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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

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## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

On one wall in our dining room, we have a collection of framed maps. Most of them are copies of maps from various periods of history, and most are maps of Virginia, our home state. A couple of them are versions of Captain John Smith’s map of Virginia, which he drew in 1612 and which are interesting both because they locate all of the native tribes in Virginia and because they face east to west instead of the usual south to north, no doubt because all the ships came from Great Britain, and west was the direction toward which they looked. One is a geology map

produced in 1935; one is a railroad map created in 1858; one is a map of Virginia and Maryland drawn in 1755 by Thomas Jefferson’s father, Peter, and others; and one is a geographical map of that part of Virginia from which I hail, Fredericksburg, and surrounding counties, published in 1889.



**The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin**

These days, most of us no longer use paper maps to get to where we are

going. Now, we use the GPS abilities of our so-called “smartphone”. All we have to do is press the microphone button, say, “navigate to . . .”, and there appears a route map to get us from where we are to where we want to go. If you have on the sound, a voice will even direct your way.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if there were something like that in our relationship to God with which to map our life? Oh, that’s right, there is!

Roy



We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.



 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 3, 2021

## From the Committee on Ministry

## COM welcomes two new ministers to the Presbytery

The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry welcomes the recent transfer of Revs. Casey Aldridge and Jordan Goodwin from the New Jersey Presbytery. Meet them here:



**Casey Aldridge** (he/him) grew up in a suburb of Charlotte, and was baptized and confirmed at First Presbyterian Church of Concord, NC. In high school, Casey threw himself into community organizing, particularly for racial, ecological, and economic justice.

Casey attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a Levine Scholar, where he double majored in History and Religious Studies with minors in Political Science and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. During his second semester at college, Casey first heard God call him to ministry through the words of the Book of Exodus, read by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber at a protest for environmental justice that Casey helped to organize with Charlotte Environmental Action and Greenpeace.

Casey followed that call to Princeton Theological Seminary, where he completed his Master of Divinity degree in 2020. As a seminarian, Casey served for two years as the Youth and Young Adult Ministry intern at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City before his time in the city was cut short by COVID-19.

In March 2020, Casey was hired to serve as the part-time Stated Supply Pastor for Youth Ministry at Pennington Presbyterian Church in New Jersey, where he was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament last September, and where he worked from June 2020 to June 2021. Casey additionally serves on the steering committee of the PC(USA)'s Israel/Palestine Mission Network, where he works for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Casey has moved to Tallahassee with his partner – the Rev. Jordan Goodwin – to begin a PhD program in Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy at Florida State University. He will study the ways in which individuals and communities have drawn upon religious resources, narratives, symbols, and traditions to recalibrate hope in the face of climate catastrophe and disillusionment.

In his spare time, Casey loves long-distance running, playing tennis, reading, watching Panther

football, discussing pop culture, and dancing.



**Jordan Goodwin** grew up in Sarasota, FL. She is the oldest of five daughters in her blended family. Growing up, Jordan was confirmed at Church of the Palms and held a leadership role in their youth group.

After attending the University of Florida and majoring in Psychology, Jordan moved to Boston to work as a live-in residential advisor at Gould Farm, a therapeutic community for adults with severe mental illness. She experienced the love of God through the residents there.

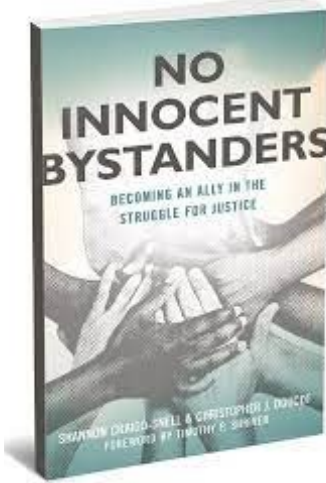
Around that time, through her involvement at her church in Boston, Jordan began to feel God nudging her to pursue her call to ministry. Jordan went on to complete a dual master's program at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she earned a Master of Divinity as well as a Master of Social Work from Rutgers University. Through her academic studies, Jordan discovered an interest in and talent for research and

*Continues on page 3*

## Book Review: *No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally for Racial Justice*, by Shannon Craig-Snell and Christopher J. Doucot (Louisville, Ky, John Know Press), 2017

Asking for us all to recognize the tremendous injustice of our system, the authors challenge us to own the roles we play in its continuation and to make honest and meaningful efforts to end it, both for those unjustly treated and for ourselves. As Nelson Mandela put it, “The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.”

To quote Desmond Tutu, “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” Directing our attention to the fact that racism is more a matter of injustices embedded in social systems than a matter of individual prejudice, this book makes it clear that stopping at seeing both sides of any moral issue is irresponsible.



*No Innocent Bystanders* is theologically grounded in the belief that the grace and love of God make it possible for us to admit our shortcomings, confess our sins, and recognize our complicity in systems of injustice and oppression. Having been forgiven, we are called to do justice, embrace mercy, and walk humbly.

Concrete steps are suggested for becoming an ally in the struggle for racial justice. You can

expand your circle of daily life to include persons of color. You can speak the truth within your family and with friends and acquaintances. You can become an advocate by sending emails and letters or by telephoning. You can practice basic friendliness with people from marginalized communities – smiling, making eye contact, saying hello, even chitchatting.

When allying with community groups, it is important to follow the lead of those subjected to injustice and avoid any semblance of doing the white thing – taking over by talking and not listening. Most importantly – get in where you fit in.

## From “I Stand With You” Racism Task Force



By Rev. Harvey  
Jenkins, HR

*Continued from page 2*

scholarship that defends the marginalized and uplifts underserved populations.

