

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
January 14, 2012

1. We place in nomination the persons whose names are in **bold print** below:

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

5/13=2 **Margaret McCray**, teaching elder, Minneapolis, Westminster Counseling Center

2. We place in nomination the following persons for **2012 GA COMMISSIONERS** and **YAAD**
June 30 - July 7, 2012

N.B. Alternates will be elected in March.

*Election Procedure & a Brief Biographical Sketch
for ALL who completed the application process follow below*

RULING ELDERS

Gerald Ganfield, Owatonna, Associated
Paul Harkess, Rochester, Community
Barbara Lutter, St. Paul, Arlington Hills
Katherine Martin, Minneapolis, Westminster

TEACHING ELDERS

William Davnie, Parish Associate, Golden Valley, Valley Community
Donald Genereux, Pastor, Belle Plaine, First
Joann Lee, Associate Pastor, St. Paul, The House of Hope
Mary McNamara, HR

YAAD

Rachel Hagen, Plymouth, Plymouth

ELECTION PROCESS

Nominations from the Floor:

Persons may be nominated from the floor of the presbytery meeting at the time of election. For those who did not complete the application process the person making the nomination must provide a written biographical sketch outlining the nominee's qualifications, service, motivation, and commitment to serve, evidence that the person meets the eligibility requirements, and has agreed to serve if elected. Sufficient quantities of this material should be prepared for distribution at the presbytery meeting when the election will occur. For those who did complete the application process and were interviewed by the Nominating Committee the biographical sketch prepared by the Nominating Committee provides sufficient background.

Election

Elections of commissioners, YAAD and alternates shall be based solely upon the written biographical sketches and shall proceed in the following manner.

- The Nominating Committee shall place its slate in nomination.
- Nominations from the floor shall be added to the slate of nominees.
- If the number of people nominated in any category is the same as the number to be elected, the vote for that category may be by voice.
- Prior to each contested vote the Nominating Committee shall remind the presbytery of the denomination's commitment to an inclusive diversity.
- If the number of people nominated in any category is more than the number to be elected, the members of the presbytery shall vote by written ballot for the number to be elected in that category – 4 ruling elder commissioners, 4 teaching elder commissioners, and 1 YAAD. Those receiving the most votes in order shall be elected provided they have received a majority of the number of persons voting.
- If an insufficient number of people are elected, there shall be a second written ballot among those that did not receive a majority with the members of the presbytery voting for the number of open slots. Those receiving the most votes in order shall be elected provided they have received a majority of the number of persons voting.
- This procedure shall continue until all slots are filled.

**The following BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
are compiled from their Applications, giving responses to the following questions:**

- Why are you interested in being a commissioner to the 220th General Assembly (2012)?
- What interests, skills, or training do you believe you possess that are relevant to serving as a commissioner?
- Please describe your participation in your current congregation, the presbytery, Synod, General Assembly, ecumenical or other community groups.
- How do you believe your service as a commissioner would affect your future participation in such entities?

YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE NOMINEE

Rachel Hagen, Plymouth, Plymouth; African American

Rachel enjoys connecting with people and listening to their ideas even if they differ from hers, feels she comprehends difficult ideas and is able to make compromises, suggesting that the ability to work closely with other Presbyterians from across the country would allow her to learn more about others' personal beliefs and ideas and help her grow in her own faith. With the Plymouth Youth Group she has volunteered at Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, Feed My Starving Children, People Responding in Social Ministry, Maple Grove Hospital, and the 363 Days organization; also in Youth Extending Services through her high school she has helped coordinate an elementary school winter carnival, and worked helping socialize therapy dogs. She works part time in a pet food store. She has taught at Plymouth's VBC four years, has been on two youth mission trips with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance--to Iowa City and to Nashville, both doing flood repair work; these mission trips have had a large impact on the evolution of her faith. She runs cross country and track, likes to play the guitar, piano, read, and talk with friends. She feels that through a GA YAAD experience she would be better equipped for her service as a Deacon; she will be ordained in January 2012.

TEACHING ELDER NOMINEES

William Davnie, Parish Associate, Valley, Golden Valley; White Caucasian; Age 46-65

Bill brings a quite varied background, having served as a parish pastor in a rural community and then 27 years as an American Foreign Service Officer, living abroad, also working and serving in a variety of church settings, serving on local congregational councils, seeing the Church in varied cultural and denominational contexts, from both the pulpit and the pew. He brings pastoral knowledge and expertise on issues of Christianity and international and ecumenical relations. His secular work involved understanding how organizations work and how they might work better, finding his Presbyterian roots helpful, understanding that it is not only what we do, but how we do it as important. He is currently chair of the PTCA Committee on Preparation for Ministry, a Presbytery Council member, and the presbytery representative on the MN Council of Churches Committee on Unity and Relations. As a Parish Associate he leads workshops, teaches adult classes, and supply preaches as requested. He has taught at Synod School and at various other churches and community groups, service he expects to continue by interpreting the GA to Presbytery and in congregational settings.

