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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

One of the things I have been most grateful for these past two years is the work of the Anti-Racism Sub-group of the Committee on Mission and Outreach. They have focused like a laser beam upon the continuing divide among races, through newsletter articles, presbytery meeting presentations, and workshops. And at every opportunity, they have offered realistic keys to addressing racism in our own backyards.

In addition to creating this Sub-group, one of the ways your presbytery has sought to tackle this evil is to maintain an active Committee on Representation required by our Book of Order to monitor and assist our Committee on

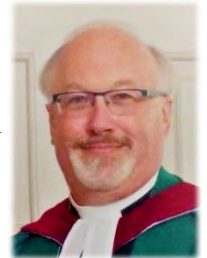
Nominations and our Personnel Sub-group of the Committee on Presbytery Administration in increasing the presence of people of various ethnicities and races engaged in the work of presbytery. The Committee on Representation itself consists of several races, African American, Korean, Caucasian, and Hispanic. They have been hard at work these last few years to enlarge representation from various backgrounds to broaden our perspective on what it means to be the people of God.

What is your congregation doing to broaden your church's engagement with God's people who don't look like you? Sunday morning is still considered to be a

major contributor to segregation in this country. How are you, as a Christian, tackling this scourge? And if you are not tackling it, my prayer is that you ask yourself, why? What is stopping you?

To share what you personally or your church is doing to fight the racism that exists all around you, send me an email at rmartin@presbyteryofflorida.com and I will share it with the Anti-racism Sub-group and, with your permission, share it in this newsletter.

Racism cannot end until each of us engages the issue head on in our own lives and in the life of our community. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

Roy

Save the date!

**Spring Presbytery Meeting
Saturday, May 20
Dogwood Acres Camp
and Retreat Center**

1st, Marianna welcomes meeting guests with warm atmosphere and great food



Volunteers at First Presbyterian Church of Marianna greet approximately 70 commissioners, ministers, Christian educators, presbytery staff and visitors attending the Winter Presbytery Meeting Tuesday, February 28, shown at left.

The meeting began with worship with music led by 1st, Marianna Choir Director Rev. Kenneth Kelley and the chancel choir, a liturgy led by Rev. Dr. Ted Land, and a sermon by 1st, Marianna, Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Raymond Guterman, entitled “The Unthawing of the Frozen Chosen”, shown below, at left.



At right, Presbytery Parliamentarian Rev. Dr. Brant Copeland presents on the Bills and Overtures Committee's behalf proposed Book of Order amendments for the presbytery's vote.

Below, at right, offering prayer for 1st, Tallahassee Elder Glenn Hodges, second from right, upon approval of his candidacy for ministry, from left, are 1st, Tallahassee Interim Pastor Rev. Anne Apple; 1st, Tallahassee Elder Rod Westall; Glenn's wife, Mary; 1st, Marianna Interim Pastor and Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry Chair Rev. Dr. Guterman, and Glenn's longtime friend, mentor and pastor, Rev. Dr. Copeland. *(Photo courtesy of Rev. Erin Rosica)*



Taskforce to oversee Presbytery's five-year assessment

At its January 26 meeting the Coordinating and Planning Commission elected a Strategic Planning Taskforce. The purpose of this taskforce is to determine who we are and what we are to be about as a Presbytery.

This assessment comes at the five-year mark of calling Rev. Roy Martin as our General Presbyter, and is an excellent time to measure how ministry has been going: what needs to continue, what needs to be tweaked, and what (if anything) needs to come to an end.

All aspects of Presbytery life, work, staffing, etc. will be looked at. The intent is to work toward an even more unified and energized Presbytery.

The Strategic Planning



Taskforce will be working with Holy Cow Consulting! and using its Landscape assessment tool designed for judicatories like presbyteries. While Holy Cow! Consulting has standard questions for this assessment, there is plenty of room for the taskforce to include questions specific to our Presbytery.

A broad sampling of persons from across the Presbytery will be asked to respond to the Landscape assessment tool. There will be more information about this in the very near future.

