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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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Volume 5, Issue 7



August 2022

From General Presbyter Roy Martin

If you receive the Presbyterian Planning Calendar, you already know that, in addition to having a traditional block-type calendar for each month of the year, it also tells you about special emphases our denomination recognizes during each month. For August, Monday the first is set aside for recognizing and praying for young adult volunteers, while Sunday the 21st is set aside for commissioning young adult volunteers. And if you want to know more about each of those events, the page above the August calendar explains what they entail.

Also on August 21st, public education is a focus, and there is a toolkit which includes resources for congregations available. August 9th is College and

Young Adult Sunday (Are you sensing a theme for the month of August?). And August 14th is Youth in the Church and the World Sunday. What might your congregation do to hold up youth and young adults and their involvement in the Church? Have a youth Sunday? Have youth-led worship? Plan a youth picnic? Give youth information about opportunities for service within and beyond the congregation?

Old-school though it may be, I have always found the Presbyterian Planning Calendar to be an indispensable resource for planning and organizing the mission and ministry of the local church. I think every active elder should have one, as should anyone involved in planning. The good news

is that you can save a little money by ordering them through the presbytery office. The not-so-good news is that the deadline for group orders was July 30th.

But you can still order them directly from the PCUSA store or Cokesbury, both online. And just remember to get your group order in next July. In the meantime, don't forget to look at the monthly presbytery newsletter and the weekly e-news for information about what's happening in the presbytery. If you're not on our presbytery mailing list, just give us a call, 850-535-2335, or send an email to our office, office@presbyteryofflorida.com, and we will be glad to add you to the list.

Good information and communication are key to effective ministry, so please make use of these resources.

Roy

DISCIPLEFEST 2022 Saturday, September 17

Rooted and built up in him (Colossians 2:6-7)

www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/educational-resources/disciplefest/

**From the
Committee on
Representation
(CR)**



*By
Youngwoon Shim,
CR member and
Korean 1st,
Fort Walton Beach
Elder*

CR highlights bilingual, multigenerational congregation

Korean First Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach has been serving as a Korean American church since its founding service on the first Sunday in November 1995. Currently, Pastor Sun Ick Kim is serving as the third senior pastor. Although there were difficulties at the beginning of its foundation, with the grace of God and the help of the presbytery, our church has grown into a healthy community where about 100 members worship together.

However, as the youth leave the region to go to college, the number of members gradually decreases for various reasons, and finally in 2020, the coronavirus effect overlaps, making it difficult to gather and worship anymore. Pastor Jeong retired from the difficulties of only about 10 people attending the Sunday worship service.

As Pastor Sun Ick Kim was called as the new senior pastor in December 2020, the remaining members of the church prayed together, and the church began to grow healthy again by the grace of God, who changed the difficulties of the given circumstances into a new perspective. Currently, about fifty saints attend and worship together every Sunday.

Pastor Sun Ick Kim's pastoral direction is not only for the number of

members to grow, but for the church to grow healthy through the Word and prayer to become a missional church. The church motto for 2022 is "The Life Giving Church (John 1:4). Worship God with all of our heart, filled with the Holy Spirit through the Word and prayer, A Church that lives a witnessed life as a disciple of Jesus Christ." To achieve this kind of church, our church strives to gather even during the Coronavirus, and every morning prayer meeting, Wednesday worship service, Bible study on Thursday and Saturday, and all members of the church are participating in small group meetings.

In particular, we have time to pray together by inviting local pastors who serve Korean churches in the area to share the word and intercede for those churches in the Wednesday Praise Service this July and August. Currently, our church is divided into 6 small groups to meet together, share the circumstances of our lives and prayer topics, and pray together for the mission field. Every year on Lent, all members of the church participate in Bible copying to get closer to the Word,

copying the Old and New Testaments.

