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June 2021

From General Presbyter Roy Martin

Summer is almost here, and the weather is getting warmer! On the pandemic front, over half of all United States citizens have received at least one vaccine, and somewhere around 40% have received two vaccines. Although we are making progress with vaccinations, we still have a long way to go.

As you know, the CDC came out with revised guidelines in May. Presbytery's Coordinating and Planning Commission are in the process of reviewing those

guidelines so that our presbytery guidelines can be updated. Our revised presbytery guidelines should be available very soon.

Regardless of what those guidelines may say, I encourage us all to remember that, as Christians, we are called upon to love and care for our neighbor. There are still people in our midst who are vulnerable to this



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

virus and none of us would want to behave in any way that might endanger their health. Let Christian love guide your manner and conduct.

On a personal note, Lisa and I are going to take some time away toward the end of June to visit God's Country, better known as the Commonwealth of Virginia. We hope each of you will find some time to get away, safely, for renewal of body, mind, and spirit.

God bless!
Roy

Pre-Order 2021-22 Presbyterian Planning Calendars Now

You may order directly from the PC(USA) Store at <https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/9781732846715/presbyterian-planning-calendar-20212022.aspx> or through the Presbytery office as part of a discounted bulk order.

Presbytery bulk rate: \$12.75 per calendar, includes shipping from the PC(USA). You also will need to cover any additional cost for shipping the calendar(s) from the Presbytery office to your address.

Bulk order deadline: June 30, 2021. To order through the Presbytery office, email office@presbyteryofflorida.com or call 850-535-2335.



From our Stated Clerk



By Jeannie Dixon, Fellowship, Tallahassee, Ruling Elder

Check out docket for 225th General Assembly hybrid event

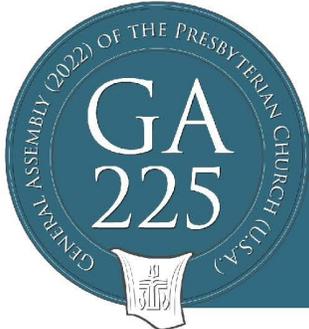
The 225th General Assembly (2022) will be a hybrid gathering. All plenaries will be online with committee meetings in person and covering June 17 - July 3. Committees will meet in staggered

times to allow for social distancing. The final docket is shown here to provide you information on the gathering.

If you want more information on our General Assembly, the web page

<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga/> provides that.

Everyone is encouraged to watch the plenary sessions; they will be online and that information will be shared prior to (and during) the assembly.

 Docket for the 225th General Assembly (2022) <i>All times listed for Eastern Time Zone. Commissioners and Advisory Delegates will participate in online educational space and review all items of business prior to the General Assembly.</i>							[한국어] [Español]	
							Fri., June 17 Committees A-D arrive	Sat., June 18 8:30-10 am Leader Briefing 11:00 am Opening Worship 1:00 pm Plenary 1 3:00 pm Break 3:30 pm Plenary 2 6:00 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Plenary 3 8:00 pm Moderator Election
Sun., June 19 Juneteenth Worship and Observance 3:00 pm Commissioners' Resolutions Due 5:30 pm Bills and Overtures Committee	Mon., June 20 Committees A-D in session			Tues., June 21 Committees A-D in session	Wed., June 22 Committees E-H arrive Hands and Feet?	Thurs., June 23 Committees A-D depart Committees E-H in session	Fri., June 24 Committees E-H in session	Sat., June 25 Committees E-H in session
Sun., June 26 Committees I-L arrive Committees E-H depart	Mon., June 27 Committees I-L in session			Tues., June 28 Committees I-L in session	Wed., June 29 Committees M-P arrive Hands and Feet?	Thurs., June 30 Committees I-L depart Committees M-P in session	Fri., July 1 Committees M-P in session	Sat., July 2 Committees M-P in session
Sun., July 3 Moderator Training Committees M-P depart	Mon., July 4 Moderator Training	Tues., July 5 11:00 am Worship Plenary 4 2:00 pm Lunch Plenary 5 Coffee Break 7:30 pm Dinner Plenary 6	Wed., July 6 11:00 am Worship Plenary 7 2:00 pm Lunch Plenary 8 Coffee Break 7:30 pm Dinner Plenary 9	Thurs., July 7 11:00 am Worship Plenary 10 2:00 pm Lunch Plenary 11 <i>Afternoon/Evening will continue plenary or focus on Hands and Feet.</i>	Fri., July 8 11:00 am Worship Plenary 12 2:00 pm Lunch Plenary 13 Coffee Break 7:30 pm Dinner Plenary 14	Sat., July 9 11:00 am Worship Plenary 15 1:00 pm Lunch 2:30 pm Plenary 16 Break 5:30 pm Plenary 17 Closing Worship		

Worship and Plenary June 18 will be a hybrid of online and in-person participants. July 5-July 9 will take place online.

