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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 5, Issue 5

May 2022

## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

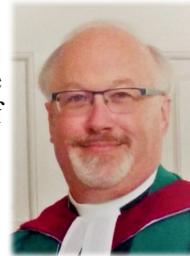
Every year, the Sunday closest to May 22<sup>nd</sup> is called Heritage Sunday in our denomination. It was on that date when the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met in Philadelphia in 1789.

Up to that point, there had been two Synods, the Synod of Philadelphia and the Synod of New York, where each church was to commission an Elder to attend for purposes of dealing with matters affecting the whole Synod. This model closely followed the governing model of the Church of Scotland.

But, as time went on and the number of congregations expanded beyond the mid-Atlantic and north-

ern regions of the newly-formed country of the United States, it was increasingly difficult for churches to find someone to travel the long distance to Philadelphia or New York.

So, in a break from the Church of Scotland, the two synods created the General Assembly and gave more authority to



*The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin*

regional presbyteries to conduct the ministry of the denomination. This is the structure that has been in place since 1789 with additional Synods and presbyteries being created as the denomination continued to expand.

This year, May 22<sup>nd</sup> falls on a Sunday, so I ask all of our congregations to spend some time that Sunday giving thanks to God for our rich heritage and for all those who came before us who gave themselves in service to God through the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Roy



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CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with children and youth.

*join us!*

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**  
April 18 – June 5, 2022



## From the Committee on Nominations (CN)



*By Ruth Bedell,  
CN member and  
Faith, Tallahassee,  
elder*

## Presbytery Committee Corner: Committee on Representation (CR)

This month, we are featuring the Committee on Representation (CR). The committee is chaired by Elder Glenn Hodges of First Presbyterian of Tallahassee.

Historically, the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA) established a mechanism prior to the formal reunification of the two Presbyterian denominations, the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) and the UPCUSA, on June 10, 1983. The purpose was to ensure minority representation and participation in decision-making and employment practices within a unified Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA). This representation and participation should reflect the rich diversity of the church's membership.

The presbytery's CR advises the presbytery with respect to membership of its committees and to the employment of its personnel per the *Book of Order*, G-3.0103:

"Each council shall develop procedures and mechanisms for promoting and reviewing that body's implementation of the church's commitment to inclusiveness and representation. Councils above the session shall

establish by their own rule committees on representation to fulfill the following functions: to advise the council regarding the implementation of principles of unity and diversity, to advocate for diversity in leadership, and to consult with the council on the employment of personnel, in accordance with the principles of unity and diversity in F-1.0403. A committee on representation should not be merged with another committee or made a subcommittee of another committee."

The CR works to fill the vacancies on each committee (except for the Committee on Nominations and the Committee on Representation) based on the committees' specific representation needs. The CR looks at the committees' current representation and diversity and determines which church membership group is lacking on the committee. Through the committee's liaisons with the congregations in the Presbytery, the CR helps to identify and refer potential committee candidates to the Committee on Nominations for vetting and discussion with the nominee and the appropriate committee chairperson.

"We work with the Committee on Nominations (CN) to ensure that presbytery committees represent the

makeup of the membership by the attributes of gender, race/ethnicity, geographical location, and type of member (teaching elder, ruling elder, or church member). Presbyteries that combine the functions of the Committee on Representation with the CN function do not ensure that the committees' makeup is representative of the presbytery membership. The goal is to achieve 'wholeness' in the life of the church. This wholeness is evident when all members of the body of Christ use the gifts given to each by the Holy Spirit. Our presbytery is serious about honoring the mandate for unity and diversity by the *Book of Order*," says CR Chair Elder Glenn Hodges.

Members who may be interested in serving on the Committee on Representation or on the Committee on Nominations, must be vetted and presented to the presbytery by the Coordinating and Planning Commission. Those members who are interested in serving on the other presbytery committees, please contact Glenn Hodges at [ghodges37@comcast.net](mailto:ghodges37@comcast.net).

Please share this article with your congregation and encourage your members to consider serving on a presbytery committee. Thank you. Next month's issue will highlight another committee. See you at the corner!

## Hurricane Preparedness Week May 1 – 7 set as a reminder

It is nearly that time of the year again. Hurricane season is about to kick off on June 1, running through November 30.

