

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA  
**Nominating Committee Report**  
January 9, 2010

**1. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS TO THE 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

The Nominating Committee has read Application Forms and Recommendations and conducted phone interviews with the persons listed below. We were pleased with so many, well qualified applicants. A brief summary statement about each person appears at the end of this section, taken from information on their Application forms and Reference letters.

**Names in each list below are given in alphabetical order.**

If there are nominations from the floor for any person who is not listed below, 150 copies of a brief summary statement about the person must be available on the table with registration materials prior to the start of the presbytery meeting.

**ELDER COMMISSIONERS TO 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

**Bruce Beck**, North St. Paul, North  
**Gordon Doshier**, Plymouth, Plymouth  
**Thomas Ruter**, St. Paul, North  
**Barbara VanLoenen**, Hudson, First

**ALTERNATE ELDER COMMISSIONERS TO 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

**Aruewell Benifield**, Minneapolis, Kwanzaa  
**Gerald Ganfield**, Owatonna, Associated  
**Vincent Gin**, Hudson, First  
**Ward Sessing**, Shoreview, Church of the Way  
**Marian Michael**, Golden Valley, Valley Community

**MINISTER COMMISSIONERS TO 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

**Matthew Johnson**, pastor, Minneapolis, Aldrich Ave.  
**Jin S. Kim**, pastor, Columbia Heights, Church of All Nations  
**Amy Elizabeth (Flack) Kosari**, pastor, Ellsworth, First & Hager City, Laurel  
**Joy Smith**, pastor, Burnsville, Church of the Apostles

**ALTERNATE MINISTER COMMISSIONERS TO 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

**Myra Carroll-Pezzella**, pastor, Howard Lake, First  
**Gale W. Robb**, Interim associate pastor, St. Paul, The House of Hope  
**Matthew Robbins-Ghormley**, pastor, St. Paul, Randolph Heights  
**John W (Bill) Young**, Executive Director, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship

**YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE TO 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

**Elizabeth Brazill**, elder, South St. Paul, First

**ALTERNATE YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE TO 219<sup>TH</sup> GA**

*no nominee*

*for* **ELDER COMMISSIONERS**

**Bruce Beck** has served 4 separate terms as elder & chaired the latest PNC at North, is currently on Outreach & Endowment Comm. and president of the Choir. In the PTCA he has served on four investigating committees and is currently on AIM, helping with training. He is a lawyer, specializing in Elder Law & has done *pro bono* work for North and the Presbytery. He has served on the local School Board for 12 years and chaired major planning committees; also with “Big Brothers,” Hiawatha Bicycling Club, and Male Swedish Chorus. His reference notes that his opinions are stated quietly, logically, clearly, and effectively; when he speaks, people listen and respect his ideas.

**Gordon Doshier** has served a number of terms as deacon & elder in two states; chaired a recent Revisioning Comm. & PNC, teaches Sunday School and leads the men’s group at Plymouth. In the PTCA he is currently on Council, has chaired the Nominating Committee & Council. He has been an engineering manager for 24 years. Community activities include Cub & Boy Scout leadership-8 yrs, Paint-a-Thon crew leader-13 yrs; Habitat for Humanity-5 yrs; various volunteer service with youth, food & clothing drives, community improvement & fundraising activities. His reference notes that his faith is evident in the prayers he offers, the knowledge he shares, and the way he treats and cares for others.

**Thomas Ruter** is Clerk of Session, Head Usher, and chairs the Budget & Stewardship Comm. at Knox.

He expressed special concern for the faith commitment needed for leadership in the church. He is the chief administrative officer for the MN Dept. of Human Services with special concern for the vulnerable, disabled population, involving an understanding of budgeting, governance and negotiating skills. He serves on the MN Spiritual Advisory Council, with a mission to insure respect for & access to quality spiritual resources for the Dept. of Corrections and VA Homes. He has served on 2 St. Paul District Planning Councils whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the communities with programming that educates, develops leadership & promotes participation. His reference notes his contributions to discussions and striving for a more robust theology about multiculturalism.

**Barbara VanLoenen** chairs the Personnel Committee; she chaired a recent PNC, the Worship & Arts Committee, & Finance Committee, & has served on CE Committee & been a confirmation lay leader at Hudson. In the PTCA she is on the Bd. of Trustees. She has observed the past two General Assemblies via the internet. She is VP of Finance for the Twin Cities Public TV, and serves on the Hudson Bd. of Education. She has done fundraising for a local arts organization, led Girl Scouts, and supported numerous school functions. Her reference suggests she is an avid reader, active listener and helpful presence in calming heated discussions without dismissing the feelings & beliefs of others.