PHS provides records retention guidance and assistance

At the Presbytery Meeting on May 18, 2021, we met David Staniunas from the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS). He provided many handouts and links with information on the records they maintain and the history of worship communities that have been preserved. Tucked into

one of his handouts was a Congregation Records Retention Schedule.

The Presbyterian Historical Society provides advice to congregations on records. Retention requirements for financial and administrative records may vary from state to state, and the PHS suggests that, if there are questions or concerns,

the congregation should contact David Staniunas (dstaniunas@history.pcusa.org), an accountant, or legal counsel.

The schedule provided is an easy-to-read chart of the various types of records a congregation maintains and how long the PHS suggests that they be maintained.

One other interesting fact is that the PHS will also hold original records of permanent value on deposit in an environmentally controlled archival storage area with specialized fire detection and security systems. Congregations can deposit records at no charge. You retain ownership of the records and may request their return at any time with written authorization from the clerk of session.

The PHS website includes further information on retention and storage: <https://www.history.pcusa.org/services/records-management/records-congregations>

From our Treasurer



By Denise Vandiver,
Lafayette,
Tallahassee,
Ruling Elder

Congregation Records Retention Schedule

Minutes	
Registers	
Annual reports	
Bylaws/charters	
Incorporation records	
Annual budgets	
Annual audits	
Annual financial statements	
Manuals/handbooks	permanent
Newspapers/newsletters	
Brochures/promotional materials (1 copy)	
Photographs	
Scrapbooks	
Architectural drawings, plats, plans, blueprints	
Wills, bequests	
Legal/judicial cases	
Loan agreements	satisfaction + 20 years
Property appraisals, records of sale	20 years after sale
Contracts	active + 3 years
Personnel records/employee records	employment + 7 years
FICA / W-2 records	7 years
Accounts payable invoices	3 years
Accounts payable	7 years
Accounts receivable records	3 years
Bank deposit slips	3 years
Bank statements	7 years
Canceled checks	7 years
Cash receipt records	3 years
Data for updating mailing lists	1 year
Mailing lists	active
Periodic financial statements	2 years
Expense reports	7 years
General/routine correspondence	3 years
Invitations	1 year
Petty cash records	7 years
Receipts of purchases	7 years
Meeting notices	1 year
Travel plans/arrangements	1 year
Resource files	active



Questions? Contact us:

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

refdesk@history.pcusa.org | 215.627.1852 | www.history.pcusa.org

Presbyterian Historical Society Reliable Records Webinar – June 21 & 22

Presbyterian Historical Society archivist David Staniunas will offer two sessions on maintaining and ensuring future access to essential records:

3:00 p.m. EDT on either Monday, June 21, or Tuesday, June 22.

If you can't participate live, catch Zoom recordings later on Equip.pcusa.org.

To register for the June 21 session, [click here](#)

To register for the June 22 session, [click here](#)

From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



By Rev. Lisa Martin,
Chair, and
1st, Lynn Haven Pastor

CCR can help in exploring congregational health

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization continues to hone its process of partnering with congregations who desire to explore where (using MissionInsite) and how (using Holy Cow!) their church is.

Here are life-giving questions to consider:

- ✓What is our community?
- ✓Where do our members and regular guests live?
- ✓What schools, churches, neighborhood hangouts are close to us?
- ✓How healthy is our outlook these days?



✓What are our passions? Our strengths?

✓What might our future hold?

These are questions of *vitality*.

CCR is committed to helping every congregation mature in faithful worship and service. We'd be honored to assist your congregation!

In his new book, *The Post Quarantine Church*, Thom Rainer asserts that this "new era" of post-quarantine life will be challenging for the

church of Jesus Christ. It is different than any other significant event, which caused an *increase* in church attendance.

Rather, the pandemic has caused a *decrease* in church attendance.

Rainer's group *Church Answers, Inc.* suggests that this is a prime time of challenge and opportunity.

CCR carries out its ministry in between those two: challenge and opportunity. If you'd like to explore the place and health of your congregation, please contact me. Already we have partnered with three congregations; we'd love to partner with yours!



SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC
WEBINAR via Zoom:
So You Are Thinking of Retiring
Tuesday, June 15 • 4–5:30 p.m. EDT

Pastors and church leaders of the *Synod of South Atlantic* — Has COVID jump-started your thinking about retiring? Or maybe it's some other reason? This free webinar sponsored by the Synod of South Atlantic will provide a few discernment resources that can help PC(USA) pastors in the Synod as they begin considering retirement.

The following topics will be covered:

A Coach Can Help presented by the Rev. Melana Scruggs, General Presbyter, Peace River Presbytery.

Your Presbytery Can Help presented by the Rev. Joyce Lieberman, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, Synod of South Atlantic.

