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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

Well, our trip to England and Scotland has come to an end. It has been a wonderful adventure! We have visited the Yorkshire Dales, lovely cathedrals, and ancestral homelands. We've enjoyed the traditional afternoon tea and shopped in more charity shops (Lisa) than should be legally allowed.

But this trip was not only about those things. We both took some of our study leave time to look at how our sister denominations in the UK are addressing loss of membership and what effect the pandemic had on both membership and participation.

Each Sunday, we worshipped with a different congregation in different locations. We attended St. Cuthbert's Church (Church of England) in Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire; Providence Church (United Reformed Church) in Dacre, Yorkshire; West Park Church (United Reformed Church) in Harrogate; St. Columba's Church (Church of Scotland) in Elgin, Morayshire; and Dunblane Cathedral (Church of Scotland) in Dunblane, Perthshire.

At each church, we spoke with pastors and members about their experiences in part to see how they were coping and possibly thriving with so much change. Additionally,

we visited the Church of Scotland national offices in Edinburgh, Scotland



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

and had the pleasure of engaging national staff in conversation about what that denomination is doing to adjust to new and ever-changing realities of being the Church.

I hope to share the results of those conversations at the August presbytery meeting but, for now, suffice it to say our reformed sisters and brothers in the UK are going through many of the same issues our congregations, presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly are going through. It has been invigorating to witness the Spirit at work in and through the good reformed folk of Great Britain!

Roy

Save the date!

**Summer Stated
Presbytery Meeting**
@Trinity Presbyterian Church
3400 Bayou Blvd., Pensacola
Tuesday, August 22nd
9 am CT/10 am ET
Registration begins at 8 am CT/9 am ET

From the Strategic Planning Taskforce



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

Taskforce shares a brief update

From hours of interviews, research, and assessments – there is fantastic news... We have arrived at an opportune turning point. Here is what the Taskforce has learned so far.

There is a strong desire for the Presbytery to: develop and communicate well a unifying and compelling vision and mission for its work and ministry, better assist struggling congregations, provide educational opportunities for doing ministry in this post-Covid season, help congregations strengthen spiritual development, foster stronger trust and unity among congregations, and better assist in building vital congregations.

The Presbytery staff and committee chairs provided honest and sincere input about their observations of their work and responsibilities. Each responded to 11 probing questions during phone calls, Zoom meetings, and face-to-face interviews, generating a 32-page report for the Taskforce.

We have also looked at budget trends for the past five years and the property and operations of the Presbytery, and contacted other Presbyteries of similar size to learn what works well for them by way of structure, staffing, and ministry in these new times.

We thank the 112 persons who filled out the

Landscape Assessment Tool through Holy Cow Consulting, providing invaluable insights and information. When the results were tabulated, the Taskforce received a 3-hour briefing from Susan Czolgosz, our Holy Cow consultant. This was followed up by an invitation to the whole Presbytery through the weekly *eUpdate* to hear the Executive Summary Report. This was held via Zoom the evening of June 14 and lasted about 1.5 hours. The event was recorded and may be watched by emailing the Presbytery office for the link as well as to receive the link for a written copy of the report.

The question was asked, “How did the Taskforce determine who to invite to do the assessment?” In an attempt to attain an accurate reading of the Presbytery’s recent history, those invited met

at least one of the following criteria: had been or are still active on a Presbytery committee within the past 5 years, clerks of session, active pastors, retired pastors, certified Christian educators, commissioned ruling elders, presbytery staff, and others that pastors/clerks of session recommended. We are grateful to all who participated.

We have been hard at work. There is still much to be done. Please keep us in your prayers.

Your Strategic Planning Taskforce:

*Mark Broadhead
Sue Coleman
Hugh Hamilton
Mary Hodges
Don Mowat
Eric Spoon
Karen Weaver*



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UKirk Tallahassee campus minister shares update

Like other church jobs, campus ministry has a rhythm. While congregations mark the year's movement through the changing liturgical seasons, campus ministry marks the seasons with the academic year's rhythms. Each season brings new opportunities, demands, and responsibilities.

Recently, we marked the season's changing and, for some students, an ending chapter. Senior celebrations, finals week, and graduation marked the end of the spring semester and the academic year.

During our annual meeting, we celebrated and reflected upon the academic year as a ministry. Several students shared why they come to UKirk and themes of community, exploration, and welcome. One said, "One of my favorite things about UKirk is that is a place for everybody. It is a space that has allowed us to dig into the Bible in a way that relates to us." Another noted, "It felt like home." Another said, "My faith journey has ebbed and flowed throughout my college experience. I love that I feel welcome at UKirk and that I can help Calvin's be a welcoming space for all."

