

WDC Gifts Discernment Committee
Ardie Goering, Chair

We come together from different points of the Western District to nominate qualified and committed persons who represent the diversity of ethnicity, geography, and theology of our congregations. We strive for balance between gender, age and race and to include as many different congregations as possible.

We are particularly pleased to have two “firsts” among our nominees this year, the first person of Hispanic ethnicity for the Ministerial Leadership Commission and the first person from the Chin ethnic group (originally from Myanmar, formerly known as Burma) for any WDC leadership position. Inclusion can mean that persons who are “first” can feel the isolation of being the “only” person like themselves in a group, and we want to acknowledge this inherent difficulty and ask for the prayers of the conference. As we work at our job in representing the diversity of the conference, we increasingly see the need for more translation to overcome language barriers.

Every decision we make for our work comes from listening to each other. Since we are a bilingual committee, we have also depended upon Spanish/English translation and Lester Caceros as our regular translator. The story of our work is also one of the fellowship we enjoy with each other and how our diversity enhances the depth of our time together.

We have prayerfully considered each of our nominees and ask for your support now and in the coming year.

Committee members: Ardie Goering—Chair, Eldon Epp, Alberto Parchmont, Rachel Voth Schrag, Eric J. Jantzen, Dwight Mueller, WDC Minister Heidi Regier Kreider—staff liaison