

TE

Katy Stenta

Katy Stenta has been the solo revitalization pastor at the bigger on the inside New Covenant Presbyterian church located in Albany, NY, since 2010. She co-founded of TrailPraisers an Inclusive New Worshipping Community. She has served on the Staffing Process Advisory Team and served on and Chaired the Mission Committee at Albany Presbytery. Additionally she has served as the Presbytery's delegate and serves on the Permanent Judicial Committee and is part of the Servant Leadership program for the Synod of the NorthEast. She also writes prayers and narrative lectionary resources at www.katyandtheword.com. Katy loves reading as much Science Fiction and fantasy as possible and playing with her three children Franklin (11), Westley (9) and Ashburn (7) who she often takes to the public library where her husband Anthony works. Katy is excited about the new church that is emerging, a proud Xiennial, and loves to help people realize that God has provided enough resources to do amazing things.

Andrea Holroyd

I earned my M. Div. from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, after earning my B.S. from RPI. The switch from science and technology to religious studies might appear a strange marriage of interests, but from an early age I have long wanted to "build things to help people." This mission was the driving force behind applying to and attending RPI, and while at the college I learned an important lesson: I needed to stop being so literal in my interpretation. It could mean building understanding or compassion or safe spaces. Ordained as MWS in June 2018, I have been serving the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church congregation since November 2017. I have been involving myself with increasingly more Presbytery matters, and seek to learn more about this connectional church. I wish to help the church I currently serve see their place in the greater Body of Christ, not as afterthought, but as vital members. I want to bring that awareness to any congregation I will serve, but in order to do so, I need to learn more about this connectivity. I am interested in attending the Synod Gathering so I may continue to grow in my understanding. Thank you for your consideration.

Kathi Jones

Presbyterian is in my blood. I was born into, loved by it, grew up in it and been blessed to serve it. I have served 5 churches as an Interim pastor, as an Interim Associate Executive Presbyter, one church as a Stated Supply, and currently am serving in a called position as solo pastor for almost 11 years.

I have served the larger church as a TSAD to General Assembly when in seminary, as commissioner to the 224th General Assembly (2020), as chair of the Bills, Bylaws and Overtures committee for synod, as chair of a Committee on Ministry, as a member of the steering committee for the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery and was the voting representative to the last National Gathering of the Presbyterian Women in Louisville. I have had Family Systems training, Conflict Management training, Interim Ministry training and even taught a course at an Interim Training event. I was chosen to go on a trip to South Korea to represent the PCUSA Presbyterian Women along with only 12 other women from around the country. Unfortunately, COVID hit just weeks before and the trip was cancelled. For several years I spent time in

Nicaragua developing a relationship with the Moravian Church, as part of my job with the Hudson River Presbytery as Interim Associate, raising funds and overseeing a Community Center that housed a bakery and sewing rooms with equipment so that there was a place for locals to go and produce something that would help them support their families. I have been on mission trips to over a dozen countries in the Middle East, Europe, Central America and Africa.

I am a mother of a blended family of 5 grown children and have 6 grandchildren. Stark and I have been married for 37 wonderful years. I would be honored to serve as Synod Commissioner if I were elected.

Kukjin An

I grew up in South Korea. I had never thought to study abroad. However, while studying Korean history (B.A), and Religious studies (M.A) at Seoul National University, my interest and concerns about church had grown bigger, so that in 2011, I came to USA to study M.Div at Candler School of Theology. While studying at the Seminary, I had worked as a seminary intern at Korean Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta (2012-2015). After graduating the Seminary, I moved to Albany and began to work as a Sunday School Director at Korean Presbyterian Church of Albany in 2015. Since 2016, I have served for the next generation (pre-k to 12th grades) and the young adult congregation at Korean Presbyterian Church of Albany. I am ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in 2019.