**for ALTERNATE ELDER COMMISSIONERS**

**Aruewell Benifield** has been deacon, elder, Treasurer, and chair of the Administrative committee at Kwanzaa. A former Baptist, he was a delegate to their national convention. He is an accountant for the Metropolitan Airport Commission, chair of the Brooklyn Center School Board, treasurer for Hospitality House Boys & Girls Club, chair of Northwest Human Family Services, chair of North Hennepin Community College Leadership Academy. His reference says he is a pillar of the church and of the community.

**Gerald Ganfield** has served on the church council for 6 years, 3 as moderator, is a commissioner to presbytery, convener of the Adult Ministry team, adult class discussion facilitator, and has been church historian for 5 years at the Associated Church. In the PTCA he serves on the Committee on Ministry. He is sales promotion and marketing manager for a farm equipment manufacturer, and a former English & Journalism teacher. He is a charter member & president of Owatonna Kiwanis Club, board member of the county historical society, tour escort for a local travel agency, co-author of two local history books. His reference speaks of his active role in orienting new members and that he embodies a way of being that creates harmony in the church

**Vincent Gin** has been a deacon moderator, 3 term elder, commissioner to presbytery, and twice a PNC member at Hudson; he also leads a lay prayer group. In the PTCA he is Vice-Moderator, having served on Council 5 years; he was chair of the recent EP Search Comm. He is a chemical engineer, recently retired from Research & Development at 3M, and does IT consulting. He is a board member of Net Works Youth Ministry. His reference notes that he is a servant leader, and active listener; hearing many sides, he is able to clarify complex situations, and help distill emotional responses to manageable view points.

**Marian Michael** has been a deacon moderator, 3 term elder, commissioner to presbytery, and served on the worship & fellowship committees at Valley. She has been a Workshop presenter for 4 years at Synod School. She is a retired high school counselor, planned and coordinated staff development for Osseo schools for 5 years, taught graduate classes for teachers at St. Thomas, and advised Turkish students in Istanbul for 2 years. She has been a national trainer for Active Parenting Publishing, and trained hospice volunteers at North Memorial Hospital. Her reference notes she is a life-long Presbyterian who has served on all 3 levels below the GA; she is a person dedicated to living out her faith in Jesus Christ.

**Ward Sessing** has been an elder, chair of Facilities & Finance, chair of Outreach & Evangelism, Planned Giving, and for many years commissioner to presbytery from Church of the Way. In the PTCA he has been Vice-Moderator, Moderator and Chair of Council, also a member of the Corporate Advisory Comm. and Disabilities Concerns Task Force. He has been Synod commissioner for 5 years, serving as Moderator his final year. He presented a seminar "Plan to Grow" at a Churchwide Redevelopment Conference in 2002. He is a Registered Architect and served on the Downtown Design Review Comm. for the City of Forest Lake. He has served on the St. Paul Area Council of Churches Board of Directors, and managed his son's hockey team 2 years. His reference highlighted his dedication, sound knowledge of Presbyterian thought & polity, and well-honed skills in working with people of all ages.

***for* YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE**

***Elizabeth Brazill*** is a sophomore at the University of St. Thomas where she is an Honor student and member of the Multicultural Mentor Club and involved with the Pep Band. She tutors at a local elementary-secondary school. She has been involved in the martial arts Aikido for 6 years. At First Church, So. St. Paul, she has helped in leading worship, participates in numerous mission and service opportunities, ushers, serves communion, substitutes in the handbell choir, and occasionally plays her flute. As an elder she also helps with New Member classes. In the PTCA she serves on the Committee on Representation. References state that her commitment to the Church and her personal faith is an inspiration to us all; her involvement, devotion and leadership have grown and matured through the years; her interpersonal skills and communication are both strengths for her and she comes across as friendly, confident, caring and comfortable.

***for* MINISTER COMMISSIONERS**

***Matthew Johnson*** came to us from Canada, an MDiv graduate of Regent College, and service as Children's Ministry Director at Vancouver Korean PC. Thus he comes with fresh insights and questions that an outsider can offer to a conversation. He is concerned with the global church, and under his leadership Aldrich has participated with Familia de Fe in a bi-lingual VBS. Aldrich is also working with Church of All Nations to encourage a more multi-cultural congregation. In the PTCA he serves on the Mission & Witness Committee. He sees being a commissioner as a path to encouraging greater involvement of a local congregation in the larger church.

***Jin S. Kim*** is currently Moderator of the PTCA, having served on Council since 2004. He serves on the boards of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Greater MN Association of Evangelicals, Synod Committee on Racial Ethnic Ministry, National Korean Presbyterian Caucus. He was a PCUSA delegate to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. He has lectured at seminaries in the USA and in a number of other countries, giving him a global perspective. He has a particular passion for new church development, leadership development, multicultural ministry, and a commitment to ecumenism and the visible unity of the church informed by our Reformed tradition. He counsels a pastoral approach to conflicts within or between congregations.