Donald Genereux, Pastor, First, Belle Plaine; White Caucasian; Age 46-65

Don has interests and skills and a track record in various settings of being involved in the organizations of which he is a part; he firmly believes in servant leadership. In the church setting, he believes it is important to have representation from congregations of all sizes and locations. Ministry is a second/third career for him. He was a Social Worker for 17 years, then Elementary School Principal 12 years before entering seminary. In his former careers he served as a union representative as a social worker and as secretary to the Minneapolis Forum of Principals; then elected to the MN Elementary School Principals Association, state wide. Has also been elected a Council Member for Ward Two of the Robbinsdale City Council, involved at state & national levels in the MN and National Leagues of Cities. In the PTCA he serves on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry as secretary, and has read national Ordination Exams for 3 years. He has been involved in the Wee Kirk conferences yearly, attended the Fellowship Gathering last August as an observer, and served on the Hospitality Committee at the Convention Center for the 219th GA here in MN. He believes that being involved as a commissioner to GA would give him a broader perspective in ministering to his congregation, his service on the CPM, and his ability to moderate sessions in vacant churches as he now does at Church of the Master.

Joann Lee, Assoc Pastor, The House of Hope, St. Paul; Korean American; Age 26-45

Joann, as the daughter of Korean immigrants, recognized the church as the place where her parents had always been treated with full humanity and dignity; this fostered within her a deep love for the church which has grown and matured through the years. As an observer at the 218th and 219th GAs, she believes that we, the church, are at our best when we discern together the will of God, believing that the Holy Spirit is indeed at work in the midst of our gatherings. As a youth she served on the national level through youth councils and conference design teams, learning about our connectional system and also how broad and diverse our church actually is; she has learned to navigate and even celebrate diversity, and also when it is important to listen and when to speak up, believing her experiences and her journey lend her a unique perspective and voice to speak on behalf of the marginalized. She is Assoc. Pastor for Family & Young Adult Ministries at HOH Church, a member of Advocates for Integrity in Ministry Committee of the PTCA, a member of the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns of the GA, a Board member of the Korean American Presbyterian Clergy Women, and a member of the Nominating Committee of McCormick Theological Seminary's Alumni Council.

Mary McNamara, HR, White Caucasian, Age over 65

Mary has extensive experience in the field of theological education, having recently retired as president of United Theological Seminary here in MN, following many years at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. She is currently Treasurer of the Assoc. of Theological Schools. She is interested in improving communication across theological differences within and across denominations, and between religions, concerns that will be addressed in Pittsburgh. In the 1980's she served as staff to the General Assembly Mission Council and to the reuniting GA Council, gaining knowledge and understanding of a broad range of issues, policies, and viewpoints of the Presbyterian Church. In the PTCA she is a member of the Committee on Ministry, a committee she served on for many years in her former presbytery. She is particularly interested in learning more about how the new Form of Government is affecting the work of presbyteries across the country, especially how it enables new ways of organizing for mission and ministry, information she believes would better equip her for service here in the future.

RULING ELDER NOMINEES

Gerald Ganfield, Associated, Owatonna; White Caucasian; Age over 65

Jerry found the format and business of the 219th GA in MN inspiring during some riveting floor discussions and debate, feeling it was important to really listen to individual's rationale and consider how each proposed to represent the will of Christ, and so was motivated to apply as a commissioner this year. He has served on the Council of his home church as moderator, historian, and on the Adult Ministry Team; has sung in the choir, played in the bell choir, delivered home communion, been co-chair of a fund-raising team to remodel the sanctuary and expand the youth area, and served as part of the facilities planning team. He has been a commissioner to presbytery for 6 years and serves on the PTCA Committee on Ministry. On COM he has served on a visitation sub-committee, visiting more than 20 sessions, finding a desire for greater connections and a more nurturing presbytery. He served on the envisioning committee which led to our presbytery's Strategic Plan. As a former high school teacher, he volunteers as a teacher's assistant in the local school system. He hopes his experience at GA can be shared with others to encourage more connections with the wider church.

Paul Harkess, Community, Rochester; White Caucasian; Age over 65

Paul has recently retired, 1/2012, from a position as development officer at the Mayo Clinic, and is anxious to once again serve in the larger church, having felt the hand of God guiding his service to Him throughout his life. Observing at the 219th GA increased this desire. He has been a Presbyterian some 46 years, since meeting his then wife-to-be in a Presbyterian Church in Chili. He attended one semester at Princeton Theological Seminary. He has been both Deacon and Elder in his home churches, also a commissioner to Synod of the Northeast when living in Princeton. He has been a commissioner to presbytery here in the PTCA, and served a term on our Finance Work Group (pre Board of Trustees). In his home church he has led worship and guided stewardship campaigns. He served on the Evangelism Committee while Community PC was a New Church Development and is currently prayer liaison to the Chain of Lakes NCD. His profession as development officer has been characterized by interest in others, compassion and good listening skills. He has followed the discussions of many issues in the PCUSA over the years and is good at synthesizing information to present results and decisions to others which he would do after returning to the Twin Cities Area.

