

Bios – MRTI committee members

(updated February 2023)



Rev. Kerri N. Allen, MRTI chair, Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice, is the Vice President of Mission and Spiritual Care and Ethics Director for Aurora Healthcare in the Midwest Region of the Advocate Healthcare system. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), a womanist and Reformed theologian and ethicist, and currently serves as the Chair of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) of the PCUSA. Prior to ministry, Kerri had a first career in politics, working as a political appointee at multiple levels of government, including serving as a legislative assistant in the United States Senate with an expertise in healthcare policy. Now Kerri uses her diverse experiences to work toward health equity.

Originally from St. Paul, MN in her spare time Kerri enjoys traveling, cooking, or spending time with one of her many nieces or nephews.



Rev. Dr. Lindley Grant DeGarmo, MRTI vice-chair, Board of Pensions rep, serves as Transitional Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Katonah, NY. An Honorably Retired minister member of Hudson River Presbytery and Synod of the Northeast, he served prior to his retirement as Pastor and Head of Staff for Towson Presbyterian Church, in the Presbytery of Baltimore and Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

Before entering the ministry, Dr. DeGarmo was Director of the Global Independent Power Group at Salomon Brothers. He also worked for Exxon Corporation and its affiliates in corporate finance and strategic planning functions. His first congregational assignment was as Interim Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, Presbytery of New York City, Synod of the Northeast.

Dr. DeGarmo earned a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Princeton University; a Master of Public Affairs from Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs; a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, New York City; and a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Sarah Finlayson, have a daughter, Ellie, who is pursuing joint law and public health degrees from Georgetown University (JD) and Johns Hopkins University (MPH).



Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy rep, is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, where he directs the Master of Theology degree program. He is the founding editor of *@ this point: theological reflections on church and culture*, the seminary's online journal, and the author of *Confessing Christ in the 21st Century* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005), *Believing Aloud: Reflections on Being Religious in the Public Sphere* (Cascade, 2010), *Christian Pacifism for the Environmental Age* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), and a forthcoming book, *Modernity, the Environment, and the Just War Tradition*. His current work explores

connections between violence and climate change at the beginning of the Anthropocene.



Rev. Fairfax F. Fair, Board of Pensions rep, is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena, Texas. She has been an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament for over thirty years and has served congregations in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Michigan, as well as Texas. She is a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary (M. Div.) and Columbia Theological Seminary (D.Min.). Dr. Fair served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA and on the Board of Trustees for Union Presbyterian Seminary. Other previous service includes Moderator of the Presbytery of New Covenant, commissioner to the General Assembly, board member for The Presbyterian Outlook, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Texas

Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, SafeHouse (domestic abuse and assault shelter), and on the State Bar of Texas Disciplinary Review Board.

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, member-at-Large, is Professor of Theology, Chair of the Department of Theology, and Director of the Peace Studies program at Bellarmine University. Her research interests include economic ethics, social gospel theology, feminist theology, and recovering the work of neglected women theologians. Her most recent book, *The Problem of Wealth: A Christian Response to a Culture of Affluence* (Orbis, 2017), was awarded first place by the Catholic Press Association for the best book related to Catholic Social Teaching. She will be undertaking a new book project in 2019 entitled *Seeking More than Dutiful Love: God's Healing in the Context of Families Affected by Mental Illness*. She is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has served on several advocacy committees for her denomination, including ACWC and the Resolution Team drafting the Social Creed for the Twenty-first Century. Among other awards and academic honors, she is the recipient of the Louisville Institute's Sabbatical Grant for Researchers, a Fulbright Scholar, and a Wilson Wyatt Fellow. She makes her home in Louisville with Lee, her husband and Emme, their daughter, and Bacsí, the family dog. Lee's and Elizabeth's son, Garrison is a student at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Sam Muse, Presbyterian Foundation rep, is a Certified Public Accountant and a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ providing fiduciary investment consulting and wealth management services to successful families across the Midwest. He is a Partner at Fi3 Financial Advisors in Indianapolis.

Sam is a Ruling Elder and past chair of the Finance and Stewardship committees at Orchard Park Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. He is a member of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley's board of directors and is the past Finance Committee chair and member of the Pyoca Camp, Conference, and Retreat's Advisory Council. Sam is a graduate of Purdue University (B.S.) and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Indiana CPA Society.

Rev. Jihyun Oh: Jihyun is a teaching elder member of Greater Atlantic Presbytery currently serving as the Director of Mid Council Ministries for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of the General Assembly. Jihyun is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Florida International University, and Columbia Theological Seminary.

Adebisi A. Shofu, MDiv., DMFJ, (who is commonly referred to as Bisi) is the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE). She serves on the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) of the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA) and served as liaison to the General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR). She has served on other commissions for the General Assembly. She runs a consulting business working with Non-Profits and other businesses. Bisi is the PCUSA representative to the National Council of Churches, serving on the Joint Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace. She currently serves on Commission on Ministry (COM) for The Presbytery of the Coastlands.

She graduated with an MDiv. Degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey where she was the President of the Student Body championing the cause of the students. She earned a Certificate in Drum Major for Justice in Public Theology from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

She partnered with a fellow seminarian and friend to start a 501(3C) ministry to provide healthcare and educational training to the underserved communities, which she left to start her own Foundation. Adebisi serves as an advocate for her community as well as a counselor. She serves as a Chaplain at Skilled Nursing Facilities across New Jersey and she regularly preaches in many churches in her Presbytery, other Presbyteries and denominations.

Adebisi is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Disaster Preparedness Trainer whose responsibility is to educate churches and congregations on planning ahead to mitigate disasters. She specializes in educating people about health insurance programs, diversity training, self-help and self-improvement. She is a certified Transformation Life Coach.

She is the Visiting Chaplain for New Brunswick Presbyterian Church (NBPC), where she also served as the Director of Youth.



Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson, member-at-large, is a recent Master of Divinity, and Master of Sacred Theology graduate of Union Theological Seminary as well as a PhD from the University of the West Indies in organic chemistry. He is the Pastor of Naurashaun Presbyterian Church in Pearl River, NY and serves as the Treasurer of the Presbytery of Hudson River. Along with his pastoral responsibilities, Rev. Simpson served on the Ulster County 2040 strategic planning committee and is the co-founder of the Hudson Valley

Environmental Justice Coalition, an informal coalition of 30 not-for-profit and faith organizations charged with lifting up voices of people of color working at the intersection of environmental and climate justice advocacy. He lives in upstate New York with wife Suzanne, and their two cats, Calvin and Luther.

Rev. Brenton Thompson, Presbyterian Mission Agency Board rep, lives in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania with his wife, Sudie, who is also a pastor, along with their two children. He is a 2003 Graduate of the University of North Texas and a 2009 Graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary. He serves as Pastor of Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Limerick, Pennsylvania in the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Synod of the Trinity. Brenton is a lifelong Presbyterian who grew up in churches in the Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth area. He identified a call to ministry during his years as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Mukachevo, Ukraine. Brenton has also been active in the PC(USA) as a Theological Seminary Advisory Delegate to the 218th General Assembly (2008) as well as a Commissioner to the 221st General Assembly (2014). He serves on the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB), class of 2022 and chairs the "Nurture the Body" committee. At the presbytery level he serves on the Commission on the Preparation for Ministry and Membership.