Each year, the Colorado State University Tropical Weather and Climate Research team predicts the number of storms for the upcoming season. The university's predictions for 2022 are much like last year's – above average. They are forecasting 19 named storms and nine hurricanes, with four of the hurricanes at category 3 or higher. This compares to the previous 30-year average of 14.4 named storms, 7.2 hurricanes, and 3.2 of the hurricanes becoming major storms of category 3 or higher.

Native or longtime Florida residents have grown accustomed to these annual predictions. If you are new to the area and have not had firsthand experience of a tropical event, early preparation is a must. This year, Florida has set May 1 through 7 as Hurricane Preparedness Week. The week is a reminder to evaluate your personal hurricane plan, making it the perfect time to assess your insurance policies, review or develop your disaster plan, assemble hurricane supplies, strengthen your home, and do all the things necessary to

prepare should the worst happen. While you are completing this work, it might be a great time to check in on a neighbor who may need help with their own preparations.

Something else you can do to support your neighbors and nearby communities is to register as a Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) Commuter Volunteer. You can read more about becoming a Commuter Volunteer at <https://www.FLAPDAN.org>

FLAPDAN's success comes from its partnerships with multiple agencies, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Florida Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and others. In addition to FLAPDAN's website, more information to help with your preparations can be found at <https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep> and <https://www.floridadisaster.org>. All three sites are excellent sources of information to help with your preparations.

Another thing to think about is, do you have a disaster plan for your church facilities? If you do, great; encourage your session to get it out, dust it off, and review it in detail to update anything

out-of-date. If you don't have a disaster plan, you are not too late. Use the coming weeks before hurricane season begins to get started on one. There are many resources out there to get you going, including an excellent sample plan at <https://www.flapdan.org/sample-disaster-plans>

Should the worst happen, and you need assistance as the result of a disaster, contact your church office. They can help you with your first line of assistance. If you need more assistance than your church family can provide, ask them to contact the Presbytery of Florida office at (850) 535-2335 or [office@presbyteryofflorida.com](mailto:office@presbyteryofflorida.com) for additional resources. They, in turn, can contact FLAPDAN, who have a wide range of support mechanisms and resources to respond to most any type of calamity.

Pray for a quiet hurricane season. But, if it is not to be – Working together, we can overcome any challenge.

### From the Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)



By  
*Tim Crawford,*  
*CMO member and*  
*1st, Crestview/*  
*Elder*

## From “I Stand With You” Racism Task Force



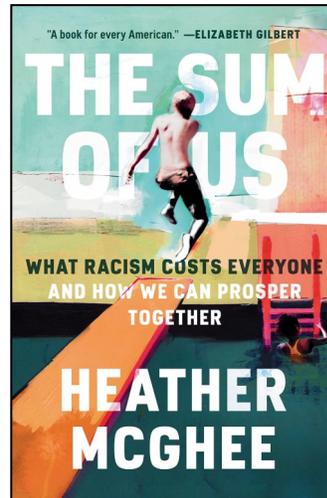
By Rev. Harvey  
Jenkins, HR

## Book Review: *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee (New York, One World), 2021

The impetus for *The Sum of Us* was the author’s desire to investigate the damage done to all of us by the persistence of segregation. As a result, she has amassed a wealth of factual data along with a plethora of anecdotal information. According to McGhee, the United States throughout her history has used a false “zero sum” narrative – the idea that progress for some of us must come at expense of others, a narrative that has perpetuated white supremacy and prevented collective action which would help all of us.

Today’s “zero-sum” idea is that white-skinned people are suffering due to gains by people of color and that the well-being of people of color is a threat to their own well-being. The way in which such thinking actually hurts us all is illustrated by one simple example with which many of us can identify. When swimming pools were closed to avoid desegregation, it meant no pools for any of us. McGhee goes on to expose many other ways in which “zero-sum” thinking hurts everyone.

Politicians and wealthy entrepreneurs



have an inherent interest in separating us from one another, and many illustrations of how they do it are provided. For example, pitting whites against blacks has often been used to halt unionizing efforts by employees.

Had McGhee written today, she would undoubtedly call attention to the \$4.3 Amazon spent on anti-union consultants in 2021 alone. Her underlying thesis is that the sum of us leads to a “solidarity dividend” that benefits everyone. In every instance, the sum of us accomplishes far more than just some of us.

McGehee contends that the diversity that is causing an often-unconscious panic in many White Americans can be our biggest strategic asset, because our differences have the potential to make us stronger, smarter, more creative, and fairer. Her solution to issues of race and poverty is to launch a national Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation effort similar to the forty truth and reconciliation processes across the world that have helped countries like South Africa, Chile, and Sri Lanka.

