

Presbytery Staff  
and Officers  
are here for you:

**Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin,**  
General Presbyter  
Rmartin  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Jeannie Dixon,**  
Stated Clerk  
Statedclerk  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Sharon Schuler,**  
Moderator  
pastor@firstpresfwb.org

**Denise Vandiver,**  
Treasurer  
Dvandiver  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Ben Powell,**  
Dogwood Acres Director  
ben@dogwoodacres.org

**Melissa Willis,**  
Administrator  
Mwillis  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Inside this issue:**

Presbytery of Florida Committees 2

DiscipleFest 2019 3

Committee on Presbytery Administration 4

Committee on Congregational Revitalization 6

Caring for Creation 7

Save the dates 8

# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2019

## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

The deadline for registration for DiscipleFest 2019 is almost here! By March 8, we need to know how many are coming for determining meeting spaces and food preparation. Will we accept someone after that date? Of course we will! But please help us do the necessary preparation by getting your registration in on time. You will find a detailed workshop listing and the registration form on page 3 of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there!

The Committee on Nominations is looking for a few good women and men to serve on

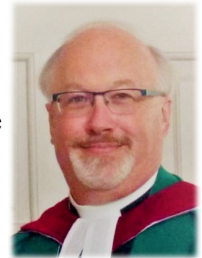
committees of our presbytery. If we are to build up our presbytery so that it can be more engaged in mission and ministry to and for our member congregations, we will need all hands on deck! You will find on page 2 of this newsletter a description of all presbytery committees. If you see one for which you think your gifts for ministry might be a good match, please contact Leslie Yandle ASAP at [leslie.yandle@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.yandle@gmail.com).

We have not yet received pledge commitments from all of our congregations. If we have not heard yet from your church, please send

in your pledge form so we can finalize the presbytery budget. Again, the strength and health of our presbytery depends in part upon financial giving.

What a joy it is to serve this wonderful presbytery! I am honored for the privilege, and I look forward to working with you this year. Let's get going!!

Blessings,  
Roy



**The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin**

## The Mustard Seed Gathering

Celebrating and resourcing the work of the small church

March 8-9, 2019, at Calvin Center, Hampton, GA – In Partnership with The Outreach

Workshop Topics:

- Asset Mapping
- Change Dynamics
- Collaborative Ministry
- Small is not a Liability



Friday, March 8, with dinner (5:30 pm ET) thru Saturday afternoon, March 9 (3:30 pm ET)

Housing (double occupancy) in the Conference Lodge

Twenty-five \$100 scholarships available to pastors of congregations with 100 or fewer members.

Contact [Camille@theoutreachfoundation.org](mailto:Camille@theoutreachfoundation.org) for the promo code that applies that scholarship at registration.

## Presbytery of Florida Committees

### **Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)**

*Purpose:* To provide processes and support for congregations that have an identified need, willingness, and ability to engage in spiritual and/or programmatic growth which can lead to deeper commitment both within and beyond current membership.

### **Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDA)**

*Purpose:* To provide short and long-term planning, management, development, operations, and programs connected with Dogwood Acres.

### **Committee on Educational Resources (CER)**

*Purpose:* To provide education and resources in the areas of stewardship, children's ministry, youth and young adult ministry, evangelism, social justice issues, and other areas related to congregational ministry through the use of specialized teams and regional and presbytery-wide training events.

### **Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)**

*Purpose:* To coordinate local, national, and international mission work through congregations and mission communities by providing information and resources and to oversee and coordinate presbytery-wide mission work to include Disaster Preparedness and Self-development of People.

### **Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)**

*Purpose:* To formulate and implement a comprehensive plan for location, funding, and development of new congregations and new worshipping communities within the bounds of the presbytery.

### **Committee on Nominations (CN)**

*Purpose:* To nominate to Presbytery individuals to serve on presbytery committees, adhering to established norms of committee membership and representation including vacancies, chairs and vice-chairs; and to nominate persons to serve on presbytery's PJC and as commissioners to Synod and General Assembly meetings.

### **Committee on Ministry (COM)**

*Purpose:* To fulfill all Book of Order and presbytery manual responsibilities related to oversight of and assistance to congregations, Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Certified Christian Educators in their ministry. These responsibilities include all matters related to matriculation of new pastors, periodic visits with sessions and pastors, support for clergy and Certified Christian Educator wellness and professional development, minimum standards for clergy compensation, dissolving pastoral relationships, processes leading to the next pastoral call, and examining ministers for readiness and suitability to receive calls.