The summer season is filled with reflecting, re-imagining, and planning for the coming year. It is also a season of developing fundraising campaigns, contacting donors, and supporting churches, as well as making



improvements and repairs to our aging but beautiful building. All of this occurs alongside the welcoming of new students as they begin summer classes, as well as continuing to support the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth of our students who are in town working or taking summer classes. Like all liturgical seasons of the church, where there is something to do, the summer is just as busy but with different tasks and responsibilities.

With the changes in focus and how my time is spent, summer is the season in which I am reminded why I love working in campus ministry. I am reminded of the good this ministry does by welcoming students just as God made them to be, that we are open to their honest and deep questions about faith and life, and that we welcome their creative expressions of service and worship. In time, we bless them as they leave for internships, graduate school, or careers following graduation. Lives are changed, faith is

enriched, and this ministry plays a role in the lives of these emerging adults.

One of the greatest things about this ministry is that it does not occur in isolation from the church, but exists and has life because of this presbytery's churches. Congregations, PW Circles, Sunday School classes, and men's groups support this ministry in a variety of ways, through prayer, providing our Thursday Community meals during the year, contributing financially to the ministry's general operating budget – our greatest need at this moment – and participating in work days to care for our building and grounds, as well as various other ways, large and small. If you individually or as a congregation wish to be more connected to this ministry, please call 850-222-6320, email matt@ukirkallahassee.com or visit our [website](https://ukirkallahassee.com). I would be happy to visit and share about how this ministry impacts emerging adults' lives.

From the Committee on Educational Resources (CER)



By
Rev. Dr. Matt Frease,
Campus Minister,
UKirk Tallahassee
 (<https://ukirkallahassee.com>)

From the Racial Justice Subcommittee

Our Racial Justice Subcommittee recommends...

Children and Anti-Racism Toolkit

This Tool Kit provides resources for children and the adults who love them to deepen their understanding of historic and ongoing systems of oppression and ideas to assist them in the work of becoming anti-racist. We hope that it helps you in your efforts to raise children who will join in the struggle for justice and equity for all God's people.

Contents

| | |
|---------|--|
| Page 1 | Anti-Racism and the Image of God: Creating Beloved Community with Children <i>Compass Points</i> |
| Page 5 | Talking with Children about Racism: Conversation Starters <i>Quicksheet</i> |
| Page 8 | Taking Action Against Injustice: Ideas for Families <i>Quicksheet</i> |
| Page 13 | Using Children's Literature: Activities for Parents and Children Together <i>Quicksheet</i> |
| Page 17 | Trailblazers: Untold Stories of Marginalized People <i>Quicksheet</i> |
| Page 21 | Standing Against Hatred without Embracing It: White Flour <i>Quicksheet</i> |
| Page 25 | Music, Bible Stories, and Prayer: Children and Anti-Racism <i>Quicksheet</i> |
| Page 29 | Children and Anti-Racism: Resources for Christian Formation Leaders and Parents <i>Resource Roadmap</i> |

We acknowledge that the writers, editors, and project manager are white. All are followers of Jesus and as such acknowledge that their privilege calls them to the work of anti-racism. Our BIPOC siblings have told us over and over what is wrong, now we must listen to those voices long silenced and work to make right what we have allowed to persist.

Writers: Mindy Plick, Emily Fuentes, Lowry Manders, James Potts, David LaMotte, Julie Hester
Project Manager: Susan Young Thornton
Editors: Miatta Wilson, Lori Ruff-Schmalenberger, Stephanie Fritz

This resource was created in 2021 by the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) in partnership with the Office of Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA).



Order the 2023-25 Book of Order through the Presbytery office and save! *Newly-ratified amendments take effect July 9*

\$9 per copy plus postage for shipping from the presbytery office to your address, if needed. To order, email office@presbyteryofflorida.com or call 850-535-2335.

Order deadline: July 31

How is creation doing in the Florida Presbytery?

Ever wonder how creation is doing in the Florida Presbytery? Scientists from the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) recently took a look at the health of these two bays.

They looked at habitat, water quality, bacteria and wildlife with a focus on oyster reefs. Why focus on oyster reefs? Because, oysters grow best in healthy, clean water. They also improve water quality by removing nutrients, heavy metals and other substances.