In her final paragraph, the author writes, “We must emerge from the crisis in our republic with a new birth of freedom, rooted in the knowledge that we are so much more when the “We” in “We the People” is not some of us, but all of us. We are greater than, and greater for, the sum of us.” [p.289.]

Find the Presbytery’s Anti-Racism Guidelines and look for other anti-racism resources from the “I Stand With You” Task Force at <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/mission-outreach/anti-racism-task-force/>

Save  
the date!

## Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, May 21 • 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT

with registration starting an hour ahead

@Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp, Vernon, FL

Hosted by 1st Presbyterian of Crestview & Laurel Hill Presbyterian Churches



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PRESENTED BY  
THE LAUREL HILL AND CRESTVIEW  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES AND  
THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

SHOWIN' UP FOR THE YOUTH



## SHININ' FOR THE LORD

Join us for a Car & Motorcycle  
Show

**May 21st, 9am-2pm**

TICKETS  
PRE REGISTRATION  
BEFORE MAY 1ST: \$15  
DAY OF: \$20

Classes:  
Best of Show  
Top Motorcycle  
Youth Choice  
Top 1979 & Older  
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**UKIRK  
TALLAHASSEE**

You Are  
Welcome  
Here!

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 10th**  
6:30pm to 7:30 pm

### The meeting will include:

Tours of the Building

(6-6:30pm or 7:30-8pm)

An Update on the Ministry

Hors d'oeuvres and Desserts

Time of Fellowship



← Scan the QR Code to RSVP



## From the Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)



*By Rev. Brant  
Copeland (HR),  
CDWA member*

## Dogwood Acres welcomes Eric Hearn as Program Director

The last three years have been tough for Dogwood Acres, but the future is looking bright for Florida Presbytery's retreat and outdoor ministry. Just as Dogwood was rebounding from Hurricane Michael, along came Covid-19. We lost a whole summer of camp in 2020, and only managed a limited summer program in 2021. Many weekend retreats were cancelled due to the pandemic. However, we are beginning to see an uptick in reservations.

The Committee on Dogwood Acres made two strategic moves in 2021. First, we admitted that the "half-time" provision in Director Ben Powell's job description was a mere fiction. For years, Ben has been working full time for a part-time salary. Second, we acknowledged the

need for additional year-round staff.

We revised the director's job description to full-time with commensurate salary. After studying Dogwood's needs, we created the new position of Program Director. A position description was approved, and a search committee appointed.

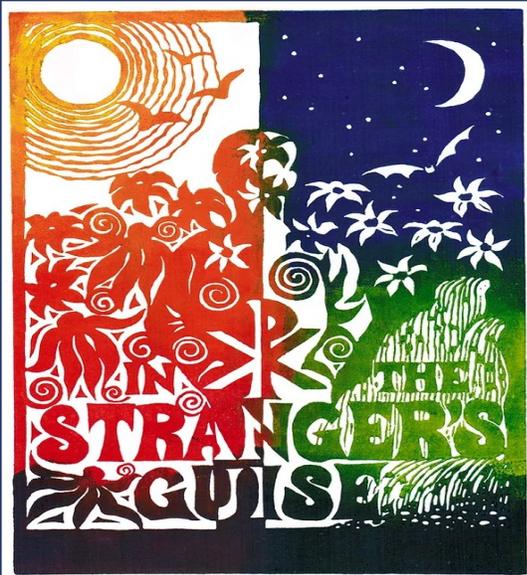
The Committee on Dogwood Acres is pleased to introduce Mr. Eric Hearn, the new Program Director for Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp. Eric comes to us from North Carolina, where he has been for the past four years Director at Camp GuilRock, a ministry of the United Methodist Church. Eric holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgia Southern University, is an accomplished musician, is skilled in many forms of



*Eric Hearn*

social media, and speaks Spanish fluently. Eric arrived April 7 and will be living at Dogwood Acres until he finds off-campus housing.

Eric will work with Director Ben Powell to develop a year-round program at Dogwood, but his immediate priority will be Summer Camp. We are excited to have Eric aboard and look forward to the skills and new ideas he brings to our Presbytery.