Members of the taskforce are: Rev. Mark Broadhead (First-

Crestview and Laurel Hill) – chair, Elder Susan Coleman (Trinity-Pensacola), Rev. Hugh Hamilton (Trinity-Pensacola), Elder Mary Hodges (First-Tallahassee), Elder Don Mowat (First-Lynn Haven), Rev. Eric Spoon (Grace-Panama City), Elder Karen Weaver (First-Monticello).

The Strategic Planning Taskforce is excited about this process and looks forward to your participation and input. We also covet your prayers as God unfolds the future God in store for the Presbytery.

From the Strategic Planning Taskforce



By Rev. Mark Broadhead, Chair, and 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill Pastor

Presbytery Meeting, continued from page 2

Below, from left, outgoing Presbytery Moderator Rev. Trinity Whitley leads the installation of 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill Pastor Rev. Mark Broadhead as Presbytery Vice Moderator and 1st, Lynn Haven Elder Don Mowat as Presbytery Moderator. Don then presents Rev. Whitley with a silver Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) cross pendant in recognition and appreciation of her service.





DOGWOOD ACRES

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



COME CAMP WITH US

SUMMER 2023 DATES

HIGH SCHOOL WEEK – JUNE 25TH – 30TH

BUDDY CAMP – JULY 5TH – 8TH

INTRO CAMP – JULY 9TH – 12TH

DISCOVERY CAMP (3RD – 5TH)

ADVENTURE CAMP (6TH – 8TH)

JULY 9TH – 14TH, JULY 16TH – 21ST,

JULY 23RD – 28TH

GET REGISTERED!

VISIT—[DOGWOODACRE.ORG/SUMMER](https://dogwoodacre.org/summer)
OR SCAN BELOW



From the Committee on Nominations (CN)



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

Presbytery Committee Corner: Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)

This month, we interviewed Rev. Trinity Whitley, outgoing Presbytery Moderator and incoming Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC) chair.

What is the CPC's purpose?

The CPC provides for strategic planning, coordinates the work of the presbytery, and serves as a commission of presbytery to address matters needing immediate attention between presbytery meetings. Since the CPC's membership includes the past Presbytery moderator (chair), current moderator, vice-moderator, and all presbytery committee chairs, the CPC are knowledgeable about what is going on within the presbytery and can make decisions on the presbytery's behalf between meetings.

Although the CPC can vote on important issues between presbytery meetings, it tries to send all important issues to the presbytery to vote on. The presbytery can overrule any decision that the CPC makes between presbytery meetings.

The CPC also oversees the planning and docket of presbytery meetings and nominates to presbytery Committee on Representation and Committee on Nominations

members and their respective chairs and vice-chairs.

What is the new initiative that the CPC is undertaking this year?

One of the CPC's purposes is to guide the presbytery. To that end, the CPC voted to enter in the Holy Cow! process as a presbytery. Holy Cow! is a successful evidence-based discernment process for congregations. The CPC also voted on who will serve on the task force that will guide the process for the presbytery. The task force consists of a group of folks (laypersons, clergy, and elders) across the presbytery who are knowledgeable about the presbytery's work.

The task force will use a process to discern who we are, where we've been, and where we want to go as a presbytery. The task force will survey people across the presbytery (from all congregations and districts) who are involved in the presbytery's work.

What triggered the CPC to implement the Holy Cow! process within the Presbytery?

The presbytery staff has expressed their concern to us about the need for some presbytery-wide planning and direction given the budget shortfall for the two years. The presbytery has

used reserves to balance the budget, and this approach to balancing the budget is not sustainable.

The CPC recognizes that our ministry priorities have changed and that the current budget is based on past priorities. The conversations generated through the Holy Cow! process will give us guidance and wisdom as to what our current ministry priorities are and how to raise money to fund those priorities.

What is the timeframe for completing the Holy Cow! process?

The CPC has asked the task force to present its findings and recommendations to the presbytery at its October meeting.

What is your goal as incoming moderator of the CPC?

Serving as presbytery moderator is a three-year process: You serve first as vice-moderator, then as moderator, and finally as past moderator. My final gift to the presbytery in this position is to actively listen for ways in which the Spirit is calling our committees to connect with one another, to help each other, and to work together.