What they found is not good. Seventy-two percent of the oysters between 1960 and 2019 disappeared due to poor water quality and overfishing. Between 2010 and 2021 oyster reef habitat shrunk by half. Their numbers are so low, they no longer can support a thriving oyster industry, and those that are left are not safe to eat because of high bacterial levels. Further, their free water cleaning function is lost.

Why did this happen? The report found that over the last 20 years, developed lands have increased in the Pensacola bay watershed by 50%. The area lost 18% of its wetlands. In Perdido Bay, developed lands increased by 50%.



Source: <https://mfchurchick.wordpress.com/2014/10/30/oyster-filtration/>

There is a strong link between our building too close to public waters, septic tanks, the loss of natural habitat which filters our stormwater runoff and the health of these bays. Septic tanks are still permissible and are cheap compared to building an advanced waste treatment (AWT) plant, but they DO NOT WORK to remove nutrients. They were never designed to do that.

In other parts of Florida, the waterways are green with harmful algal growth that is smothering seagrasses and killing manatees because of the predominant use of septic tanks and agricultural runoff. Property values have dropped. Fishing is impossible, and people's health and tourism suffer.

All of this is avoidable if we respect creation and take care of it. We need to invest in appropriate

sewage treatment if we live near a water body. We need to leave natural buffers to clean up the stormwater runoff. We need to resist building and planting crops on every inch of undeveloped land near waterways. We need to set aside more coastal parks, greenways and natural areas, because the services provided by creation are invaluable and not replaceable. Think about what oysters do to clean up our waters.

This report should be a warning that the present path we are on is harming creation, but the good news is that we can change. Find out more about this [report](#) and check out the PPBEP [website](#) for tips on how to make a difference.

As always, I would love to hear from you. pammcvety@hotmail.com

Caring for Creation Notes



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

“There is a strong link between our building too close to public waters, septic tanks, the loss of natural habitat which filters our stormwater runoff and the health of these bays.”

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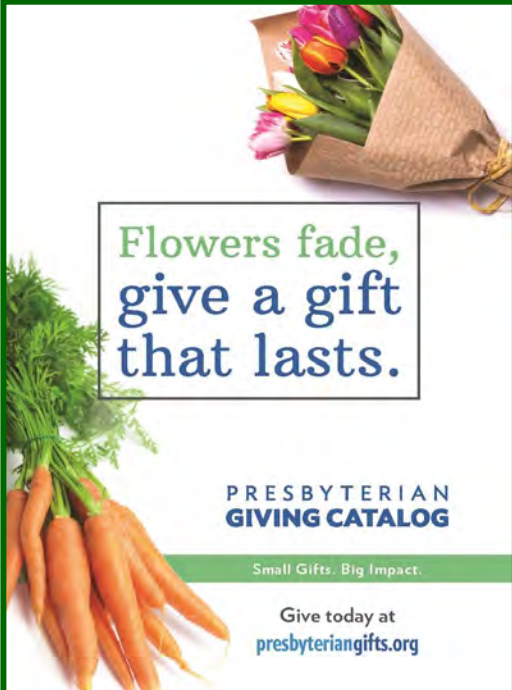
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Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

| In July | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, July 4 | Independence Day – Presbytery office closed |
| Wednesday, July 5 – Saturday, July 8 | Dogwood Acres Buddy Camp |
| Friday, July 7 | Deadline for ordering 2023-24 Presbyterian Planning Calendars through the Presbytery |
| Sunday, July 9 – Friday, July 14 | Dogwood Acres Intro/ Discovery/Adventure Camps |
| Tuesday, July 11 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT | Committee on Ministry (COM) |
| Thursday, July 13 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT | Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO) |
| Thursday, July 13 2 p.m. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT | Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA) |
| Sunday, July 16 – Friday, July 21 | Dogwood Acres Discovery/Adventure Camps |
| Tuesday, July 18 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT | Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD) |
| Thursday, July 20 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT | Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC) |
| Sunday, July 23 – Friday, July 28 | Dogwood Acres Discovery/Adventure Camps |
| Wednesday, July 26 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT | Racial Justice Subcommittee |
| Monday, July 31 | Deadline for ordering 2023-25 Book of Order through the Presbytery |

| Looking ahead | |
|--|--|
| Thursday, August 3 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT | Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO) |
| Thursday, August 10 2 p.m. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT | Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA) |
| Tuesday, August 22 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT | Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting@Trinity, Pensacola <i>Registration begins an hour ahead</i> |
| Wednesday, August 23 10 a.m. CDT/ | Racial Justice Subcommittee |



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Order deadline: Friday, July 7

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