## 2022 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE

JUNE 19 - 24  
JUNE 26 - JULY 1

*In-Person & Online*

MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER  
MONTREAT, NC

[WWW.PRESBYMUSIC.ORG/](http://WWW.PRESBYMUSIC.ORG/)

**2022CONFERENCE**

## 225<sup>th</sup> GA an historic opportunity to care for all of God's creation

This year's General Assembly, June 18 through July 9, presents an unprecedented opportunity for commissioners to take decisive action that can benefit God's creation. Seven overtures, plus another coming from Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC), are all focused on climate change. This may be a first for our denomination. Taken together, these overtures give the PC(USA) an opportunity to address the climate crisis in multiple ways.

ENV-07 *On Fossil Fuel Divestment* calls upon the denomination to divest all its investments in fossil fuels, as does ENV-01, *On Learning About and Starting the Process of Divestment from Fossil Fuels*. The Presbyterians for Earth Care Overture *Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up* also calls for categorical divestment.

Denomination staff are recommending divestment from five fossil fuel companies in ENV-03. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) is bringing forth a report on renewable energy. There is even an overture asking for the establishment of a tree fund and another that asks us to affirm the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change. You can read each overture by going to <https://www.pc-biz.org>.

**Every one of these overtures and reports should be approved, because each one moves our denomination forward in addressing the climate crisis.**

Staff will recommend divestment from five companies that they have studied for years, and it will be appealing to support just this and pat ourselves on the back for finally divesting. Please don't! We will still have money invested in the fossil fuel industry, and our "slow and decent in order" process does not reflect the urgency of the climate crisis.

A report released February 28, by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns of the growing mismatch between rising temperatures and the rapidly closing window of opportunity to respond.

We have talked to fossil fuel companies for decades with a process called shareholder engagement, and it has taken eight years to recommend divestment from just five companies out of a possible two hundred.

While our shareholder engagement process has proceeded at a snail's pace, the world has moved on without us. While we have been

talking to the industry, roughly 1,500 other entities, companies and organizations have pledged \$40 trillion dollars for divestment. (The GDP of the United States was \$20.9 trillion in 2020.) Faith-based organizations comprise the single largest group, at about 35 percent.

Also, people have died. Homes and businesses have been lost. Our neighbors and families are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Michael, a 2018 monster Category 5 hurricane.

So I urge our commissioners and YAADs to vote for ALL the overtures that address the urgent need to combat climate change. Let's show the world that we truly love our neighbors, care for creation, understand the reality of the climate crisis and the power of our money.

Please feel free to contact me to find out more about fossil fuel divestment and climate change:

[Pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:Pammcvety@hotmail.com).

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety,**  
*Presbytery  
Stewardship  
of Creation  
Enabler*  
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*This may be a first  
for our  
denomination*

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**Committee on Representation (CR)**  
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Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

<b>In May</b>		<b>Looking ahead</b>	
Thursday, May 5 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	Thursday, June 2 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Thursday, May 5	National Day of Prayer	Sunday, June 5	Pentecost
Sunday, May 8	Mothers Day	Wednesday, June 8 11 a.m. CDT/ 12 p.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Monday, May 9 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	Wednesday, June 8 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Tuesday, May 10 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry (COM)	Saturday, June 11 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Representation (CR)
Tuesday, May 10 6:30 p.m. EDT	UKirk Tallahassee Annual Meeting/ Open House	Saturday, June 18 – Saturday, July 9	<a href="#">225th General Assembly</a> , Hybrid/Louisville, KY
Wednesday, May 11 11 a.m. CDT/ 12 p.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)	Sunday, June 19	Fathers Day
Wednesday, May 11 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Sunday, June 19	Juneteenth
Saturday, May 14 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Representation (CR)	Sunday, June 19 – Friday, June 24 and Sunday, June 26 – Friday, July 1	Presbyterian Association of Musicians <a href="#">2022 Worship and Music Conference</a> , Montreat Conference Center
Monday, May 16 Noon EDT	East District Clergy Luncheon, Kool Beanz Café, Tallahassee	Tuesday, June 21 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Tuesday, May 17 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)	Sunday, June 26	DWA Summer Camp begins
Saturday, May 21 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT Registration starts one hour before	<b>Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting, Dogwood Acres</b>	Tuesday, June 28 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)
Wednesday, May 25 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	"I Stand with You" Task Force	Wednesday, June 29 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	"I Stand with You" Task Force
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day – Presbytery office closed	Monday, July 4	Independence Day – Presbytery office closed
Tuesday, May 31 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)	Tuesday, August 23 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT Registration starts one hour before	<b>Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting, First, Quincy</b>