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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 5, Issue 11

November 2022

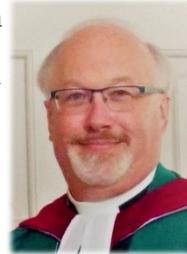
## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

This is the time of year when many of our congregations are entering their annual stewardship ministry. Some have already started; some are about to begin; others begin after the new year. Church treasurers, finance and/or stewardship committees, sessions, and pastors prayerfully consider the ministries to which God is calling the church and the budgetary needs to fulfill that calling.

Stewardship is, after all, a time for all of us to reflect seriously upon the gifts God has given us to be used to the glory of God. It is nothing less than a spiritual discipline.

Just as your church goes through a stewardship season, so does your presbytery. Presbytery committees made up of clergy, ruling elders, and members of our congregations (probably your congregation!) started work on the presbytery stewardship season over the summer. Your church session should now be in

possession of the presbytery budget for 2023 and what each church's fair share should be based on membership figures.



*The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin*

Ninety percent of the presbytery budget is supported by each congregation in the presbytery. Without that financial support, the presbytery would not be able to provide for programs and staff that benefit our member congregations and conduct ministry on behalf of all our congregations.

I am grateful that, for the past two years, every congregation in our presbytery has supported the presbytery budget. Several congregations which had not contributed anything or very little in the past have started giving again and work each year to get closer and closer to their fair share as determined by the size of their congregation. Some

even give more than their fair share. As a result, your presbytery has been able to increase its outreach to our member churches through greater support in searching for pastors, helping congregations revitalize for the future, increase our giving to Dogwood Acres Camp and Conference Center, start work on a mission partnership in Guatemala, and even begin planning a new worshipping community!

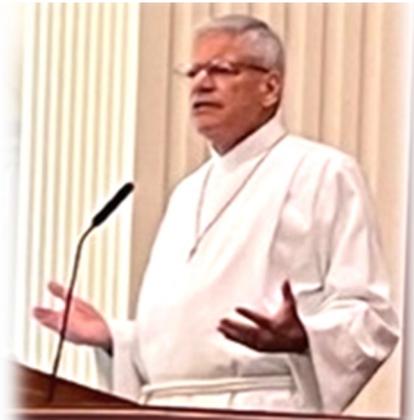
I want to encourage you to give generously to your church's mission and ministry, which includes your presbytery. Please let your leaders know how important you think it is to connect financially through the presbytery with your sibling churches to be about God's work in our part of God's Church.

Roy

## 1st Presbyterian of Quincy's hospitality highlights Fall Stated Meeting



Approximately 65 ruling elder commissioners, minister members, commissioned ruling elders, Christian educators, visitors, and Presbytery staff and officers attended the Oct. 25 presbytery meeting. At left, from left, volunteers Julie Barody and Wendy O'Brien greet and register participants, At right, Rev. Brant Copeland preaches a sermon based on Ephesians 1:11–23 during the morning's worship.



Above, at left, Faith Presbyterian Church (Tallahassee) Associate Pastor for Youth and College Students Rev. Erin Rugh presides over communion. Above, from left, Rev. Brant Copeland, General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Roy Martin, 1st Presbyterian of Pensacola Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten and Faith Presbyterian Associate Pastor Rev. Trinity Whitley sing (*Photos courtesy of Jeannie Dixon*). At left, attendees enjoy an delicious lunch of roast beef and assorted side dishes.



Together  
we give.



November 29, 2022



Above, at left, standing, Committee on Representation (CR) Chair Glenn Hodges introduces the morning education segment co-sponsored by his committee and the Committee on Nominations (CN); seated, from left, 1st Presbyterian of Quincy Pastor Rev. Chris Erde and CN Chair Leslie Yandle look on. Attendees then gather in breakout groups, shown above, at right and below, to share strategies for increasing volunteer participation at both the presbytery and congregational level, identifying potential leaders and matching volunteers' interests and skills with needs. Among the resources the committees have provided, in addition to information about the presbytery's committees, is an "Identifying My Assets" worksheet, available on the Presbytery's website (<http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/app/download/7127029144/>)

## WHEN DID WE SEE YOU?

### Event Support Grants

\$1000 grants to support YOUTH events that are planned around the PYT theme of "When Did We See You?"

#### DEADLINE TO APPLY

NOVEMBER 11, 2022



<https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>



## Chipley Scottish Festival & Highland Games November 19, 2022

<https://chipleyhighlandgames.com/>

## Reception celebrates Ben Powell's Dogwood Acres ministry and service

Following Ben Powell's recent retirement as Dogwood Acres Summer Camp and Conference Center's Director, First Presbyterian of Quincy and the Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA) held a reception in his honor on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2022. At right, CDWA Bill Lamont welcomes the attendees, shown below.

