

# PNMC BALLOT 2021

## *Brief Biographies*

### *Elected by the Delegates:*

#### **PNMC Board Member (4-year term)**

##### **Deren Kellog – Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA - Continuing**

Deren grew up in Urbana, IL attending First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana. He graduated from Luther College in Decorah, IA, and returned to Champaign-Urbana for graduate studies in US History at the University of Illinois. Since meeting at First Menno of CU in 2000, he and his wife, Melissa Kelly, have lived in Santa Cruz, CA (where their daughter Madeleine, now 18 years old, was born); Jackson, MS; Vancouver, BC, and Camano Island, WA. This coming year Madeleine will be leaving to attend Goshen College. They began attending Seattle Mennonite in 2014 and moved to Seattle, Melissa's hometown, in 2015. He works as a Grants Program Administrator at International Community Health Services, a community health center providing culturally and linguistically appropriate medical and dental services in King County. Deren has served as an appointed PNMC board member for one year. He is an active board member and a member of the Financial Team. "I am honored to be continuing on the PNMC board," Deren explained.

#### **Secretary (3-year term)**

##### **Katherine O'Brien -- First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID**

Katherine O'Brien was born in eastern Wyoming and was raised on the family farm. She moved to Aberdeen, Idaho after graduating from college to work for the University of Idaho at the agricultural experiment station there. She retired from her job as a senior researcher in 2020 after working for the university since 1979.

Katherine has three children, Cody of Boise, Casey (Brandi) of Cheyenne, WY, and Amanda (Brandon) of Laramie, WY and two granddaughters, Sydney, and Bridgette. Since retirement, she stays busy traveling to see the children, sewing and visiting with her friends, and serving as one of the pianist/organists at First Mennonite in Aberdeen as well as her adjunct faculty role teaching Personal Finance at the University of Wyoming. Over the years, Katherine has learned networking skills with colleagues building lasting friendships among working groups. Katherine has held leadership and support positions in work and personal organizations which would be useful to this opportunity.

#### **Gift Discernment Team (1-year term)**

##### **Joseph Penner – Salem Mennonite, Salem, OR - Continuing**

Joseph lives in Salem, Oregon with his wife, Erin Boers, where he owns and operates a coffee roasting company: Steel Bridge Coffee, LLC. He enjoys jogging, cycling, and playing soccer.

##### **Rick Bollman – Emmaus Mennonite Church – Meridian, ID**

Rick is a retired elementary school principal. He and his wife Marj have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Rick is a lay pastor at Emmaus Mennonite Church in Meridian, ID and is the current chairperson for the Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival. He has served on the PNMC Board, Pastoral Leadership and Peace and Justice Committees in the past. Rick is also involved in ministries to the homeless and supports a former death row inmate. He enjoys outdoor sports and traveling. Rick says "I believe that participating in the PNMC brings joy, hope and peace to our lives. It also helps to fulfill a greater calling as Anabaptists and followers of Jesus to connect and stand together with a larger faith community. I believe that working together brings God's love to others."

### *PNMC Board Appointments:*

#### **Pastoral Leadership Team (4-year term)**

##### **Amy Epp – Seattle Mennonite Church -- Clergy – continuing**

Amy Marie Epp has been a pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church for 15 years, working with children, youth and their families as well as in worship and preaching. Both at church and in life outside of work, Amy enjoys engaging in the creative arts, especially textiles and quilting and more recently hand-lettering. This time of year, Amy is planting her garden and watching the birds at the feeders outside her window. She shares her life with her spouse Joe Hamilton and her children Naomi and Orie, aged 14 and 6.

##### **Rob Hansen – Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID – Lay Person**

Rob Hansen and his wife, Annette, became part of HPMF in 1989. While at HPMF he has served on multiple Leadership Teams, two Pastor Search Committees, and as church treasurer. He also taught Sunday School. He leads worship and facilitates congregational meetings as requested. He has been a leader in HPMF's Sister Church relationship with a congregation in Colombia for the past 20 years. He has also been on two Christian Peacemaker Team delegations and two MCC learning tours. Rob's spent his career in environmental remediation as a scientist and then as a manager for cleanup sites that required personnel and contract management as well as public outreach and education.