### **Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)**

*Purpose:* To oversee the management of presbytery funds, property, and staff.

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

*Purpose:* To oversee the care and examination of Commissioned Lay Pastors, Inquirers, and Candidates for Ministry, inform sessions of the process for CLPs, inquiry and candidacy, and conduct examinations of candidates seeking calls within the bounds of this presbytery.

### **Committee on Representation (CR)**

*Purpose:* To advise the Presbytery with respect to membership of its committees and to the employment of its personnel per Book of Order G-3.0103.

### **Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)**

*Purpose:* Consisting of the chairs of all presbytery committees, to provide for strategic planning and to coordinate the work of the presbytery; and to serve as a commission of presbytery to address matters needing immediate attention between presbytery meetings.

### **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)**

*Purpose:* Acts as a court of appeal for sessions; exercises original jurisdiction in disciplinary cases against minister members of the presbytery.

# — DiscipleFest 2019 —

**Saturday, March 23, 2019 • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT**  
**Dogwood Acres Summer Camp and Retreat Center, Vernon, FL**

**A COMING-TOGETHER OF ALL PRESBYTERY of FLORIDA CONGREGATIONS**  
**offering worship, music, fellowship, and workshops as we celebrate our oneness in Christ.**

**Registration: 9 a.m. CDT - Worship: 9:30 a.m. with Rev. Carol Wood preaching - Lunch: Noon CDT**

## Morning Workshops - 10 a.m. CDT

**1. Book of Confessions:** This workshop will explore the range of confessions that constitute the foundation of our polity, and involve participants in drawing on the richness of the confessions' theological insights.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten

**2. Clerks of Session: Basic Roles and Responsibilities** (Offered again in afternoon): Learn the basic role and responsibilities of the clerk of session. Find resources to help you in this ministry. For new and returning clerks.

**Presenter:** Jeannie Dixon

**3. Communities of Transformation: How to Avoid Toxic Charity and Do Local Mission**

**Collaboratively:** Ever wonder if your efforts to help those in need are truly helping? Wish you could do more mission in partnership? Then you need to hear about Communities of Transformation, a collaborative poverty alleviation effort. **Presenter:** Rev. Emily Proctor

**4. Doing Justice:** What does the Bible mean by "justice"? Can the church be faithful without doing justice? What pressing justice issues face us today? How might congregations "do justice" in their unique settings?

**Presenter:** Rev. Brant Copeland

**5. How to Understand Scripture:** This workshop will offer time-tested tools for interpreting scripture that can open the door to

deeper and clearer understanding of what scripture has to say to us.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

**6. Personality Types and Conflict Resolution Styles:** Ever butted heads with someone at a committee or Session meeting? This workshop will help you understand your personality type and conflict resolution styles.

**Presenter:** Rev. Mark Broadhead

**7. Stewardship Basics: Faithful Response to God's Amazing Generosity:** This workshop will focus on tried-and-true financial stewardship practices culled from years of ministry with many congregations.

**Presenter:** Rev. Lisa Martin

## Afternoon Workshops - 1 p.m. CDT

**8. Clerks of Session: Basic Roles and Responsibilities** (Repeat of morning workshop): Learn the basic role and responsibilities of the clerk of session. Find resources to you in this ministry. For new and returning clerks.

**Presenter:** Jeannie Dixon

**9. Climate Change, Presbyterians and Justice:** Change happens. How do we faithfully discern where God is leading us next, and how do we help make and navigate change in our congregations and communities? **Presenter:** Pam McVety

**10. Faith and Politics:** This workshop will establish the theological relationship between faith and politics in our Reformed tradition, and will involve participants in identifying ways in which they can

initiate peacemaking conversations in their own communities of faith.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten

**11. Music in Worship: Challenges in Smaller Congregations (some larger ones, too!):** We'll discuss options to put music solidly back into your congregation's church service or bring variety to your current music ministry.

**Presenter:** Linda Lovins

**12. Prayer and Spiritual Formation:** This workshop will help you open your ears, heart and mind to listen for God's still, small voice, and deepen your spiritual journey.

**Presenter:** Rev. Mark Broadhead

**13. Presbyterian Polity:** Wonder why we Presbyterians do things the way we do them?

Discover how our practice is informed by our theology, history, and experience.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

**14. Revitalization Basics: Getting Your Congregation's Ox Out of the Ditch:** Explore basics of congregational revitalization that allow us to breath in the possibilities and power of the Holy Spirit so that we engage with others in a more winsome way.

