

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS REPORT – GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS AND YAAD

As required by the Standing Rules, the Stated Clerk hereby reports that the following were commissioners to the previous recent General Assemblies of the PC(USA):

	Teaching Elder Commissioners	Ruling Elder Commissioners
2006	Catherine Kotfila Brunswick PC	Dorothy Rice Hamilton Union PC, Guilderland
2008	Miriam Lawrence Leupold First PC, Albany	Chandlee Gill First United PC, Troy
	Kirianne Riehl Northville United PC	Dan Rogers First United PC, Troy
2010	Lucy Harris First PC, Warrensburg	Joyce Brewer First United PC, Hoosick Falls
	Stewart Pattison Hamilton Union PC, Guilderland	Tara Lindsley First PC, Albany
2012	Bonnie Orth Central PC, Mayfield	Sal Sceccitano Brunswick PC
2014	James Reisner Westminster, Albany	Carol Aldrich Rockwell Falls, Lake Luzerne PC
2016	Glenn Leupold First PC, Albany	Lynn Brown St. Peter's PC, Spencertown (RE when elected)
2018	Laurence Greenwold Amsterdam & Tribes Hill	Charlotte Hasselbarth Hamilton Union, Guilderland

The Committee on Representation and Nominations presents the following nominees for election to serve in the positions noted at the **June 2020 meeting of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) in Baltimore, Maryland:**

Teaching Elder Commissioner:

TE Kathi Jones (Valatie)
TE Rebecca Lawson Putman (Northville)

Ruling Elder Commissioner:

RE Arthur King Fullerton (Westminster, Albany)
RE Deborah Waggener (Hamilton Union, Guilderland)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD):

Michael Casey (First, Glens Falls)

Please see the biographical information and statements provided by each nominee below. Election to these positions will be by written ballot. The nominee who receives the most votes will be the one designated to fill that position and the other nominee will be designated the alternate for that position. Please note that the Presbytery policy requires two nominees for each General Assembly commissioner position. However, the policy does not require two nominees for the YAAD position, and the committee is unable to find a second nominee for YAAD. So, it is presenting only one nominee, and there will be no alternate YAAD if the YAAD who is elected is unable to attend.

BIOGRAPHIES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER AND YAAD NOMINEES

TEACHING ELDER CANDIDATES

BIOGRAPHY FOR THE REVEREND KATHI L. JONES

Born on Long Island, I am a Presbyterian from birth. My grandfather was an elder in the Greenlawn Presbyterian Church for 50 years (back in the days when terms were not in place!) I was sent, not taken, to Sunday School and church. My brothers and I walked the proverbial mile each way, gladly, to be part of a nurturing and fun environment.

I attended 3 different colleges (The King's College, Briarcliff Manor, NY – the campus is now a Trump Golf Course, Gordon College, Wenham, MA and SUNY Stony Brook.) I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from Stony Brook and proceeded to Union Seminary, NYC. I graduated in 1987 with a Master of Divinity degree. I had the privilege of representing Union at General Assembly as the TSAD (Theological Seminary Advisory Delegate) in my junior year.

I was a hospice chaplain intern at the Northport Veterans Hospital on Long Island, for 4 months and then was ordained in 1988. I served 3 different congregations on Long Island as Interim Pastor. From there, I was called to Hudson River Presbytery to do an interim position in Pleasant Valley. I served the Hudson River as Interim Associate Executive Presbyter for two years where I was, among other things, charged with forming an international mission partnership. We successfully partnered with the Moravian Church in Nicaragua to which I led at least a dozen groups to visit, learn, form relationships, and, eventually, build a community center in Puerto Cabezas on the east coast of Nicaragua. When I left Hudson River after serving another interim pastor position to come to Albany Presbytery, the partnership was still in place and I was invited back to Nicaragua for the dedication of the Community Center after it was finished.

I arrived in Albany in 2000 and served as Stated Supply pastor for 5 ½ years at West End and as installed pastor in Valatie for almost ten years.

Presbytery service-

Long Island Presbytery -

- ✓ Served as chair of the Committee on Ministry for 2 years on Long Island and on the committee for 12 years.
- ✓ Chaired the committee that wrote what became the model for the denomination concerning Alcohol Use and Abuse.

Hudson River Presbytery -

- ✓ Staffed the Committee on Preparation
- ✓ Staffed the Committee on Disabilities
- ✓ Staffed the Committee on Women
- ✓ Staffed the Mission Committee.

Albany Presbytery -

- ✓ Served on the Committee on Ministry and its successor committees for 14 years; just elected to another term on the Committee on Ministers and Congregations.
- ✓ Served on the Hebron Board
- ✓ Served as President of the Hebron Board
- ✓ Worked with several churches on Mission studies and through the search process
- ✓ Serve on the Committee on Representation and Nominations

Outside of Presbytery-

- ✓ Chaired the South Asian Resource Center which helps immigrants and refugees from South Asia.
- ✓ Sit on the local ecumenical food pantry board
- ✓ Convene the local clergy group
- ✓ Serve on Troop 2114 BSA Committee
- ✓ Volunteer with Columbia County Sanctuary Movement

My husband, Stark, and I live in the manse in Valatie and take great joy in our Persian cat, Precious, and every opportunity we get to be with our 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

I have never been a General Assembly Commissioner and would be honored to be the commissioner from the Albany Presbytery to the 224th General Assembly in Baltimore, MD, in 2020.