The Board of Pensions Can Help presented by Clark Simmons, Church Consultant, the Board of Pensions.

Registration is required. The Zoom webinar format will allow for participants to ask questions, but will also keep their identity hidden from other participants. [Click here for registration.](#)

Questions: Joyce Lieberman, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk • joyce@synodsa.org • (904)515-7165

CER shares summer reading recommendations

From Committee Member Esther Moring:

1 – If you have ever been curious about the Hebrew side of Christianity, I would recommend: *Sitting At The Feet of Rabbi Jesus - How the Jewishness of Jesus can Transform Your Faith*. It is not a new book, but it was new when my husband was completing his conversion to the Reformed Jewish faith. The authors Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg paint powerful pictures of Jesus' ministry immersing you in the history, culture, prayers and feasts that shaped the time and those who followed Jesus.

2 – For a new book, I would recommend: *Caste- The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. It is the book we at First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee are reading this summer. I have just started it, but I am struck by her descriptions of categories of medical history that can enlighten current illness and solutions...just as we mentally compare our

own experiences with our personal history that affect our outlook and points of view. I worked for years in many countries with Doctors Without Borders and can see how lenses of that same personal history and cultural exposures can color the images of the observers and the observed.

3-Our church book club read *Rabbit Cake* by Annie Hartnett as both a quirky, funny book, but also a book that addresses different ways people cope with loss. The characters resemble someone in your own quirky family, I know it did mine. It made me laugh and reminded me of the rabbit shaped cake we always made for Easter. Although from the same recipe and pattern, each one turned out a unique individual.

From Committee Chair Brian Yount

My recommendations come with a qualifier: these are not books I've read, but books that are on my reading list that have come from trustworthy sources.

1 – I recently listened to a podcast where Marvin Olasky was interviewed about his new book

Lament for a Father: The Journey to Understanding and Forgiveness. Olasky's latest book is a short but powerful read that explores his father's painful past and Olasky's own journey to forgive his father.

2 – Much has been written on Winston Churchill, but Gary Scott Smith's *Duty and Destiny: The Life and Faith of Winston Churchill* explores what faith meant to the great statesman of the 20th century. Like Abraham Lincoln, Churchill's relationship with faith is complicated, but in this book, Smith tries to put the pieces together to give the reader a better insight into Churchill's religious convictions.

3 – Does theology ever feel too abstract? If so, pick up Andrew Wilson's *God of All Things* and discover how God uses ordinary, everyday things to tell us about Himself. Wilson's book will change the way you look at the common things around you. The ultimate goal is to see creation with the eyes of faith that lead us to worship the God of all things.

From the Committee on Educational Resources



By Esther Moring,
1st, Tallahassee,
Ruling Elder, and
Rev. Brian Yount,
former Chair and
Trinity, Pensacola,
Associate Pastor



**From the
Committee on
Dogwood Acres**



*By Ben Powell,
DWA Director
and 1st, Quincy
Ruling Elder*

DWA offers plenty of opportunities to serve

As most know, because of the pandemic, we are taking Summer Camp in a new direction for 2021. We look forward to getting back to a more traditional Summer Camp next year, but for now, we will be safe!

The change in how we will operate is producing new opportunities for volunteers from our churches. Would you be willing to help in the kitchen, serve as a or a chaperone, or are you a credentialed nurse and would consider helping in that area?

Summer Camp starts the week of July 11 and will be open the last three weeks of July. I consider it to a blast to be around the kids and staff, and I think you might, too. And this year a week starts on Sunday evening and ends not long after lunch on Thursdays (a day shorter than traditional camp).

If you would consider helping with “Bubble Camp”, please contact me at 850-528-3575 (text or call) or email ben@dogwoodacres.org. More information on Bubble Camp can be found at <https://www.dogwoodacres.org/summer-camp/>.

**DOGWOOD ACRES
SUMMER CAMP**

ADVENTURES. SWIM. CANOE. HIKE.
CAMPFIRES. CHALLENGE COURSE.
S'MORES. STARS. MUSIC.
MEMORIES. JESUS.

WEEK 1: JULY 11TH - JULY 15TH
WEEK 2: JULY 18TH - JULY 22ND
WEEK 3: JULY 25TH - JULY 29TH

Cost:
Tier 1: \$350 — Tier 2: \$425 — Tier 3: \$475

REGISTER ONLINE -
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

For more info go to
www.dogwoodacres.org/summercamp
or Call the Director
Ben Powell (850) 528-3575

[https://
thornwell.org/
buildingfamilies/](https://thornwell.org/buildingfamilies/)

June is...
**National
Reunification
Month**

Thornwell
BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES

Hope in the dirt

The narrator begins with the sentence, “It’s a great place to live,” talking about the Earth, but goes on to say that “many now live in widespread fear that we are headed towards a cliff.” He also says that “the solution to many of our problems is under our feet and older than dirt.” This is from “Kiss the Ground” a Netflix movie on the role of soils in maintaining a healthy planet. ([See the trailer.](#))

Seldom do I read information or see a movie that gives me such hope as this does that we can solve the climate crisis. Who would have thought that a big part of the solution is dirt!