As for missionary work, our missionaries are currently supporting orphanages in Kenya and Thailand, and recently. We are participating in missions through a bazaar to raise funds for missionary support for Ukrainian refugees. Hopefully in the future, we are praying and preparing for all 6 small groups to support one mission field for each small group and to directly participate in missions together.

The characteristic of our church is that Korean-speaking and English-speaking members participate in the worship service together, so the Sunday worship service is bilingual. Praying is a church that is praying together for a healthy revival that goes beyond language and culture to become one with God's love in Christ. Now, we are praying and preparing to become a worshiping community where parents and children can come together across generations, transcending languages and cultures. Please pray together. Thank you. I pray that God's grace and peace be with you.

Save the date! Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, August 23rd • 9 a.m. CT/10 a. m. ET

Registration starts an hour before

Grace Presbyterian Church

1415 Airport Road, Panama City

Reknown speaker Catherine Meeks to address presbytery

At the August 23, 2022 meeting of the Presbytery of Florida, commissioners and guests will have the opportunity to hear from Dr. Catherine Meeks, Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta. The Center is dedicated to providing a “brave space” in which clergy, lay leaders, and community members can engage in dialogue that leads to real and lasting change. Dr. Meeks, who will be with us via Zoom, will speak to the presbytery on “Engaging Your Shadow: Racial Healing in This Present Moment.”

Catherine Meeks was born in Arkansas in 1948

to a sharecropper father and a teacher mother. Her family experienced the effects of dehumanization with the death of her brother, who died when he was turned away from a white hospital with a ruptured appendix.

A sought-after teacher and workshop leader, Dr. Meeks brings decades of experience to the work of defending the dignity of all people, while working to transform and dismantle racism. She holds a Master’s degree in



Dr. Catherine Meeks

**From the
Racial Justice
Subcommittee**



**By
Rev. Harvey Jenkins,
Subcommittee
member, HR**

Social Work from Clark Atlanta University and a PhD. from Emory University. The Bible and Jungian psychology have been among her teachers; however, she credits rheumatoid arthritis to be her greatest teacher because it has taught her “to listen to her body and pay attention to the messages from her heart.”

Dr. Meeks is the retired Clara Carter Acree Distinguished Professor of Socio-Cultural Studies at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. She is the author of six books and editor of the bestselling book, *Living into God’s Dream: Dismantling Racism in America*. She is a frequent commentator on Georgia Public Radio.

Following her 40-minute presentation, Dr. Meeks will entertain comments and questions from members of the presbytery.



**Stewardship
Kaleidoscope**
Real Tools for Real Ministry

StewardshipKaleidoscope.org

September 26-28, 2022

Savannah, GA or online

Over 30 workshops spanning theology, practical stewardship planning, creative ventures, and legacy programming.



A.J. Jacobs
Author
The Year of Living Biblically

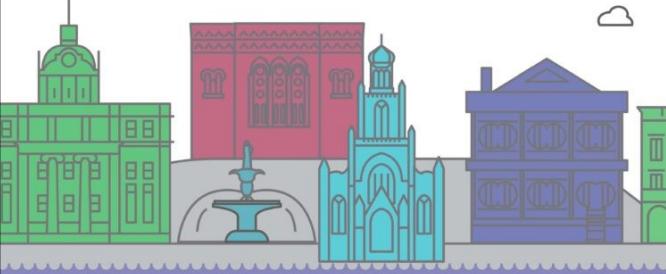


Rev. Dawn Hyde
Head Pastor
Downtown Church, Columbia, SC



Dr. Michael Bos
Pastor and Author
Marble Collegiate Church

Early-bird, group, and first-call discounts; scholarships available



From the Committee on Nominations (CN)



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

Presbytery Committee Corner: Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)

This month, we continue our series on presbytery committees by featuring the Committee on Mission and Outreach, of which Rev. Hugh Hamilton from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola is acting chair.