At right, below, CDWA Vice Chair Ken Densmore presents Ben with an inscribed cleaver. "The cleaver signifies many traits that Ben possesses," he explains, citing Ben's culinary skills and willingness to cook at DWA on short notice. He continues, "...the cleaver is used by butchers to cut to the bone. In Ben's case, it reminds us of his ability to cut through the red tape."

"A cleaver 'cuts a pass through the wilderness'", he adds. "The wilderness we have experienced in the last few years has been the devastation left by Hurricane

Michael and the loneliness created by the Covid pandemic. ... It was Ben who led the way through this wilderness... to the prospect of a new beginning." He concludes, "Finally, the term 'cleave' is defined as 'to remain faithful' ... Ben epitomizes one who has cleaved to his God, his immediate family, his church family, his principles and DWA. He is definitely a cleaver."

At right, CDWA member Rev. Brant Copeland shares a resolution approved by the presbytery Aug. 23, in which "the Presbytery of Florida declares its gratitude to the Triune God for the life and ministry of God's servant Benjamin Wayne Powell." Below, at left, 1st Presbyterian of Quincy Pastor Chris Erde, noting "every retiree should have a cane," presents Ben with a wooden walking stick embellished with his initials and a Dogwood blossom.

Below, at center, daughter Sarah speaks about the impacts of her father's ministry and their many talks during her morning's commute. She shares one of their favorite passages from *The Book of Pi*. Below, at right, Sarah's speech prompts a warm hug from Ben as her mother, Kathy, looks on.



## Lauren Scott ordained and installed to serve as Minister



On Saturday, October 1, Trinity Presbyterian Church (Pensacola) held a service of ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament for Lauren Scott, shown at left. Lauren had been a candidate for ministry under Presbytery of Florida's care and has served in various capacities within the Presbytery. *(Photo courtesy of Trinity Presbyterian Church)*

A service of installation for Lauren was held October 23 at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, FL, where Lauren now serves as Associate Pastor for Youth and Families. Pictured with her at left are installation commission members and other service participants. *(Photo courtesy of the Presbytery of St. Augustine)*

### From the Committee on Ministry (COM)

## Hurricane Ian recovery continues: How to help

**W**e have all seen the devastation caused by

Hurricane Ian. To assist our fellow Floridians in the extensive recovery effort, donating funds is the most effective method. Here are some avenues for sharing financial resources:

► Give to your local church with funds designated as Hurricane Ian. Your church leaders will forward the funds to Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) or Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

► Send funds directly to FLAPDAN at:

Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc.  
3146 NW 13th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
Earmark your donation with Hurricane Ian  
To give with a credit card you can click the page's "Give Now" link at [FLAPDAN's website](#).

► Send funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), marking your check with DR000169 for U. S. Hurricane Response at: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700  
► Call PDA with a credit

card donation at 800-872-3283. Or give with your credit card through the PDA [US Hurricane Response web page](#)

► If you have or want to put together a mission team to go to the affected areas to help with recovery efforts, information found at [FLAPDAN Volunteer](#) will get you started.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact me via email at [tcrawford@cox.net](mailto:tcrawford@cox.net) or call (850) 217-2597 or contact FLAPDAN directly at [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org) or (941) 483-0675.

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



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

## From the Committee on Nominations (CN)



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

## Presbytery Committee Corner: Committee on Preparation for Ministry(CPM)

**T**his month, we continue our series on presbytery committees by featuring the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, which is chaired by Rev. Dr. Raymond Guterman, Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Marianna. This committee oversees the care and examination of commissioned ruling elders (CREs), inquirers, and candidates for ministry, informs sessions of the process for CREs, inquiry and candidacy, and conducts examinations of candidates seeking calls within the bounds of this presbytery.

### **What are your committee's priorities for the rest of the year?**

Our priorities for the rest of the year are to continue to work with our two inquirers and to promote the Commissioned Ruling Elder opportunities we have developed and emailed out to all pastors and clerks of session.

### **What are the top two accomplishments of your committee?**

Our top accomplishment this year has been to get the Commissioned Ruling Elder path put on

Powerpoint and get it out to pastors and clerks.

### **What qualities are you looking for in potential volunteers interested in serving on your committee?**

The primary focus of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry is to meet with members of our churches who may be considering exploring becoming a teaching elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament) or a commissioned ruling elder. The ideal member of our committee is interested in walking alongside women and men exploring those callings, including perhaps serving as a liaison with one of them.