**Presenter:** Rev. Lisa Martin

**15. Worship and Sacraments:** Where did the sacraments come from? How do they fit into the Reformed/Presbyterian Tradition? How do they shape Christians? We'll probe these and others issues as we learn together.

**Presenter:** Rev. Brant Copeland

## DiscipleFest Registration – Please print legibly • Registration Deadline: Friday, March 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

First

Last

On-site child care provided FREE. Please list name(s)/age(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS (physical, dietary, etc.). **On-site transportation will be available if needed.** \_\_\_\_\_

### Workshop Registration:

Morning: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice # \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate # \_\_\_\_\_

Afternoon: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice # \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate # \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee is \$15 per person (Includes lunch).**

**Lodging not included.** Please contact Dogwood Acres Camp & Conference Center at [ben@dogwoodacres.org](mailto:ben@dogwoodacres.org).

**Send completed registration form with your check made payable to *Presbytery of Florida* to:**

Presbytery of Florida DiscipleFest, P. O. Box 7, Chipley, FL 32428

**From the  
Committee on  
Presbytery  
Administration**



*By W. O. Bell,  
Chair*

**Shared support directly sustains Presbytery's operation**

As you might have noticed when your church received a request for a pledge for this year, the Committee on Presbytery Administration asked for one amount for "shared support," rather than for per capita and unified mission giving, separately. This is because the committee determined that a single shared support figure, which directly reflects that actual cost per member of operating the

Presbytery, simply makes sense. Based on the 2019 provisional Presbytery budget approved at the January 26 Presbytery meeting, requested shared support equates to \$70 per member.

If your church has not yet submitted a pledge indicating your congregation's commitment toward support of the Presbytery's budget for the year, please do so as soon as possible. This

will enable the Presbytery's various committees to plan their missions and ministries accordingly. To request a copy of the asking form for your church, or an updated remittance form listing shared support instead of unified giving and per capita, please contact the Presbytery office at office@presbyteryofflorida.com. As always, your faithful stewardship is deeply appreciated.



**DYC  
2019**  
@ DOGWOOD ACRES

**Dogwood  
Youth  
Conference**

**March 15th-17th**



**For  
youth  
grades  
6th - 12th**

**COST:  
\$125.00  
PER PERSON**

[www.dogwoodacres.org](http://www.dogwoodacres.org)

**LAUREL HILL  
ARTS & HERITAGE  
Festival**



**ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC!**

**SAT., APRIL 27, 11am-3pm • FREE!**

LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH YARD • 8115 FOURTH STREET  
LIVE LOCAL MUSIC • COTTAGE FOODS  
HISTORIC AND CULTURAL DISPLAYS

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



## Items seeking new homes where needed

**Tables and chairs:** UKirk Tallahassee has six 60-inch heavy wooden tables and approximately 70 aluminum folding chairs that they will deliver within a reasonable distance. Please contact Campus Minister Sheldon Steen at [sheldon@ukirktallahassee.com](mailto:sheldon@ukirktallahassee.com) or (850) 222-6320 if interested.

**Blue hymnals:** First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola has several

hundred of the 1990 Presbyterian hymnals to donate. Please contact the church at (850) 438-9619 if interested.

**Communion trays and plates:** First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola is offering six aluminum communion trays (for cups) and seven communion plates (for wafers) to a church who can use them. Please contact Sandra Densmore,

[sandensmore@gmail.com](mailto:sandensmore@gmail.com), if interested.

**Padded oak pews:** Shalimar United Methodist Church, who recently purchased the Shalimar Presbyterian Church, is offering 24 16-foot padded oak pews that are still in the sanctuary, to be repurposed by another church. If interested, please call Chuck Place, 850-651-1948

## Our Connectional Churches



# PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2019

JULY 16-20, 2019 PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Make plans now to attend! Contact Lisa Wilder at [Wildce@aol.com](mailto:Wildce@aol.com).

**POAMN**  
Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

**POAMN**  
2019 Regional Conference

**ALOA**  
Florida Region  
Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

## “Engaging Aging in Today’s World”

Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 8:30 AM to 4:40 PM EDT

\$35.00 Per Person (Lunch Included)

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN) in collaboration with the Florida Region of Adult Lutherans Organized for Action (ALOA).

Located on the Saint Leo Abbey campus, 33601 State Road 52, Saint Leo, FL.  
Housing available.