Membership on the CMO includes the chair, vice chair, and five members-at-large. This committee assists congregational and international mission work by providing information, resources, and contacts. The CMO oversees and coordinates presbytery-wide shared mission work, hunger relief, and disaster response, and a sub-team is working on anti-racism training.

“We promote a heart for mission in congregations and collectively in the presbytery. Mission work contributes to the vitality of presbytery, as a form of evangelism and in meeting the needs of others, bringing hope and purpose in the name of Christ,” says Rev. Hamilton.

At the October 2021 presbytery meeting, Rev. Hamilton led a workshop using the manual *Called to Mission: Finding Your Place in God’s Mission*, published by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to help congregations identify their mission style and resources available to

them. In the workshop, Rev. Hamilton pushed congregations to think about their style of mission with which they are comfortable: 1) Hands-on (for example, working in soup kitchens or shelters); 2) Empowerment (partnering with churches and agencies in the local community to promote quality-of-life change for people in need); and 3) Advocacy (advocating for structural changes in justice ministry).

As a follow-up to the fall workshop, the CMO is seeking liaisons in each church to develop better communications between the churches and with the presbytery about their mission and service projects and the resources available to them. Rev. Hamilton likes the quote, “If thou tootest not thy own horn, thy horn does not often get tooted.”

The CMO wants all the churches to share and celebrate their mission and service successes. By doing so, they can inspire other churches to get involved in mission work in forms that fit and bolster their congregation.

There are currently two vacancies from the West district on the CMO. They are looking for church members who have a passion for helping others to serve their communities – to help meet needs and bring hope – In the name of

Christ. The CMO is also looking for a bilingual (Spanish/English) speaker to help our Presbytery efforts to establish our partnership with the Presbyterian Women of Guatemala to educate and empower women and children in Guatemala, to improve their quality of life.

“Mission is vital to the health and vitality of the presbytery,” says Rev. Hamilton. “We don’t have the big budget, but we got the big hearts.”

If you are interested in serving on the Committee on Mission and Outreach, or on any other presbytery committee, please contact Glenn Hodges at ghodges37@comcast.net. 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.

Next month’s issue will highlight another committee. See you at the corner!

Disciplefest 2022 to be held at Dogwood Acres September 17

The Committee on Educational Resources cordially invites you to attend the Fall 2022 Disciplefest! This gathering will feature 10 workshops, worship and fellowship, all amid the beauty of God's creation at Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp, Vernon, Florida.

General information:
September 17, 2022, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CT/
10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET
Dogwood Acres Retreat Center & Summer Camp,
3320 Harmony Road,
Chipley, FL

Schedule:
9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET –
Registration/
Refreshments
9:30 a.m. CT/
10:30 a.m. ET –
Morning Worship

10:00 a.m. CT/
11:00 a.m. ET –
Workshop Session A
12 p.m. CT/1 p.m. ET –
Lunch
1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET –
Workshop Session B
2:30 p.m. CT/
3:30 p.m. ET –
Closing Celebration

This will be our first in-person Disciplefest in years, and we look forward to being together again. As we get back to being together, we will focus on what binds us together, our faith, rooted in Christ. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." – Colossians 2:6-7.

Find event details at www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/educational-resources/disciplefest/

Stay at Dogwood Acres Friday night! If you are planning to attend Disciplefest on Saturday, consider joining us Friday night for campfire songs and an overnight stay in one of the Dogwoods Acres' cabins. A single cabin has enough beds for five people and includes a private bathroom and shower. [Click here for cabin rates](#). Reserve your spot today! Contact Dogwood Acres Program Director Eric Hearn for rates and reservations (eric@dogwoodacres.org or 770-378-7289).

Contact the Event Coordinator, Chaplain Erin Rosica, for event info (RevdErin@outlook.com or 850-294-1886).