TTT TEAM MEMBER TRAINING MARCH 17 & 18 * 8:30AM-5:00PM

Teach To Transform equips partners around the world with medical and vocational skills they can use to share the gospel of Christ. This 2-day interactive training shares our vision, curriculum and teaching techniques.

Participants will learn how we train national evangelists & missionaries to:

- teach health & hygiene
- take vital signs
- treat wounds and burns
- resuscitate newborns who have stopped breathing
- identify warning signs in a newborn



To Register

There are roles for medical and non-medical people and educational levels. Register at www.teachtotransform.org/event-signup.



TTT Impact

To God be the glory!

Through 2022, our partners have reported almost 1,000,000 people have heard the gospel through the impact of Teach To Transform:

- 1,002,206 people screened medically
- 41,645 wounds & burns treated
- 5,942 babies resuscitated upon delivery of 26,284 births.
- 120,913 trained in health, hygiene and disease prevention
- 8,125 new villages entered
- 938,124 heard the gospel
- 810 new house churches

Rachel Loy
(502) 276-6087
Rachel.Loy@teachtotransform.org

Training Location
Trinity Presbyterian Church
3400 Bayou Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32503

The cost is \$25, and includes a workbook, lunches, and refreshments for both days.

CCD assists both struggling and thriving congregations

Did you know that the Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD), formerly called the Committee on Congregational Revitalization, doesn't work only with congregations that are struggling to find out who they are, if they are viable, what they can do to grow and provide more ministry? CCD is also available to assist thriving congregations who are desiring to explore strategic plans to even better meet the needs of

their members as well as to meet the changing needs of the community surrounding the church.

We have resources that will help you discern who you are as a congregation, what your current strengths are, and what your members are seeking. We also have tools to provide an accurate reflection of who your neighbors are, what they are struggling with in life, what their spiritual needs are.

With these kinds of data in hand, you will be able to discern what would most

likely be best courses of action for your ministry and witness within your congregation and out to the community.

Bear in mind that CCD does not have a magic wand to wave to tell you exactly what needs to be done. However, discernment for exploration, and persons to help guide discussions is a great deal of what CCD provides. We are ready, willing, and able to help you discern your next steps in ministry.

From the Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)



By Rev. Mark Broadhead, Chair, and 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill Pastor

*All women are invited to join us for
Worship. Conversation. and Fellowship!*

New Beginnings

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NRSV)

The **SPRING GATHERING**
of **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**
March 17 & 18, 2023

Friday, March 17

Florida Presbytery PW
Coordinating Team Meeting
3 PM CT, *Church Parlor Office*
Dinner, 5 PM CT, *Fellowship Hall*

Saturday, March 18

Annual Gathering
of Presbyterian Women
9 AM – 2:30 PM CT
Catered Lunch: \$18
(check payable to FPCLH PW)

KEYNOTE PREACHER

Rev. Lisa Martin
Pastor, 1st Church, Lynn Haven

WORSHIP LEADERS

1st Church Chancel Choir
Brad Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
Rev. Lisa Martin



Register online:
[www.firstchurchlh.org/
events-1/pw-2023](http://www.firstchurchlh.org/events-1/pw-2023)



From Dogwood Acres (DWA)



*By Eric Hearn,
Program Director,
and
Christy Williams,
Interim Director*



UKirk ministry leads presbytery youth in faith-firing event

Dogwood Acres Youth Conference was held the weekend of February 3–5. Sixty-five participants enjoyed exploring Matthew 25 with the theme, “When Did I See You?” Worship and small groups were led by the UKirk Tallahassee Campus Ministry and Rev. Dr. Matt Frease, the campus minister.

Before the weekend was over, middle and high school youth from the Presbytery worshipped, studied scripture, played, rested, hiked, and worked to create 75 hygiene kits for



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). A highlight of the weekend was Saturday’s worship service, which ended with a candlelit time of prayer and song using the Dogwood Labyrinth. Dogwood staff are grateful to the UKirk Tallahassee ministry and to all the chaperones from churches!



ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Investing is a good thing

Somalia's devastating drought is ground zero in the global climate emergency. The UN says that **every single minute, another malnourished child is being admitted to a hospital.** These children haven't eaten properly for weeks. They need urgent treatment –but in Somalia, hospitals are overwhelmed, and **7 million people are in immediate danger of starving to death.**

The roster of climate-related suffering is long, painful and widespread, and is happening now. It isn't a future event. It is here and causing misery and deaths for our brothers and sisters, near and far. It isn't waiting for our government to debate the issue, for every denialist to face reality or for the Presbyterian church to get rid of its fossil fuel holdings.

And, the sad fact is that, after years of educating the public about the dangers of our warming world, a new [United Nations report](#) found that the Earth is on track to blow past a safe temperature threshold, and the suffering will increase.

My message to you is that you need to be informed and understand that those benefiting from

the use of fossil fuels are hard at work and have been for decades in fighting regulations and programs that reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. The most recent example is opposition to ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investing.

ESG investing involves using a set of criteria that address environmental, social and governance issues to screen potential investments. They are voluntary and aspirational.

Environmental criteria consider how a company safeguards the environment, including addressing climate change. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates. Governance deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits, internal controls and shareholder rights.

Opposition to ESG investing is the latest example of a well-coordinated opposition by the fossil fuel industry to interfere with the shift to renewable energy.

The fact is that ESG popularity is booming

and is now attracting more investment than any other area in the world. Our Presbyterian [Committee on Mission Responsibility through Investments](#) supports and promotes investments based on our faith teachings which are consistent with ESG principles.

I encourage you to learn more about ESG investing and the orchestrated campaign to stop it in Florida. Here are a couple resources on ESG basics and a third one on the opposition:

- [What Is Environmental, Social, and Governance \(ESG\) Investing?](#)
- [Investable World The ESG Investing Backlash](#)

Progress is being made in shifting the world to renewable energy, but each new opposition campaign delays the shift, means more people suffer, and threatens our collective welfare and God's creation. Learn all you can about this and think about how Jesus would respond. Just like I thought Jesus would drive an EV, I think he would also like ESG investing.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
*Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
Enabler*
(pammcvety@hotmail.com)

“The roster of climate-related suffering is long, painful and widespread, and is happening now.”

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Committee on Representation (CR)
Elder Glenn Hodges
ghodges37@comcast.net

**Coordinating and Planning
Commission (CPC)**
Rev. Trinity Whitley
trinity@faithpcusa.org

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

In March		Looking ahead	
Thursday, March 2 9 a.m. CST/ 10 a.m. EST	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	Thursday, April 6 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Friday, March 3 5 – 7 p.m. CST	Trinity Presbyterian, Pensacola, Rummage Sale	Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday
Saturday, March 4 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. CST		Friday, April 7	Good Friday – Presbytery office closed
Saturday, March 4 7 – 11 a.m. EST	1st, Havana Yard Sale	Saturday, April 8 9 – 11 a.m. CDT	<u>Jelly Bean 5K</u> , Trinity, Pensacola
Wednesday, March 8 1 p.m.. CST/ 2 p.m. EST	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday
Saturday, March 11 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Representation (CR)	Wednesday, April 12 1 p.m.. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Sunday, March 12	Daylight Saving Time begins	Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15	Dogwood Acres Open House
Tuesday, March 14 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry (COM)	Tuesday, April 18 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)
Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18	<u>Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering</u> , 1st Presbyterian of Lynn Haven	Thursday, April 20 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)
Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18	<u>Teach to Transform "Come and See Workshop"</u> , Trinity Presbyterian, Pensacola	Wednesday, April 26 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Racial Justice Subcommittee
Sunday, March 19 After worship	Christ, Tallahassee, new piano dedication concert		
Tuesday, March 21 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)		
Wednesday, March 29 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Racial Justice Subcommittee		

jelly bean
5k run/walk
April 8th
REGISTRATION IS OPEN
www.JellyBean5K.com



You shall be called
**Repairers
of the breach**

— ISAIAH 58



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

02.22.23 - 04.9.23