Barbara Lutter, Arlington Hills, St. Paul; White Caucasian; Age 46-65

Barbara has felt called anew to be a part of the church in the past year, called to step forward and serve. As an Overture Advocate for our presbytery at the 219th GA, she found participation in the committee process exhilarating, and amazed at what she felt to be the Spirit of Christ in the Convention Hall, and in her own heart. She was ordained an elder at North Como PC and served several terms on session there as well as being presbytery commissioner. Similar service continues at Arlington Hills PC. Between them she has served on Personnel, Building & Grounds, Nominating, Christian Ed, a Capital Campaign, and the Eastside Children's Summer Program committees. She has taught church school and Wednesday Kids Club. In the PTCA she has served 6 years on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and is currently our Vice Moderator. A practicing attorney, she has served on an Investigating Committee and a Committee of Counsel. Trained as a mediator, her nature is to listen and consider all sides and points of view, keeping lines of communication open and looking for ways for all voices to be heard; it is important for her to be aware of the implications of proposed changes, as well as motivations and interests of those proposing change, and that her heart and mind be open.

Katherine Martin, Westminster, Minneapolis; White Caucasian; Age over 65

Kitty has attended many GAs with her husband, and volunteered in 2010 on the Hospitality Committee, welcoming folks at the Minneapolis Airport and helping them at departure. She looks forward to the chance to serve on a committee that would be considering issues that affect the life of the PCUSA. As an elder at Westminster, and in her previous congregation in PA, she has served as a Presbytery Commissioner. Her local church service has included membership on the Social Justice Ministry Team (chair 4 years), and the Faith & Action Council, and choir member. She was on the planning committee for the 2002 Covenant Network Conference which met at Westminster. In Redstone Presbytery, PA, she was chair of the Church & Society Committee which developed a ground-breaking Emergency Mortgage Assistance program to allocate 20% of Presbytery unrestricted Funds to be allocated for mortgage relief, without consideration of the recipient's religious affiliation. She is a writer, keeping attention to details, and edited a community newspaper when in IN (circulation 2000). When in PA she was encouraged to organize a steering committee of parents and taxpayers to continue negotiations to resolve a 6 week strike; after the strike ended both sides thanked them for their efforts and praised their neutrality.

ADDITIONAL RULING ELDER APPLICANTS

Barbara Freeman, Trinity, Woodbury; White Caucasian; Age 46-65

Barbara's family originally joined a Presbyterian church in IA because of the excitement the congregation had regarding small children in the service. She remembers having accepted Jesus Christ when about 10 years of age at a Billy Graham Crusade in Omaha, NE. Moving to Woodbury her family discovered a New Church Development in South Washington County and Trinity has become their home. She was one of the first financial secretaries, led children's music, and sang in the choir even before they were Chartered, became an Elder the year their building was built, assisting with the 'sweat equity' which is part of such endeavors. She has since served on the Personnel (chair), Mission, Stewardship, Nurture, and Fellowship committees, as well as being church Treasurer, a Deacon, and Presbytery Commissioner. She has also been employed as the Administrator at First PC, Stillwater, MN, for 10 years, in charge of custodial & nursery personnel, working with the Building and Grounds and Stewardship ministry Teams. In the PTCA she serves on the Church Development Team, helping with minutes, discussions and seeing the various PC's in the Twin Cities Area. At the 2012 GA she volunteered as a greeter at the Convention Center, sang in the choir, and attended a number of committee meetings and plenary sessions. This is where she became excited about being a commissioner.

Susan Hensel, Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis; White Caucasian; Age 46-65

Susan is an artist and owner of a gallery devoted to *art, story and activism*, with the values of community building and an attitude of radical hospitality. She is a creative thinker and brainstormer...willing to entertain all ideas until the truest and best idea becomes evident. She has good communication skills, spending hours writing and marketing artwork and church communities; she seeks information that might serve the creation of communities of hospitality. She is a lifelong Presbyterian, growing up participating in the music ministry in Ithaca, NY. Later, in a MI church she was volunteer superintendent of education, recruiting, teaching, selecting and writing curriculum for the lower grades. She served there and at Lake Nokomis on Pastor Nominating Committees. She has served on the Administration Committee, trying to bring new ideas and paradigms to the concept of stewardship, and in recent years oversaw a portion of a Revisioning Study done at Lake Nokomis. She has participated in various conferences in the Twin Cities that talk and problem solve on messages of faith in the modern world. She was a visiting artist at Westminster PC in 2009, teaching middle schoolers. She loves the Presbyterian "decently and in order" nature of decisions that allow and encourage groups to go deeply into decision making, to *discern* God's call, rather than just our simple evanescent desires.