From the Committee on Educational Resources (CER)



*By Rev. Erin Rosica,
CER member*

Commissioned Ruling Elders needed to pastor churches

Our presbytery is in need of a number of Commissioned Ruling Elders, or CREs, to pastor several of our smaller churches. A CRE is a ruling elder who feels a call to go through a period of conversation and discernment with our Committee on Preparation for Ministry. This is followed by some online courses which are offered by Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and evaluation as to readiness

for ministry. Find more information about this process on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/preparation-for-ministry/

If you or someone you know is interested in prayerfully exploring this

opportunity, please call Dr. Raymond Guterman (850-765-3659) who chairs the Committee on Preparation, or contact Rev. Dr. Roy Martin, General Presbyter, (rmartin@presbyteryofflorida.com or 850-535-2335, ext. 1).

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)



*By Rev. Dr.
Raymond Guterman,
CPM Chair,
and 1st, Marianna
Interim Pastor*



**From
Dogwood Acres
Retreat Center
and Summer
Camp**



**By Eric Hearn,
Program Director**

Summer campers enjoy return to Dogwood after hiatus

Dogwood Acres has wrapped up its 2022 summer camp season on July 15th. After two weeks of training and two weeks of summer campers, Dogwood served nearly 70 campers and seven staff through the summer programming.

Campers enjoyed being back at Dogwood, participating in the first traditional summer camp after a few years of disruption. Despite lots of rain and heat, campers enjoyed all that Dogwood



had to offer, including swimming, archery, and lots of craft time. Two wonderful chaplains also joined us: Lucie Perkins,

of Flint River Presbytery, and Bill Lamont, Senior Pastor of Gulf Breeze Presbyterian, who led the campers in Bible study and chapel services.

Despite a smaller program than anticipated, we are excited about all that happened this summer, and we look forward to what is to come. If you want a glimpse into what this summer looked like for our campers, feel free to visit our Facebook page to see the recap videos for both weeks. You can also look forward to hearing more about some exciting offerings coming the rest of this year and new information about summer camp next year coming soon!

If you would like more information about Dogwood Acres and what your congregation can do to get involved, email Program Director Eric Hearn at eric@dogwoodacres.org.



Save the Date!

Evangelism:

Addressing Harm, Embracing Hope

October 30 - November 1

\$70 Registration

This event will be held online and in-person at Montreat Conference Center in partnership with Theology, Formation & Evangelism in the Presbyterian Mission Agency

montreat.org/evangelism

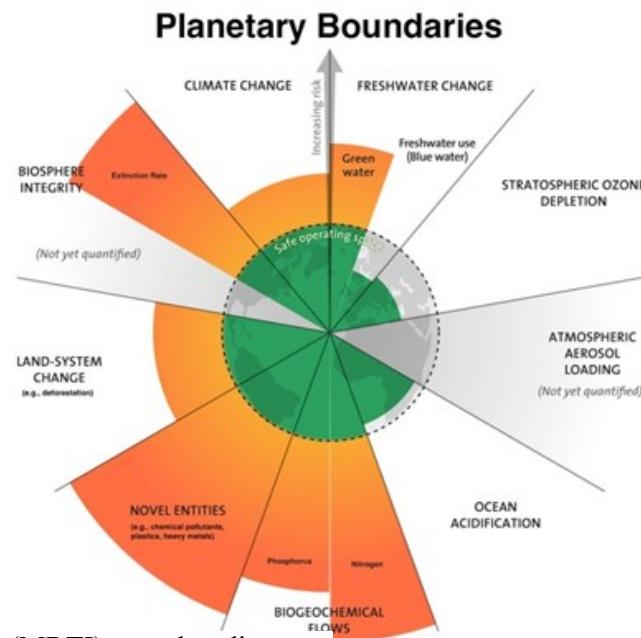
The road the church is on is not safe

There are some really smart scientists warning us that there are limits to how much damage we can do to the planet. The Stockholm Resilience Institute published a warning in 2015 about nine planetary boundaries that we should NOT cross. Studies in [2015](#) and [2022](#) indicate that we have passed six of the nine boundaries, including the climate change boundary.

