**Gifts Discernment Committee**

**Roberta Harms, Chair**

The work of the WDC Gifts Discernment Committee encompassed both sadness and joy this year. We grieved the loss and celebrated the life of committee member Stanley Bartel at his passing soon after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. His absence left a hole in our committee.

We celebrated the joy of welcoming Alberto Parchmont to the committee, and incorporating an interpreter, Lesther Caceros, to enhance our conversations and discernment. This has been the culmination of several years seeking ways to include “other than English speaking” members of WDC into working roles of committees and commissions. A grant from Schowalter Foundation has enabled financial provision for interpreter services for WDC activities including WDC commissions and committees. This enables us to engage leadership and participation from all parts of the conference, enlarging the field from which to invite people to serve. The Lord has blessed us richly with Alberto’s insights and spiritual fervor.

Discernment is a calling we take seriously. In addition to working to balance areas of gender, geographies, theologies, age, and congregational representation, we have touched base with each commission seeking input and guidance as to what gifts and skills would be helpful to their specific area of work. We prayerfully consider, and prayerfully support each invitation we make. We feel the Holy Spirit working in wondrous ways, and offer a ballot of called, committed persons to Christ, to WDC, and to the positions in which they are willing to serve.

Members: Roberta Harms, Susan Jantzen, Ardie Goering, Andrea Zuercher, Alberto Parchmont

WDC Minister Heidi Regier Kreider, staff liaison