RE

Nancy Pienta

I am Nancy Pienta, a lifelong Presbyterian, more active now than in my younger days. As I have grown in my faith I have served in the Valatie Presbyterian Church in various roles. Currently I am a Ruling Elder in the church. I have been a Sunday School teacher for many years, seeing my faith grow as I progressed from teaching Pre-School to High School. I assisted in leading mission trips for our youth, including Midnight Runs and a trip to Nicaragua where our youth participated in painting a community center, but more importantly meeting, befriending and working side by side with the young people there. I have been an active participant with Presbyterian Women, attending their gatherings at both the Presbytery and Synod levels. More recently I have become a member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee. In that role I was introduced to the Peacemaking Task Force and benefitted from a scholarship to attend the Presbyterian Peace Conference in Stony Point last summer. Both of these committees have been informing me of the importance of the structure of PC(USA). Black Lives Matter and the Climate Crisis are two issues that are of great concern to me and I am pleased to be part of a church that recognizes their importance. I am of the belief that the Church needs to be relevant in this time and place and I have felt God's nudges directing me towards that path. I would be honored, if elected, to be the Presbytery's representative as the Ruling Elder for the Synod Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

CRE Darren Gundrum

Darren Gundrum is a member of the Albany Presbytery for more than 20 years as a congregant of Trinity Presbyterian in Scotia. There he became an elder and served on session in several

capacities including finance and evangelism chairs. He was a Youth Group leader for over 20 years, guiding youths, confirmation classes and taking trips of which he either lead or helped lead to Guatemala and Taize and Appalachia. He graduated from the CRE program in 2010. Since then he has served as supply preacher, and was recently commissioned as the pastor at Bethany Presbyterian in Menands. He is also currently employed by Troy Area United Ministries as the chaplain at Russell Sage College in Troy.

Darren enjoys his time with the Presbytery (over 15 years of service) and serving churches through programs such as Pneumatrix with the different churches, COMAC and Youth Task Force. He currently is a member of Development and Vitality Committee and the Guatemala Task Force. He lives in Schenectady with his wife Louise, and really enjoys spending time with their two grandsons, Oscar and Owen, and looks forward to their granddaughter Evilee's arrival in October. Darren would be honored to serve as your Synod commissioner if elected. He would represent the Presbytery with a sense of history and mission for building the future of our church, which he believes to be our youth.

Samantha Brewer

Samantha Brewer is a Ruling Elder from First United in Hoosick Falls, NY. She has served the Church as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) at the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. Samantha also was part of the Presbytery's Staffing Process Advisory Team (SPAT). Following her time as a YAAD and on SPAT, she has served as Albany Presbytery's commissioner to the Synod Assembly in 2018 and currently to the Synod's Mission and Ministries Commission, being a part of the Administrative Working group. Samantha's hobbies include cooking (and eating), spending time at her family's camp in the Adirondacks and attending all forms of auto racing-dirt tracks in particular.

Carl Hasselbarth

Carl Hasselbarth was born in the Presbyterian Family in 1981 having been baptized at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church that year by the late Rev. Thomas Duncan. Along with his parents, he is still a member there. Upon returning to the Capital Region from law school, Carl served on Hamilton Union's Session from 2010 – 2014, serving as chairman of its Outreach and Finance Committees during that period. Carl also has extensive service with the Albany Presbytery, including time on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, an Investigative Committee and as Chair of an Administrative Commission. Carl has also served on the Presbytery's Board of Trustees for almost six years, including almost four years as its President. Professionally, Carl owns and operates his own law and tax practice. Personally, Carl lives in Clifton Park with his partner Amy and son Oscar, who was baptized last year at Hamilton Union by Rev. Janice West. Carl's sister Rev. Lynn Horan is pastor at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in Spencertown, NY.

YAAD

Kelly Donovan

Hello! My name is Kelly Donovan. I am eighteen years old and I have just graduated from Northville Central School. I will be attending SUNY Plattsburgh this coming Fall, and will remain there for four to five years to receive my Master's degree in English Language Arts. I have always dreamt of being a teacher. Growing up, I always put the Sunday School teachers in a role model position for me to look to. When I got older, I co-taught Sunday school with a friend from

the Northville Presbyterian Church for about a year, and then moved onto being a full teacher myself. I have incredibly enjoyed it. It gave me practice for when I become an English teacher, and I got to teach kids about our loving Lord and Savior.

I grew up in the Northville Presbyterian Church. I believe I was five years old when I started attending , and it has been like a second home to me ever since. I know that everyone in the congregation loves and supports me, and it is a wonderful feeling to know that I will always have a home there.

I plan to minor in theater so I can be a drama club director as well as an English teacher. Acting and theater has always been a large part of my life, and it is something that I am incredibly passionate about. Working with kids has always been something I have enjoyed and I am very certain it is my calling.