

## Gifts Discernment Nominees



**Pearl Hartman,**  
Member-at-Large, Faith and Life Commission

Pearl Hartman is the pastor of Big Spring Mennonite Church in Luray, VA, Cluster Minister of the Chaplain's Cluster of Virginia Mennonite Conference and the Vice Chair of the Faith and Life Commission of VMC. Prior to moving to the Shenandoah Valley, she has been a pastor or chaplain in Newton KS, Madison WI and Fairfax, Virginia. What she loves most about pastoral ministry is listening to how God is at work in people's lives, preaching practical sermons and watching the church grow in love by using everyone's gifts. She loves cooking, gardening and music. She was happily married to Dwight Hartman for nearly 10 years. She finds the work of Faith and Life to be energizing, challenging and vital.

**Amanda Swartly,**  
Congregational Life Commission

Amanda grew up in Newport News, VA and came to Harrisonburg by way of EMU. While at EMU she earned a BS in Early Childhood Education and met her husband, Michael. Amanda is the Minister of Congregational Life at Lindale Mennonite Church where she finds meaningful, life-giving work in meeting people exactly where they are in all ages, stages, and phases of life.

She also enjoys ministering in a variety of ways as she looks to increase ways to connect through Bible study, small group ministry, children's ministry, and developing curriculum for use in the church setting. Amanda enjoys spending time with her family, walking/hiking with her goldendoodle (Penny), baking, reading, swimming, and playing flute and piano.



**Ron Stoltzfus,**  
Treasurer, Conference Council

I am retired from a career of teaching accounting at the collegiate level, thirty-two years at Eastern Mennonite University and five years at York College of Pennsylvania. Currently I work part-time for an attorney who specializes in tax planning.

Bonnie and I are members of Park View Mennonite Church where I currently serve as Building Maintenance Coordinator. Additionally, I am Treasurer of the Virginia Wilderness Committee with a goal to promote the congressional designation of Wilderness and Scenic Areas in our national forests.

I am an avid hiker and spend hours maintaining trails in the Shenandoah Mountain. I am part of a cohort of hikers who love birds, flowers, butterflies, and being in nature. For me trail maintaining is a practical way to work for the common good of society. Always leave the trail better than you found it!



## Gifts Discernment Nominee

Sue Miller

Congregational Life Commission



Sue Miller grew up on a farm near Strang, Nebraska. She met her husband Gordon as they volunteered with MDS. Gordon farmed, Sue taught school, and together they volunteered with Prison Fellowship and worked with teenage girls. In 2001 they moved to Orville, OH where Gordon pastored at Crown Hill Mennonite Church, and Sue taught at Central Christian. Through a series of events, they knew God was calling them to serve in Alamosa, CO with Mennonite Mission Network. At the conclusion of their three year term there, they moved to Waynesboro, VA where Gordon is pastoring at Lynside

Mennonite Church. Sue is a volunteer with Love in the Name of Christ, leads the children's programs at church, and enjoys spending time with their children and grandchildren.