

2015 Leadership Board Slate



Ellen Fox (2nd term ending December 31, 2017)

Ellen has been a member of Peace Mennonite Community Church for almost five years. Her time there has given her a deeper understanding of what Christian community really means, and she is grateful for the blessings of the Holy Spirit that breathes in that congregation.

Ellen's interest in The Big Questions drew her to get a doctorate in philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There she met her husband, also a philosophy student. They have been married for over 20 years now, and Ellen is stepmother to Bill's young adult son. Though both Ellen and Bill got tenure-track jobs, they were in different (and distant!) states, so Ellen took some computer classes and went into IT management, while Bill became a lawyer. They settled in Denver 17 years ago. Ellen worked for 13 years as the manager of IT for a non-profit in Aurora, where she also did technology training, grant management, project management, and dishwashing. Now she volunteers with the Denver Public Library teaching technology classes and with the Seniors' Resource Center in Jeffco as a volunteer driver and member of the Advisory Council.

Nelda Thelin (1st term ending December 31, 2017)



Nelda Rhodes Thelin grew up in La Junta, CO, where she also trained as a nurse. In 1960 she graduated from Goshen College and later went to Nigeria as a midwifery tutor under Mennonite Board of Missions. As a result of the Biafran Civil War she was evacuated to Ghana where she met and married Bob Thelin.

Together they served in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, supported by the United Church of Christ and sometimes jointly by MCC. While both believed that their most important contribution was a relational ministry of acceptance and hospitality; Bob's focus was in agricultural and community development and Nelda's was in health and theological education. During their home assignments, in addition to sharing about their ministry in churches throughout the US, they pursued studies at AMBS and graduated in 1988 with M.Div. degrees. They retired in 2000 and settled in La Junta. Bob passed away suddenly in 2010.

Nelda frequently visits her two daughters and their families, who live in Indiana. Rachel and Sanjay Jivraj are in Indianapolis with their two sons, Nikhil and Ronak. Ruth and Bill Daugherty live in Bloomington, with their son, Luke Robert.

Nelda enjoys music, reading, walking, gardening and maintaining the Rhodes-Side Park in memory of her parents and grandparents. She feels passionate about ways that churches can be become involved in addressing climate change. She attends Emmanuel Mennonite Church in La Junta.

Wilmer Villacorta (2nd term ending December 31, 2017)



Wilmer lives in Colorado Springs where he serves as an associate pastor at El Centro Church and as a professor for Fuller Theological Seminary for their virtual campus program.

He and his wife Jeannie have served as pastors and missionaries in California and Peru.