### **What additional information would you like to share about the Committee on Preparation for Ministry?**

Our committee also elects members of our presbytery to read (grade) ordination exams taken by candidates who desire for their presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to declare them ready to circulate their Personal Information Form (PIF) and receive

a call if one be forthcoming. The areas of the exams are polity (church government), theology, Biblical exegesis and worship and the sacraments. For 2023, our graders will be our Stated Clerk, Jeannie Dixon, and honorably retired pastor, Brant Copeland.

We're always pleased to discuss what our committee does. We have a pre-inquirer, and are hoping to hear from some ruling elders who would like to explore the Commissioned Ruling Elder path. Please contact Raymond Guterman, Chair, at 850-765-3659 or [dwguterman@gmail.com](mailto:dwguterman@gmail.com) for more information.

Two members of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry will be rotating off at the end of this year. The committee is looking for the following candidate representation to replace the two members rotating off: a male candidate and a female candidate from the central district or either from the west or east districts. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Glenn Hodges at [ghodges37@comcast.net](mailto:ghodges37@comcast.net). See you at the corner next month!

## CPM offers resources for commissioning of ruling elders

**D**uring the past year, our committee has been working on a path for ruling elders in our presbytery, who feel so called, to become commissioned ruling elders and thus able to serve some of our churches who need their leadership. General Presbyter Roy Martin tells us that we presently have four such churches and may have more in the future. Thanks to Trinity Whitley, our former chair, who did a bulk of this work.

Committee Vice Chair Sheldon Steen took everything that we'd discussed and prepared a very helpful Powerpoint presentation, which explains what a CRE is, along with the process of exploring and fulfilling this call. This is

available, along with other information about the CRE commissioning process, on the CPM page of the Presbytery's website (<http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/preparation-for-ministry/>). We ask that you review this information, share it with your Session, and pray about members in your church who you feel may be open to this type of ministry. Then, perhaps you may mention this to them and ask them if they're open to prayerfully considering it and looking over the path. I'd welcome a potential CRE to call me with any questions they may have, and I know Roy would also.

Another of our committee members, Greg Seltzer, is the CRE

at Northminster church in Pensacola. Through Greg's leadership, we hear that the church is now beginning to think about when they may be at a point to consider calling a pastor. We believe we have other churches that may be able to reach this point, and other churches which may not get to that point, yet still need leadership.

If you have any questions about CREs, please contact me by phone at 850-765-3659 or email at [dwguterman@gmail.com](mailto:dwguterman@gmail.com). Also, if you know of women or men in your congregation who may be exploring a call to become a teaching elder, our committee would be pleased to meet with them in a pre-inquirer conversation.

## From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)



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

 CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP. PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



"The money you give goes directly to students and keeps them in college. Like me, many students often feel like they are hanging by a thread. Your donation fills in the threads and makes a rope — a lifeline of financial assistance."

Kyle Thompson,  
Graduate, Stillman College,  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Student,  
University of Alabama,  
Master of Library and  
Information Science degree

COMING SOON TO

# Dogwood Acres

SPRING RETREAT OFFERINGS

**JANUARY 13-15:**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CONFIRMATION RETREAT

**JANUARY 20-22:**  
WOMENS YOGA AND  
MINDFULNESS RETREAT

**FEBRUARY 3-5:**  
DOGWOOD YOUTH  
CONFERENCE

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND  
BY CONTACTING  
[CHRISTY@DOGWOODACRES.ORG](mailto:CHRISTY@DOGWOODACRES.ORG)  
OR  
[ERIC@DOGWOODACRES.ORG](mailto:ERIC@DOGWOODACRES.ORG)

REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE  
ONLINE IN MID-NOVEMBER FOR ALL  
LISTED RETREATS

## Jesus would love electric vehicles

In the near future, many of us will own an electric vehicle (EV). The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act makes it more feasible for many, and, over time, the costs of these vehicles will go down. The beauty of all this is that the air will get cleaner, and it will result in a major cut in greenhouse gas emissions.

The country is in a transition that will end the use of gas-powered cars. At this point, it looks like EVs are the direction we are headed, but who knows what other technology may replace gas-powered cars.

The transition to EVs won't happen quickly, but California caught the country's attention recently by passing a law that bans the sale of new gas-fueled cars by 2035. Interestingly, the [auto industry is ahead of California](#). It began with Tesla in 2018, showing that you could mass-produce EVs that were more affordable, and customers would buy them. This was a wake-up call for other car manufacturers, who had been treating EVs like they were a niche market. General Motors announced in 2020 that it will stop producing internal combustion

vehicles by 2035.

