



**PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA**  
**Nominating Committee Recommended Nominees**  
**As Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate**  
**to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2020)**



**Ministers of Word and Sacrament Nominees**



**The Rev. Anna Grant-Borden**

Rev. Anna Grant-Borden is serving as the pastor at Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church. A child of this presbytery, Anna grew up as a member of First African Presbyterian Church. She is an active member of the Commission on Ministry and the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. She holds a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary along with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Cheyney University and a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Temple University. Prior to ordained ministry, Anna taught in the Philadelphia School District for 37 years. Anna is excited about the opportunity to participate in the General Assembly. She firmly believes that it is our ability and fervent desire to discern and be in concert

with God's movement and direction in our local and global communities that keeps the Presbyterian Church alive, vibrant and relevant. She is married to Elder John Borden Sr., mother of six and grandmother of ten.



**The Rev. Pam McShane**

Rev. Pam McShane serves as the pastor of Tree of Life Church PCUSA in Springfield, Delaware County, where she has been for 19 years. During that time, Pam has led the church through significant changes. With her leadership, her congregation has focused on a powerful ministry alongside people with disabilities and their families. In response to identified needs, their "Our Community Cup," provides a weekly coffeehouse. Pam has been active in the Presbytery of Philadelphia for many years and in many roles. She is currently serving on the Commission on Ministry. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Princeton Theological Seminary, Pam enjoys working with congregations as they discern and

live out God's call to them in this time and place. She also enjoys mentoring seminarians and younger pastors. Pam is married to Brian McShane and has three adult children.



**The Rev. Leah Miller**

Rev. Leah R. Miller serves as the pastor of The Anchor Church in Wrightstown, PA since September 2013. A Bucks County native, Leah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with a focus in Science from Temple University. Upon her college graduation, Leah served as a missionary with the Foundation for Peace in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Having discerned God's call to ministry in Haiti, she pursued her Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2013. She has served on the board for Kirkwood Christian Camp and is currently serving her second term on the Committee for Representation and serves as a faculty member and site supervisor for our Princeton Seminary Partnership Ministry and Leadership Incubator. Recently married to Justin Quarles, Leah loves hiking, camping, and cooking for family and friends. She is most excited to connect with the greater

Presbyterian Church body and to pray and discern God's will for God's church.



### **The Rev. Todd Stavrakos**

Rev. Todd Stavrakos, a Philadelphia native, was called to serve as pastor to Gladwyne Presbyterian Church in 2006. Prior to that time, he served several congregations in southern New Jersey and Cumnock, Scotland. Todd has lived in the suburbs of Chicago, Washington DC, and Princeton, NJ. Before entering the ministry, Todd spent ten years working in the political world, serving on Congressional staff in Washington, DC. Todd received his undergraduate degree at Villanova University and his Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. He lives with his wife Jennifer and their two children, Sam and Lydia, in Havertown, PA. Todd is an active member of the presbytery, currently serving on the Administrative Commission of the West Philadelphia Presbyterian Partnership, the Leadership Collegium, and the Self-

Development Committee. Todd is committed to being a voice in the community, serving on the Board of Heeding God's Call, Head Start Learning Tree. He is also active on bringing awareness to issues of interfaith dialogue, racism, education and poverty.

### **Ruling Elder Nominees**



#### **Elder Megan Acedo (The Beacon Church)**

Ruling Elder Megan D. Acedo is a founding member of and serves as the Clerk of Session at Beacon Church. Megan is currently a member of the Presbytery Leadership Collegium and serves as the chair of the Presbytery Committee on Representation. Megan is the Coordinator of Student Ministries & Service Learning at Eastern University where she directs the service learning program for first-year students, advises and supports campus ministries, and directs their domestic and international mission programs. Megan also teaches as an adjunct faculty in First-Year Programs, the summer EQUIP program, and the Social Work department. Megan is a California transplant and lives in the Kensington

neighborhood with her lively family. Megan regularly tweets about life, faith, and social justice at @CoffeeLurver and, perhaps a little too obviously, loves coffee.