Learn more and register at [www.poamn.org](http://www.poamn.org).

**From the  
Committee on  
Congregational  
Revitalization**



*By The Rev.  
Lisa Martin,  
Vice Chair*

**CCR joins in GA Co-Moderators' book study**

The Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR) is excited to announce that we are participating in the General Assembly co-moderators' request to read *Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission*. We're committed to doing the best that we can for the congregations of Florida Presbytery, and this book will allow us the opportunity to explore what it means for local congregations to "live and move and have our being" in the neighborhoods in which we reside.

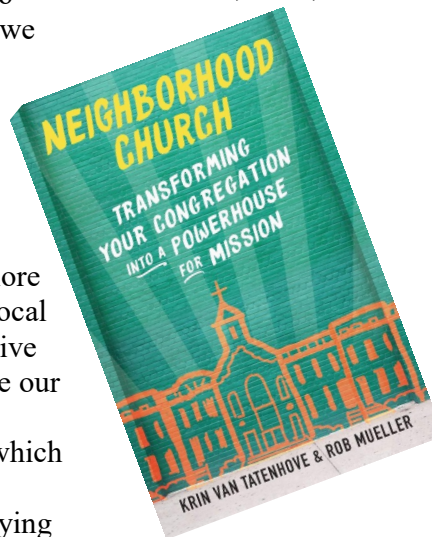
CCR is also praying



that the Spirit will prompt more individuals in the presbytery to join us on the journey of revitalization. If you have any interest in this, please contact Jim Huffaker, chair, at

[jhuffaker35@gmail.com](mailto:jhuffaker35@gmail.com) or Lisa Martin, vice chair, at [pastorfclh@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorfclh@yahoo.com). No previous experience is required, just a loving heart that may grow into a passion for helping equip congregations to be the transformative centers for mission that we can be in this neck of God's woods. We look forward to hearing from you!

Also, don't forget: DiscipleFest on March 23<sup>rd</sup>! Lisa Martin is leading an afternoon workshop on the basics of congregational revitalization. Everyone is welcome to attend!! See page 3 of this newsletter for more information and a registration form.



The Art of  
*yes. and...*

**WHEN  
CHURCH  
DOESN'T  
GO  
ACCORDING  
TO PLANS**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**NOV 14 — 16, 2019**  
EPWORTH BY THE SEA | ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA

TO REGISTER GO TO [FOOTHILLSPRESBYTERY.ORG/SOAP-REGISTRATION/](http://FOOTHILLSPRESBYTERY.ORG/SOAP-REGISTRATION/)

## Author addresses church response to climate change

For years, I have been waiting for a book to help me discern what Christians should be doing to address climate change. Finally, just last fall, Jim Antal, a United Church of Christ minister, published the book *Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change*. Jim Wallis, president and founder of Sojourner, Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary, Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus and many other fine spiritual leaders agree that this is the book we have been waiting for.

We are at a critical moment in the history of the world. President Obama wisely said that “We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it.” Our planet’s temperature has risen just 1 degree Centigrade, and with it has come a long list of expensive, disruptive and dangerous changes – prolonged droughts and fire seasons, widespread famines, new and growing water shortages, accelerating sea level rise, climate migrants,

terrible storms, unbearable summer heat, escalating costs and more. Scientists say that, to keep the planet’s temperature increase at or below 1.5 degrees C, we have just 12 years to cut our carbon emissions by 45 percent. This is a monumental task.

Reverend Antal tackles this reality head – on in his book. He writes that climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced, and that there is a compelling case for the church to address the challenge. He says it is the poor and disadvantaged amongst us that are hit the hardest and least able to recover from our increasingly violent weather. They also have contributed the least to the problem. Further, he writes, the science is clear.

We know what is causing our climate crisis, and yet we are failing to act. He says this is a moral crisis – and who better to address it than the church? We have the power and the moral authority, and we should be proclaiming the truth in the streets.

Reverend Antal asserts the truth: that we are in a life-threatening crisis and that, as

Christians, we must acknowledge it.

We are being called to act, and as the Church, we have acted before – with abolition of slavery, with the fight for civil rights and with the ending of apartheid. Christians responded to the Nazis by repurposing their churches to resist, and even 6<sup>th</sup> Century monks left their monasteries to restore watersheds and collapsed ecosystems after the fall of the Roman Empire. He says that it won’t be easy, but what we as people of faith say and do matters and can help shape the course of history.