***Amy Elizabeth (Flack) Kosari*** currently serves on the COM and was on the recent EP Search Comm. in the PTCA. In her former presbytery she served on the COM, Council, and was Vice-Moderator. She states that her family has a history of activism that goes back several generations, and counts it a blessing to have seen in those she loved the hunger for righteousness and deep desire that God's justice would prevail on the earth. Having attended a previous GA as an Alternate Commissioner, she sees serving as a way to support her congregation in their natural desire to make their voices heard as we, on all levels of governance not only call one another to account, but also mutually encourage one another in the faith.

**Joy Smith** has worked with a variety of churches/communities—from Tucson, AZ to Jacksonville, FL and Baker, MN, Chicago, IL, Atlanta GA and now Burnsville, MN—that have differed theologically, politically, ethnically and culturally as well as economically. She has sensitivity and pastoral care for different voices and is able to articulate and ‘get to the roots’ of an issue. She currently serves on our CPM as she has in a former presbytery; she has also been a residency/chaplain/pastoral psychotherapist and served as POINT (CE & Resources) person, on a COR committee, and Human Sexuality Task Force; she was a commissioner to the MN Council of Churches 1999-2001. She would hope to bring back a better sense of the challenges and hopes for the PCUSA to communicate to the church and presbytery.

**for ALTERNATE MINISTER COMMISSIONERS**

**Myra Carroll-Pezzella** is interested in the future and direction of the PCUSA and brings a willingness to explore the issues, open to the Holy Spirit. She is willing to struggle with the questions. In the PTCA she serves on the COM and previously was on the Nominating Committee. She has also pastored the church in Hudson, been a chaplain with Presbyterian Homes, and Parish Associate at Spirit of Life. She has traveled to Japan to explore their care for older citizens. As pastor of a rural congregation, she would hope that in serving as a commissioner her congregation would grow in its feeling of connectedness to the PCUSA.

**Gale W. Robb** has been an Interim Pastor/Associate Pastor in the PTCA for 16 years, serving 6 churches and the presbytery as Interim Associate EP. She has served on the COM, 2 years as chair, the CPM, PJC and as a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training workshop facilitator. She has a good understanding of church polity and would like to witness it in action on the national level as well as gain a greater appreciation of the church and its wider ministry and mission in order to be an ‘interpreter’ especially for newer members who are not ‘cradle Presbyterians’ since much of what happens at GA will eventually affect individual churches and members, whether they’re aware of it or not.

**Matthew Robbins-Ghormley** is interested in being a part of the growing national conversation about changes that the PCUSA needs to make to connect with the younger generations, including his own. He is grateful for the thoughtful ways Presbyterians engage in their mission and ministry as the church in the world. Prior to ordination he served as a tutor for PCUSA MDiv students at Regent College in Canada. In the PTCA he served on the CPM where he demonstrated a willingness to listen and collaborate with those who have differing opinions and theological leanings from his own.

**John W (Bill) Young** after 12 years as a pastor in MS and TN, where he served on various presbytery committees and on Council, he was called as a Mission-Co-Worker in Ghana and the Congo (8 yrs) and then served on the GAC staff as Coordinator for International Evangelism, Worldwide Ministries Division (7 yrs). He is presently Exec. Dir. of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, one of 3 Validated Mission Support Groups of the PCUSA. In these latter positions he has traveled at least 1/3 of the time with a focus more on international and denomination-wide issues than local; he has also traveled throughout the PCUSA. He serves on the Church Development Team of the PTCA. He is an accomplished speaker and supportive encourager, working well with many different kinds of people.

2. **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PRESBYTERY TREASURER & Other Positions**

The Presbytery's Annual Meeting will be May 11, 2010. At that time many openings will occur for committees, and the Nominating Committee would welcome some new names before us for consideration. If you or someone you know are interested in serving at the Presbytery level, please go to [ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org), and under **Quick Links** click on **Skill Bank Form** then send us your information.

One opening for which we especially call for Applicants is that of **Presbytery Treasurer**. This is a 3 year position, renewable. The person elected becomes an officer of Presbytery and serves on the Presbytery Council, as well as being an advisor to the Board of Trustees. There is a small stipend. The person should be computer literate and familiar with accounting software. The complete Position Description will be available at [ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org) soon.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE?  
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE A GOOD NOMINEE?**

**There are always a number of new openings on presbytery committees in May, and we would like to add new faces. Would you, or a friend, consider service on one of our entities?**

*Only a few committees require that members be elders, so please think broadly. Tear off the bottom part of this page, fill out as much of the information as you know, and return it to the Presbytery Nominating Committee (there will be a box by the door to the parking lot as you leave). We'll take it from there. THANK YOU.*

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TO: Presbytery Nominating Committee

RE: Suggested persons for service

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL CONGREGATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION: (phone, email, address – *if known*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARTICULAR INTERESTS, SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT, PAST SERVICE . . . . .

YOUR NAME (optional) \_\_\_\_\_