Jeff Masters in a [recent article](#) in *Yale Climate Connections* uses an analogy of driving a car really fast, when the warning light comes on and the driver has the option to exit and seek assistance, but continues to drive by the exit. This is us. This is the church failing to stop funding the fossil fuel industry and acting like it understands that the warning light is on, but it is OK to continue to drive because “it” understands there is a problem and “it” will decide when to exit.

The church does not know better than the experts, because, when it comes to climate change, we already passed the safe exit. **We are part of the system that is driving an overheated planet into increasingly dangerous territory.**

Last month, the General Assembly, following the advice of the Board of Pensions (BOP) and the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investments



(MRTI), voted to divest from five fossil fuel companies. This is good, but it failed to support three overtures calling for categorical divestment and once again endorsed more company-by-company review to decide on divestment from the fossil fuel industry. This means that the church continues to have investments in the fossil fuel industry when it could have/ should have exited in 2014 when thousands of Presbyterians first asked the church to stop funding the fossil fuel industry.

We now may drive faster towards a self-selected exit, but per Masters, there is a huge billowing cumulonimbus cloud overhead with white lightning forking out of it. The road we stubbornly insist on has taken us into the storm. Torrential rains hammer down with hailstones, and the road is flooding.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
Enabler
([pammcvety
@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com))

The church does not know better than the experts, because, when it comes to climate change, we already passed the safe exit.

MRTI says that this is the only road because of a 1984 policy, entitled The Divestment Strategy: Principles and Criteria that requires a review process. The BOP says that its 2019 policy prohibits it from categorically divesting even if the General assembly asks it to and has linked it to the 1984 company-by-company review process.

The church should pay attention to what scientists are saying, rethink all the “self-imposed” process roadblocks and get the heck off the road at the next exit. Given that we are a church, an apology is in order to all our suffering brothers and sisters for insisting that staying on our selected road is the only way forward. For this Presbyterian, it clearly is not. We should have exited in 2014.

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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

In August

<i>Thursday, August 4</i>	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
<i>Friday, August 5</i>	Disciplefest registration opens
<i>Wednesday, August 10</i>	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
<i>Saturday, August 13</i>	Committee on Representation (CR)
<i>Monday, August 15</i>	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
<i>Saturday, August 20</i>	September Panhandle Presbyterian submissions deadline
<i>Tuesday, August 23</i>	Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting, Grace, Panama City <i>Registration starts one hour before</i>
<i>Tuesday, August 23</i>	Primary Elections
<i>Tuesday, August 30</i>	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)
<i>Wednesday, August 31</i>	CMO Racial Justice Subcommittee

Looking ahead

<i>Thursday, September 1</i>	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
<i>Monday, September 5</i>	Labor Day – Presbytery office closed
<i>Friday, September 9</i>	Disciplefest registration deadline
<i>Saturday, September 10</i>	Committee on Representation (CR)
<i>Tuesday, September 13</i>	Committee on Ministry
<i>Wednesday, September 14</i>	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
<i>Saturday, September 17</i>	Disciplefest, Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp
<i>Monday, September 19</i>	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
<i>Tuesday, September 20</i>	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
<i>Tuesday, September 20</i>	October Panhandle Presbyterian submissions deadline
<i>Monday – Wednesday, September 26 – 28</i>	<u>Stewardship Kaleidoscope</u> , Savannah, GA/online
<i>Tuesday, September 27</i>	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)
<i>Wednesday, September 28</i>	CMO Racial Justice Subcommittee
<i>Thursday, September 29</i>	Coordinating and Planning Commission

weeKirk

CONFERENCE

<https://montreat.org/events/wee-kirk-22>

"Bearing Much Fruit"

October 17–19, 2022

The Wee Kirk conference aspires to provide Christ-centered opportunities for inspiration, encouragement, and community among leaders of small membership churches so they can do the same in their congregations and regions.