

Our Moderator and Vice-Moderator Elect for 2024

Elder Jim Ballengee, Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia



Elder Jim Ballengee grew up as a member of Ardmore Presbyterian Church and joined Arch Street Presbyterian Church in the first class of Elders in 2009 as the church began to grow again. He has served on Session for 8 years at Arch Street Presbyterian Church in addition to roles on Personnel, Nominating and Mission and Outreach. He is completing his sixth year on the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry – the last 2 ½ years as Moderator of the group.

Jim also serves on the Administrative Commission for New River Presbyterian Church and on the Community Advisory Council as well. He was a Commissioner to General Assembly at St. Louis in 2018.

In the city of Philadelphia, Jim is a Board member of The Christopher Ludwick Foundation, serves on the Board of Historic Rittenhouse Town and was one of the founding Board members of St. James School. He also was instrumental in the establishment of The Center of Public Purpose at William Penn Charter School – enabling students to go deeper into issues of education, food insecurity and poverty.

He is married to Elaine, has three grown daughters and two grandchildren. In any spare time remaining, he enjoys reading and hiking and is obsessed with crossing the Grand Canyon on foot.

Reverend Sarah Cooper Searight, Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia



Rev. Sarah Cooper Searight currently serves as Associate Pastor for Outreach Ministry, Congregational Care and Worship at Swarthmore Presbyterian where she has been on staff now for eight years. She also has served in a variety of capacities for the Presbytery of Philadelphia, including Moderator of the Commission on Resources and Creative Ministries, Co-Chair of the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee for New River Presbyterian Church, member of the Administrative Commission for New River Presbyterian Church, member of the Thumm Fund Review Team, as well as participating in several cycles of the Covenant Fund Review Team. Sarah was baptized in and grew up as an active part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), serving as a Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, NI and attending Columbia Theological Seminary where she received her Master of Divinity. Sarah has been an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament for fifteen years and in addition to Swarthmore, has served congregations in Louisiana and

Philadelphia.

Sarah and her husband Bill Searight (also a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA)) are the grateful parents of two girls, Maggie and Ella.