter or leader, but as someone seeking out a Mennonite church in the places Karla found herself working or studying. Only in the past two years has she realized the significance of persons who went before her to lay the foundation for these congregations. She has been a recipient of other's vision for an Anabaptist presence in their local communities. At this point in her life, Karla is drawn to exploring and encouraging new worshipping groups in non-traditional settings and structures.

She completed a Masters in Christian Formation from AMBS in 2012 and has worked at Mennonite Mission Network as a church relations representative since 2014. Prior to that, she worked as a public health nutritionist, primarily in maternal and child health and with children with special healthcare needs.

Karla and her husband, Bill, have two young adult children.

Position: **Missional Church Committee**
Name: Tim Stair
Congregation: Long-term membership at Southside Fellowship. Currently Interim Pastor at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church.
Occupation: Interim pastor and planning and transitions consultant/executive recruiter primarily for faith-based not-for-profits and congregations. I do much of my consulting work through Mennonite Health Services (MHS). I am also trained as a Spiritual Director.



Tim enjoys walking and golfing. He loves writing, particularly fiction, and has a mystery novel written that needs editing and publishing. Tim loves reading both fiction and nonfiction, also has a special enjoyment of mystery novels.

Position: **Camp Friedenswald Board**
Name: Peter Suter
Congregation: First Mennonite Church Bluffton
Occupation: Entrepreneur/Small business owner



Peter and his wife of 20 years, Kim Suter, live in Bluffton, Ohio. They are the parents of three children: Jacob, 14; Elam, 12; and Makayla, 10. Peter is a former Professor of Marketing at Bluffton University. He is currently the owner of Shirley's Popcorn. He also serves as the Chair of the Board of Pandora Bancshares, Inc, and is the Treasurer and board member of the Bluffton Soccer Club.

Position: **Camp Friedenswald Board**
Name: Matt Troyer
Congregation: Silverwood Mennonite Church
Occupation: CFO, Entech, Inc



Matt and his wife Lisa, live in Goshen, Indiana. They are parents to three boys: Josh, Dylan and Brock. Josh has been a counselor at Camp Friedenswald in the past.

Position: **Camp Friedenswald Board**
Name: *Mary Habegger Fox
Congregation: Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship
Occupation: President/CFO at Mid America Foundation Supply

* = incumbent

**=appointed to complete a term following a resignation, first elected term