Ford, General Motors and Toyota are building new EV manufacturing facilities in multiple states.

This is all exciting, but there are hurdles. The number of new cars needed annually just in California is around 2 million. Lots more rapid recharge stations will be needed all over the country, but government and private companies are working on this. The costs are still high, but the Inflation Reduction Act will help and, as more vehicles are produced, the costs will come down. The costs are high, in part, because of the metals needed to produce the batteries – lithium, cobalt and nickel. There are also environmental issues associated with mining these minerals that must be addressed.

This transition reflects a dramatic shift in addressing the climate crisis. Automobiles are responsible for more than a fourth of all carbon emissions. According to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions.

Also, the impact of vehicle emissions on the

health of the “least of these” is huge. In 2019, the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) reported that, “People of color in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic are disproportionately exposed to particulate matter (PM) emitted by cars, trucks and buses.

As a result, minorities suffer the most from respiratory and heart problems that are associated with PM. Chronic exposure to particulate matter pollution has been linked to heart attacks, asthma, strokes, and even diabetes. So the transition to electric vehicles will lead to cleaner air, fewer health problems, and lower costs for minorities and will help address the climate crisis.

For those of you who already own an EV or are thinking about purchasing one, you might be interested to know that there is an [EV club in Tallahassee](#).

I think Jesus would be all in for electric vehicles. In Proverbs 19:17 we read, “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety,**  
*Presbytery  
Stewardship  
of Creation  
Enabler*  
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*“ the transition to electric vehicles will lead to cleaner air, fewer health problems, and lower costs for minorities and will help address the climate crisis.”*

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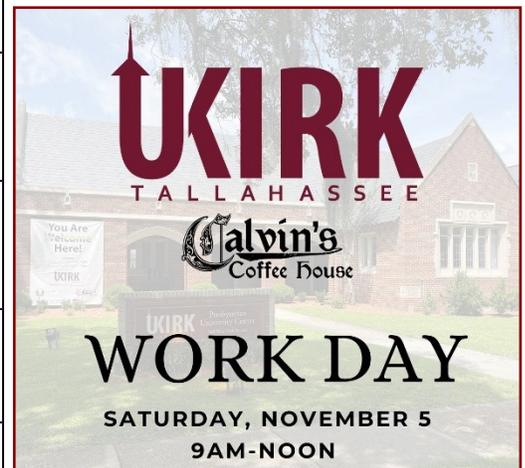
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Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

In November	Looking ahead
Tuesday, November 1 4 p.m. CDT/ 5 p.m. EDT	Committee on Nominations (CN)
Sunday, November 6	Daylight Saving Time ends
Sunday, November 6 11 a.m. EST	1st Presbyterian of Havana Homecoming
Sunday, November 6 6 p.m. EST	Ukrainian musician Rusian Ramazaanov in concert, 1st Presbyterian of Quincy
Tuesday, November 8 9:30 a.m. CST/ 10:30 a.m. EST	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Thursday, November 10 1 p.m. CST/ 2 p.m. EST	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Friday, November 11	Veterans Day
Monday, November 14 10 a.m.. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
Monday, November 14 3 p.m.. CST/ 4 p.m. EST	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Tuesday, November 15 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Saturday, November 19 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST	Scottish Festival and Highland Games, 1st Presbyterian, Chipley
Sunday, November 20	December Panhandle Presbyterian submissions deadline
Thursday, November 24 – Friday, November 25	Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving
Tuesday, November 29	Giving Tuesday
Wednesday, November 30 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	CMO Racial Justice Subcommittee
Friday, December 2	Annual church statistical reporting opens
Saturday, December 10 5:30 – 8 p.m. CST	Laurel Hill Presbyterian Living Nativity
Thursday, December 18 – Sunday, December 18	A Christmas Carol at Faith Presbyterian, Tallahassee
Monday, December 19 3 p.m.. CST/ 4 p.m. EST	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Tuesday, December 20 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Tuesday, December 20	January Panhandle Presbyterian submissions deadline
Friday, December 23 – Monday, December 26	Presbytery office closed for Christmas



**UKIRK WORK DAY NEEDS:**

**Outside Jobs:**

- Trim back branches & bushes
- Pressure wash sidewalks, etc
- Fix broken picnic tables
- Remove debris & tree stump
- Clean up the beds some

**Inside Jobs:**

- Organize & Tidy
  - laundry room
    - remove coin washer & dryer
  - Calvin's tool storage room
  - library