It turns out, though, that we aren’t taking good care of our soils, because plowing and tilling are actually bad for their health and our health. Soils sprayed and fertilized with chemicals are not healthy and don’t hold carbon. Since the 1970s, one-third of the Earth’s topsoil has been lost, and these damaged soils give off carbon dioxide instead of absorbing it.

A handful of healthy soil is alive with more micro-organisms than the number of people who have ever lived on earth. These micro-organisms



make nutrients accessible for plants, leading to healthier plants, and they sequester carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

Here is the good news: There is a form of no-plow or till farming called “regenerative agriculture” that restores soils, sequesters carbon, grows healthier food, stores more water, fosters more micro-organism growth, makes more money per acre for farmers and lowers the local temperature. For you beef lovers, cows are a vital part of this kind of farming, but it is not your grandfather’s type of farming.

The French have been studying soils for over a hundred years and have developed the “Four per 1000 Initiative” to increase carbon dioxide soil content globally .4% per year, which is equal to the amount of CO2 that humans emit annually.

This means that we could, starting today, remove carbon from the atmosphere using the dirt

we stand on. This is important because we not only have to cut our carbon emissions but also have to remove much of the carbon that we have released to the atmosphere to keep our planet from warming more than 1.5 degrees centigrade.

This is pretty amazing news. Healthy soils which we know how to restore and protect can grow healthier food, make more money per acre for the farmer and remove large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

I encourage you to watch “Kiss the Ground” on Netflix and talk about it in your Sunday school classes. This is a truly remarkable movie that provides hope for all who fear what the climate crisis is doing to the planet and for everybody who just wants to make the world a healthier place.

As always, if you have any comments or concerns contact me at pammcvety@hotmail.com

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
*Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
Enabler
([pammcvety
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I encourage you to watch “Kiss the Ground” on Netflix and talk about it in your Sunday school classes. This is a truly remarkable movie that provides hope for all ...

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

In June

<i>Saturday, June 5</i> 11 a.m. CDT/ 12 p.m. EDT	Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival
<i>Each Wednesday,</i> 3 p.m. CDT/ 4 p.m. EDT	Presbytery clergy gathering via Zoom
<i>Tuesday, June 8</i> 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach
<i>Thursday, June 10</i> 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Board of Pensions' "Caring for the Caregiver" webinar
<i>Thursday, June 10</i> 4 p.m. CDT/ 5 p.m. EDT	Committee on Nominations
<i>Saturday, June 19</i>	Juneteenth
<i>Tuesday, June 15</i> 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization
<i>Tuesday, June 15, and Wednesday, June 16</i> 2 p.m. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT	Synod of South Atlantic information/orientation sessions for 6-week virtual cohort
<i>Tuesday, June 15</i> 3 p.m. CDT/ 4 p.m. EDT	Synod of South Atlantic "So You Are Thinking of Retiring" webinar
<i>Wednesday, June 16</i> 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration
<i>Sunday, June 20</i>	Fathers Day
<i>Monday, June 21</i>	Presbyterian Giving Catalog Summer Concert with Elizabeth Stockton Perkins, via YouTube
<i>Wednesday June 30</i> 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	"I Stand With You" Anti-Racism Task Force

Looking ahead

<i>Sunday, July 4</i>	Independence Day
<i>Monday, July 5</i>	Presbytery office closed for Independence Day
<i>Tuesday, July 6</i> 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources
<i>Tuesday, July 6</i> 2 p.m. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach
<i>Sunday, July 11– Thursday, July 15</i>	Dogwood Acres "Bubble Camp" Week 1
<i>Monday, July 12</i> 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres
<i>Tuesday, July 13</i> 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry
<i>Wednesday, July 14</i> 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration
<i>Wednesday, July 14</i> 6 p.m. CDT/ 7 p.m. EDT	OGA "Parliamentary Procedure for Leaders" webinar for ruling elders and deacons
<i>Thursday, July 15</i> 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission
<i>Sunday, July 18 – Thursday, July 22</i>	Dogwood Acres "Bubble Camp" Week 2
<i>Tuesday, July 20</i> 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization
<i>Wednesday, July 21</i>	Presbyterian Giving Catalog Summer Concert with the Stillman College Choir, via YouTube
<i>Thursday, July 22</i> 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
<i>Sunday, July 25 – Thursday, July 29</i>	Dogwood Acres "Bubble Camp" Week 3
<i>Wednesday, July 28</i> 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	"I Stand With You" Anti-Racism Task Force