At First Presbyterian in Tallahassee, we have been doing a three-week Wednesday night series on this book. Since much of his guidance is directed at clergy, our minister and other church leaders are participating in this series. I encourage you to purchase this book, read it and consider using it in your Sunday schools. Each chapter is followed by questions for group discussion and further deliberation.

And, as always, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [pammcvety@gmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@gmail.com).

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety,**  
*Presbytery  
Stewardship  
of Creation  
Enabler*

*“We are being called to act, and as the Church, we have acted before ...”*

## PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

Mailing address:  
P. O. Box 7  
Chipley, FL 32428

Physical address:  
3320 Harmony Rd.

Phone: 850-535-2335  
or 850-535-2440

Toll-free Fax: 844-361-9448

E-mail:  
office@presbyteryofflorida.com

Website:  
www.presbyteryofflorida.com

### Your Presbytery Committee Chairs

#### Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)

Rev. Dr. James Huffaker  
jhuffaker35@gmail.com

#### Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDA)

Dr. Linda T. Lovins  
artsedlin@gmail.com

#### Committee on Educational Resources (CER)

Rev. John Kupar  
john@fpcpensacola.com

#### Committee on Ministry (COM)

Rev. Mark Broadhead  
minister@fpc-crestview.org

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

Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton  
hugh@trinitypcola.org

#### Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)

Rev. A. J. Mealor  
revmealor@gmail.com

#### Committee on Nominations (CN)

Leslie Yandle  
Leslie.yandle@gmail.com

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

Rev. Sheldon Steen  
sheldon@ukirktallahassee.com

#### Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)

William O. Bell  
wobell3@gmail.com

#### Committee on Representation (CR)

Rev. Michael Askew  
askewmichaelsr@yahoo.com

#### Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)

Rev. Chris Erde  
reverde@comcast.net

## The Panhandle Presbyterian

### Save the date:

#### In March

*Wednesday, March 6* Ash Wednesday

*Wednesday, March 6* Coffee and Conversations, hosted by Calvin's Coffee House, UKirk Tallahassee

*Friday, March 8* DiscipleFest 2019 registration deadline

*Friday, March 8 – Saturday, March 9,* Mustard Seed Gathering small church event at Calvin Center, Hampton, GA.

*Sunday, March 10* "Blue -Out" Sunday for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

*Sunday, March 10* 7 p.m. EDT Movie Night featuring "The Greatest Showman" at Calvin's Coffee House, UKirk Tallahassee

*Tuesday, March 12* 9:30 a.m. CDT Committee on Ministry meeting at Presbytery office

*Tuesday, March 12* March 19 "Project Regeneration" registration deadline

*Wednesday, March 13* 6:45 p.m. CDT Jazz for the Soul, at Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach

*Friday – Sunday, March 15 – 17* Dogwood Youth Conference for middle and high school students

*Friday – Sunday, March 15 – 17* Synod of South Atlantic Association of Smaller Congregations' 32nd Annual Conference, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA

*Saturday, March 16* 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT 113th Annual Presbyterian Women Gathering at Trinity, Pensacola

*Tuesday, March 19* 12 – 2 p.m. CDT Presbyterian Foundation "Project Regeneration" workshop at Grace, Panama City. Includes lunch.

*Wednesday, March 20* Submissions deadline for the April Panhandle Presbyterian

*Thursday, March 21* 9 a.m. CDT Coordinating & Planning Commission meeting at Presbytery office

*Saturday, March 23* 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT DiscipleFest 2019 at Dogwood Acres

#### Looking ahead

*Sunday, April 7* 3 p.m. EDT UKirk Tallahassee's 2nd Annual Spring Benefit Concert at Faith, Tallahassee

*Sunday, April 14* Palm Sunday

*Friday, April 19* Good Friday (Presbytery office closed)

*Sunday, April 21* Easter Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing)

*Monday, April 22* Earth Day

*Thursday, April 25* 10 a.m. CDT DCEs/Youth Workers' Gathering at Presbytery office

*Thursday, April 25* Columbia Friendship Circle's Columbia Day at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA

*Saturday, April 27* 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival at Laurel Hill Church yard

## Your input is welcomed!

Have an idea, information,  
article, photo, poem,  
reading or hymn to share,  
or a question  
or suggestion for us?

Please email  
office@presbyteryofflorida.com  
or call (850)535-2335.

Please limit to  
no more than 250 words.  
Accompanying color photos  
with captions are encouraged.  
Please submit content by the  
20th for the following month.