BIOGRAPHY FOR THE REV. REBECCA LAWSON PUTMAN

Becca Lawson Putman grew up in rural northwestern New Jersey attending a charismatic Presbyterian Church. She went to college at Ursinus College, where she majored in German and minored in Spanish. Once she graduated, she moved to Texas and joined a very formal, high church Presbyterian Church. She then got her MA in Linguistics and a graduate academic certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the University of North Texas and taught free English as a Second Language classes at the community center in Denton, Texas. She then went to Princeton Theological Seminary and completed her MDiv in 2015.

While at PTS, she interned at the Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church and came under care of Albany Presbytery. While in Mayfield, she also met Gregory, who is now her husband. She was ordained in 2015 and became the pastor of the Northville United Presbyterian Church. She continues to minister to that congregation, and she serves the larger Church by serving as the co-chairperson of our Committee on Ministers and Congregations, on the planning team for the Synod's Young Ministry Leaders gathering for 2018 and 2019, as one of our presbytery's representatives to the 2018 Mid Council Leaders Gathering, and as our presbytery's synod commissioner in 2018.

RULING ELDER CANDIDATES

BIOGRAPHY FOR RULING ELDER ARTHUR KING FULLERTON

A lifelong Presbyterian, Arthur holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Magna Cum Laude with Departmental Honors in History and Classics (Latin & Ancient Greek) from Tulane University, and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School with a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and the University of Pennsylvania with a Master in Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP). He has served on numerous business, nonprofit and professional boards and committees, and has taught at various universities including the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Pennsylvania. Arthur currently is a member at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, NY where he has served as a ruling elder.

Within Albany Presbytery, Arthur is past chair of the Board of Trustees and past chair of the ad hoc Budget Committee. He also served as Vice Moderator and Moderator of Albany Presbytery and is currently serving on the presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission. He believes in building a church that welcomes all who believe -- holding on to the truth of Galatians 3:28 that we are all one in Christ Jesus.

It would be an honor to represent Albany Presbytery as a Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly in Baltimore.

BIOGRAPHY FOR RULING ELDER DEBORAH WAGGENER

I am interested in serving the Albany Presbytery as a commissioner to the General Assembly so that I can learn as much as I can about the issues facing the church as a whole; and our Presbytery and congregations in particular.

There are so many issues that churches are facing today. I want to hear what some of the issues are and participate in the discussions regarding the future of the church. I love the church and want to see it thrive.

I was raised in various places in the Midwest and South moving to the Albany area in High School.

I became a member of Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church at 16 and was ordained as a Ruling Elder at 18. Since then I have continued to serve as a Session member and/or Committee member at my home church focusing on Christian Education, Worship and Stewardship.

I have served the Presbytery of Albany as a member of the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (formerly known as the Committee on Ministry) for three terms and as a member of Council for 1 year so I feel like I have some experience in the issues Presbyteries and congregations currently face.

YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE CANDIDATE

BIOGRAPHY FOR MICHAEL CASEY First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls

God has called me to many interesting places, academically, spiritually, physically, or mentally. I have seen the grace that God pours out upon all his kind. I have seen the Gospel in action, seen it work for good in society. This is my vision, to get back to the roots of our Church. The very teaching of God is that we as a church must lead people on a way of fighting for justice for all of our fellow children of God. If given the opportunity to advise, I will advise all my fellow delegates in such a fashion. I will advise that we strive to welcome all people, and we find avenues to keep people in the pews, energized for another time with their families and friends to Glorify God. We as a Church must engage in hard discussions, yet making those discussions a place where all feel welcome at the table. In my varying positions, inside and outside of the church, I have fostered this. Whether it be in my various roles in the Scouting program, SUNY Adirondack, Greenwich High School or at both the First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls or the United Church of Greenwich, I have always tried to strive for this lofty goal.

I graduated from Greenwich High School in 2018, and was involved with the school in varying ways. I went to NYSSMA Area All State in the mixed choir, participated in the High School musicals, band, choir and played on the Varsity Football and Lacrosse teams. I am currently a Psychology major at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury, N.Y. I am involved on the Student Senate as a two term Student Senator. I am an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, class of 2017, and a Vigil honor member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society, class of 2015. I have been involved as an officer in varying levels. At the United Church of Greenwich, I was elected as an elder, but realized that God was calling me to focus on graduating high school. I served on the Steering committee of the United Church. I am now a Member in Good Standing of the First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls, and am currently looking for ways to be involved and glorify God in my new congregation. Throughout all these roles, I have worked to make anyone feel welcome at the table, and to fight for justice for all.

This is why God is calling me to possibly represent the Albany Presbytery at the 224th General Assembly as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate! If, by God's grace, I am selected, I will Abound With Love and Compassion for all of my fellow younger children of God.