

## **NOMINEE FOR PRESBYTERY MODERATOR, CLASS OF 2024-2025**

### **Ruling Elder Janet Miller, Bath Presbyterian Church**



My mother was a strong influence on me although I did not realize her impact until I left home. For one, my mother instilled a desire to see the world and I have, indeed, seen much of our beautiful planet and met many extraordinary people over the years on my travels. I joined the US Navy right out of high school and was stationed on both coasts of the US. Then, when my enlistment was up, I attended college after which I became an officer in the US Air Force. While I was not stationed overseas other than Hawaii, I had the opportunity for temporary duty in Japan, South Korea, Germany, Denmark, Qatar, England, and Mexico. In addition, I led or was a member of build teams with Habitat for Humanity/Global Village to Portugal, Malawi, Viet Nam, India, Guatemala, Macedonia, and Thailand. As you can imagine, my vacations have included world travel with the last being to Argentina, Antarctica, South Georgia, and Falklands. Planet Earth and her inhabitants are to be treasured and cared for by us as God expected.

Secondly, my mother stressed the importance of education. Although I joined the US Navy after high school rather than going straight to college, I have spent much of my spare time acquiring knowledge and working on educational degrees. I have two bachelor's, two master's and a PhD which I have been able to apply over the years in a technical work environment.

Thirdly, and most importantly, my mother had a strong Presbyterian faith. She was an elder in the church and volunteered both herself and us in a variety of ways from singing in the choir to serving food at our annual Strawberry Festival to nursery duty. My memories include the sun pouring through stained-glass windows, singing "Fairest Lord Jesus," attending summer Bible schools, playing hide and seek in the shaded, grassy graveyard and, my favorite, attending summer Bible camps, especially Camp Lambec on Lake Erie, where I grew the most in my faith and felt closest to God.

I have attended Bath Presbyterian Church since 2001 with my husband, JO, and am using these three influences to be an instrument of God within the world. I have been and am now a Ruling Elder at Bath, chairing the Mission Committee. While my advanced degrees have been technical, now that I am retired from working in technical fields, I am developing my compassionate, caregiving side. I am working to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder which included taking classes at Dubuque Theological Seminary such as Pastoral Caregiving. I completed the Older Adult Ministries Certificate Program with Columbia Theological Seminary and will be taking Clinical Pastoral Education this summer and in the fall. While I cannot disregard the possibility God has a church for me as a lay pastor, I look forward to emphasizing work with PMV's older adults, both congregants and retired pastors.

## **NOMINEE FOR PRESBYTERY VICE MODERATOR, CLASS OF 2024-2025**

### **MWS Lawrence Bartel, Oxford Presbyterian**



Lawrence is the pastor of Oxford Presbyterian Church (OPC). A Buckeye native, he returned to Ohio after graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and serving churches in Chicago as well as upstate New York. Lawrence and his wife, Amy, round out their family with a son, Jens, and daughter, Lydia.

Passionate about life-long learning, Lawrence has been shaped by formal classroom settings as well as the transformative experience of journeys around the region, the nation and the world. In 2016 & 2018, he served as the co-leader for the PC(USA) Mosaic of Peace to Israel and Palestine. Through the ministry of OPC, Lawrence has participated in mission journeys to sister congregations in Colombia and Russia. In 2022, he coordinated a learning journey to Scotland followed by a civil rights learning journey to Georgia and Alabama in 2023.