

General Nominating Committee Report for Election of Officers of the General Assembly and Members of the General Board

In accordance with the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the General Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for election as officers of the General Assembly.

For Moderator: Cindy Kim-Hengst
She has served as Moderator-Elect since 2023.

Cindy Kim-Hengst is a Korean-American lay leader hailing originally from Indiana, but currently residing in Elmhurst, IL. She has been a Disciple for just over 30 years and a charter member of the first Korean Disciples congregation in Indianapolis. She is a member at Chicago Christian Church, the oldest Korean Disciples congregation in IL, where she serves on both the senior leadership and worship teams. During her time as a Disciple, she has served and experienced the Church in a variety of ways including: camp counselor in Indiana, Disciples Women, DOM/Global Ministries, NAPAD, NBA, and WOC. Cindy's experience with a variety of ministries in the church has led her to appreciate and gain an understanding of all aspects of church work from congregational ministries impacting the local community to those ministries in the Church that make a difference in the lives of brothers and sisters on the other side of the globe.



Cindy's experience, both professionally and in the church, have provided her with a broad range of leadership, communication, and people skills. She hopes to be able to continue to use those experiences along with the gifts provided by God to serve the church in this season as Moderator.

Cindy resides with her spouse and daughter. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and downtime with family. When the weather is decent, the family can be found outdoors honing volleyball skills for her daughter. Cindy also enjoys taking her daughter to live theater for music and shows, as well as trying new foods over fellowship.

For Moderator Elect: Steven Gower

Steven Gower serves on the Administrative Committee of the General Board and the Finance Committee of the Administrative Committee. He is the Chair of the Mission Finance Committee of the General Board for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is the Senior Minister of Olmsted Community Church and previously served as the Pastor of First Christian Church of Massillon and Brunswick First Christian Church. He serves on the National City Christian Church Foundation Board and the Living Water Association's Committee on Ministry.



He has served on the Christian Church in Ohio's Congregational Renewal Team, Commission on Ministry for the Christian Church in Ohio, as the chair of the Vision Committee for the Regional Board of the Christian Church in Ohio, and on local nonprofit boards. He is an alumnus of Vanderbilt Divinity School, the Disciple's Divinity House at Vanderbilt, and Hiram College. Steven and his wife, Tara, have 3 children and a foster child (soon to be adopted) and have been a foster and adoptive family for over 10 years.

For First Vice Moderator: Rae Karim

Rae Karim serves as Interim Minister at First Central Christian Church of Michiana in Mishawaka, Indiana.

She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN and will soon graduate with a Doctor of Ministry degree from Christian Theological Seminary. She has served as a pastor at a church in Indianapolis, as Transitional Pastor at a church in Honolulu, Hawaii during the pandemic crisis, and as a guidance resource for students at Christian Theological Seminary. She is the founder of Good Grief Now! (TM), a 501-c3 and full-service grief support organization helping individuals and organizations deal with grief from all sources and its manifestations.



An Amazon best-selling author, esteemed speaker, poet, and sought after writer, Rev. Dr. Rae is committed to ensuring she ignites courage on purpose for purpose.

For Second Vice Moderator: Bernice Rivera

Bernice Rivera serves as New Church Ministries Associate on the regional staff of the Christian Church in Oregon and Southwest Idaho. She is a member of Murray Hills Christian Church in Beaverton, Oregon. She currently serves on the board of Disciples Overseas Ministries and has previously served the Christian Church (Disciples of the Christ) on a variety of boards including the board of Obra Hispana, the General Board, and the Administrative Committee. A long-time lay leader and anti-racism trainer, soon to be commissioned, she is bi-lingual, and has a passion for innovative ministry and a heart for sharing the love of God with the whole body of Christ.



In addition, the General Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for election to the General Board:

For a three-year term ending in 2028:

Amanda Groves	Illinois-Wisconsin
Barbara Stainton	Canada
Bart Hanna	Oklahoma
Betsy Goehrig	Florida
Bill Jennison	Northern Lights
Brandon Johnson	Pacific Southwest
Bridgett Clark	South Carolina
Chad Mattingly	Southwest
Cheryl Sybrant	Great River
Cindy Stratton	Virginia
David Dubovich	Kansas
Deborah McCoy	Capital Area
Heather Simpson	Pennsylvania
Jacqueline Bass	Oklahoma
Jessica Braxton	Arizona
Jim Barton	Arizona
Joan Bell-Haynes	Georgia
Joanne Flowers	Great River

Katie Varon	Florida
Kanessa Doss	Alabama-Northwest Florida
Kay Nannet	Indiana
Kerry Swindle	Arizona
Landon Wilcox	Capital Area
Lara Shepherd	Capital Area
Lara Pickrel	Greater Kansas City
Laura Fauntleroy	Southwest
Louis Threatt	North Carolina
Maria "Lucy" Barquero	Southwest
Mark Benson	Alabama-Northwest Florida
Nina Nestlerode	Ohio
Norma Hunt	Tennessee
Pedro Ramos-Goycolea	Arizona
Phillip Willoughby	Greater Kansas City
Reggie Chapman	Central Rocky Mountain
Sage Appleby	Georgia (formerly Oklahoma)
Sandy Harvey	Michigan
Seungil Eo	Northern Lights
Stephanie Crowder	Illinois-Wisconsin
Stephanie Himmel	Mid-America
Stephanie Kendall	Capital Area
Steven Smith	West Virginia
Syvoskia Pope	Kentucky
Tau Tupua	Pacific Southwest
Tracey Tellado	Southwest
Trudy Betts	Virginia
Whittney Murphy	Indiana

***The term is a three year term according to the changes the Design as indicated in GA-2343. The General Assembly would be asked to ratify all changes to terms of the General Assembly Officers and the General Board members at the 2025 General Assembly.*

In keeping with the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the members of the Corporation of the Division of Disciples Home Missions and the Corporation of the Division of Overseas Ministries were elected by the General Board at its May 2025 meeting. They are reported here to comply with the bylaws of the two ministries:

Disciples Home Missions

The General Board elected the following persons:

Khalia Williams
Kory Wilcoxson
Mary Cooley
Eronica King
Fritz-Gerald Joseph
Daniel Lyvers
Ryan Moreno
Patricia (Cisa) Payuyo
Charles Tatlock
Jeanne Thompson
Dietra Wise-Baker
Daniel Jung Shik Yoon

Disciples Overseas Ministries

The General Board elected the following persons:

Vinnetta Golphin-Wilkerson
Baek Hee Kim
Bernice Rivera
Dara Cobb Lewis
Jeremy Gillett
Neo Usei
Daphne Aries
LaVerne Thorpe
Megan Lowe
Tyler Reeve
Antonio Rodriguez
Darla Goodrich
Matthew Fehse
Merillat Flowers
Christal Williams

Note: These rosters may have changed since the time of their submission to the General Nominating Committee.