#### **Elder Eck Gerner (Swarthmore Presbyterian Church)**

Ruling Elder Eck Gerner brings a multi-generational commitment to the ministry of Swarthmore Presbyterian Church where he has served as Clerk of Session, Trustee, Treasurer, and Commissioner to the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Eck currently serves on the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and is chairing an Administrative Commission. After 36 years, Eck retired from Sunoco, Inc. as Assistant Corporate Secretary working with its Board and Board Committees for more than two decades. Eck has been politically active in his community serving as Mayor of Swarthmore, as well as serving on the Borough Council. For over 30 years, he was the Citizen Representative on the Borough's Pension Committee. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Swarthmore Borough Authority and volunteers on a series of other community boards. Eck and his wife Kathy have been happily

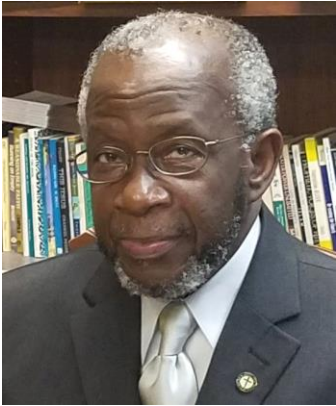
married for 43 years (and counting!) with two wonderful daughters, two great sons-in-law, and four terrific grandchildren.



**Elder Lois Adele Hayman-El (West Philadelphia Presbyterian Partnership)**

Ruling Elder Lois Hayman-El is a member of the West Philadelphia Presbyterian Partnership (a new church plant and partnership that includes First African Presbyterian Church, Calvin Presbyterian Church and Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church). A cradle Presbyterian, she has served as an elder since 1977. Lois' church leadership has included the Worship and Music Committee, the Finance Management Committee, the John Gloucester Memorial and Historical Society and the Personnel Committee. Lois is an active member of the presbytery, serving on the Older Adult Committee and the Self Development of People Committees. Lois is currently serving on the Tri-Session Leadership

Committee for the West Philadelphia Presbyterian Partnership (WPPP). In support of this ministry, Lois has served on the WPPP Pastor Nominating Committee and serves on the Planning Team for WPPP. Lois is a professional Social Worker and is currently the Training Specialist for Philadelphia Corporation for Aging. She has been married to Alexander R. El for thirty years.



**Elder Lloyd Higgins (Oxford Presbyterian Church)**

Ruling Elder Lloyd Higgins has been a member of Oxford Presbyterian Church in Mt. Airy, PA for 30 years. During that time, Lloyd has served multiple terms as a Ruling Elder on Session, and a Trustee on the Board of Trustees. His ministry at Oxford has included Clerk of Session, leading several ministry teams, Church Treasurer and President of the Board of Trustees. Lloyd currently serves as Clerk of Session, co-chair of Personnel Committee and member of the Christian Education where he chairs the Leadership Training Team and is a Bible Study teacher. Lloyd has served on many commissions and committees of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, including several Investigative Committees, Administrative Commissions, and Commission on Ministry. He is currently a member of the Commission on

Preparation for Ministry and Membership (CPMM). Lloyd and his wife June migrated to the United States from the Republic of Guyana, South America almost 40 years ago. They are retired and devote themselves to serving the Lord.

**Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD)**



**William "Will" Gillespie (Wayne Presbyterian Church)**

Will graduated from Vanderbilt University in May of this year with a Bachelor of Science in Human & Organizational Development and Sociology. His faith grew substantially while at school, spending all four years as an active participant in a campus ministry and as a member of the Christian fraternity Beta Upsilon Chi. After graduation, he returned to the Philadelphia area to start a job as a Human Resources Analyst at Mobiquity, a digital consulting firm. Before attending college, Will was involved with the youth group, served as an usher and was ordained as a Youth Deacon. Upon graduation from Vanderbilt, he returned to the greater Philadelphia area and is serving as a volunteer for the middle school youth group, teaching high school Sunday school, and participating in young adult activities. Will is thrilled by the opportunity to learn more about what the larger Presbyterian Church is doing to

increase involvement among all people, but specifically young adults, and can't wait to participate in those conversations.