Jordan is pursuing doctoral education in social work through Rutgers and will begin her dissertation proposal this fall. Jordan’s research area focuses on policy and

institutional responses to homelessness, gender and sexuality issues, mental health and trauma. Jordan also serves as a Lead Researcher of Princeton Theological Seminary’s Imagining Church Project on the Thriving Congregations Initiative, which studies successful ministry models in

order to glean insights that might serve the broader church and the communities in which congregations are located.

Jordan was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) on March 30, 2019 and was called to chaplaincy at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. After three years of serving the patients at

Trenton Psych, Jordan moved to Tallahassee, FL, as her partner, Casey, has begun a doctoral program in Religion at FSU. Jordan loves to run (having completed three marathons – one in Baltimore and two in Boston), travel, spend time outdoors, read, write, and sing.



## From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



*By Rev. Lisa Martin,  
Chair, and  
1st, Lynn Haven Pastor*

## CCR provides process and tools for church revitalization

CCR has spent recent months in prayer and deliberation about how best to minister to the revitalization needs of the congregations of Florida Presbytery. We are blessed with a committee of dedicated disciples who desire to help congregations be as healthy as they can be.

Our revitalization consultants are already at work with several congregations, and several more congregations want to go through the revitalization process, too. This is great news for our presbytery! Healthy congregations create a healthier presbytery!

CCR's revitalization process includes Holy Cow! Consulting's *Congregational Assessment Tool*, MissionInsite's *local demographic analysis*, and follow-up work to ensure that what has been learned about the congregation and community make a lasting difference for that church.

We also offer a Revitalization Toolbox for anyone's use! This may be found on the presbytery's website ([www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/congregational-revitalization/](http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/congregational-revitalization/))

CCR has been reading and studying together



Thom S. Rainer's insightful little book *The Post Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges & Opportunities*. As we move back to a greater sense of "normal", Thom Rainer suggests that the following challenges and opportunities are urgent for congregations to consider:

- ▶ Gather differently and better
- ▶ Seize the opportunity

to reach the digital world

- ▶ Reconnect with the community near the local church

- ▶ Take prayer to a new and powerful level
- ▶ Rethink church facilities for emerging opportunities
- ▶ Make lasting changes that will make a difference.

CCR is all about making a difference for good for the congregations of Florida Presbytery. If we can help your congregation become healthier and full of vitality, please contact us!



## Free Webinar!

We invite you to join us as we discuss the book *8 Habits of Evangelism* with the authors who wrote it! This will be an in-depth look at the 8 habits and how they can be used as a tool to strengthen you as you go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. We look forward to seeing you there!

WHEN: Wednesdays, 3:00—4:00 pm (EST)

Sep 8	Ralph Watkins - <i>Justice</i>	Oct 6	Tom Bagley - <i>Prayer</i>
Sep 15	Shanea Leonard - <i>Radical Welcome</i>	Oct 13	José Manuel Capella-Pratts & Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri - <i>Fellowship</i>
Sep 22	Bruce Reyes-Chow - <i>Worship</i>	Oct 20	Tod Bolsinger - <i>Teaching</i>
Sep 29	Aisha Brooks-Johnson - <i>Sacraments</i>	Oct 27	Leanne Van Dyk - <i>Generosity</i>

Learn more at <https://8habits.org/>

Read more about the authors at <https://8habits.org/preamble/meet-the-authors/>

WHERE: Zoom!  
<https://zoom.us/j/92525465042?pwd=QkhyUHVFeDdUOVZ0Tnl5RnV2V0pYU09>

Worship • Generosity • Justice  
Radical Welcome • Sacraments  
Teaching • Prayer • Fellowship

## For Once: A World That Acts Justly, Loves Mercy, Walks Humbly and Fights Boldly for Climate Justice

**F**or once, I would love to write a column on climate change with only good news. It would be uplifting for me and for you.

My column would say that all the countries of the world are dramatically reducing their carbon emissions and on the path to net carbon emissions by January 1, 2050. The countries most responsible for climate change are contributing large amounts of money to help all the developing nations, who contributed the least to climate change but are suffering the most.

Construction in “Cancer Alley”, where petrochemical companies poisoned their neighbors for decades, is turning it into the longest linear park of trees, birds and frolicking children in the world.

Island nation citizens whose homes are lost to rising seas are welcomed with open arms to their new home countries. People of faith are praised for their campaigns to right the injustice of climate change on the “least of these” and their efforts are compared to the heroic work of the black churches that took to the streets to demand civil rights. Presbyteries have cut their carbon emissions and encourage churches to cut their carbon emissions.

Churches are run by solar power and members drive electric cars and trucks. At church session meetings and socials, people brag about cutting their carbon emissions.

Petroleum companies are rapidly phasing out their production of fossil fuels and switching their businesses to renewable energy. Exxon apologized to all of humanity for its deceptions and insistence on burning fossil fuels long after it knew that their emissions were causing an existential threat to the world. It also started writing lots of checks to help alleviate all the suffering it is causing.

Federal law forbids all political campaigns from receiving fossil fuel money and federal fossil fuel subsidies no longer exist. The billions are now spent on helping the “least of these”.

How hard is this? Not so hard, if we all pulled together, listened to the scientists, agreed that the world had to cut its carbon emissions and were willing to do our part to make this a reality.

Instead, I woke up recently to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth



Presbyterian Church, Elko, NV

Climate Change Assessment <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM> that says it is now “code red for humanity”.

We have pushed the planet too far and there is no doubt...no doubt that humans are causing climate change. The only question is whether the world can muster the will to stave off a darker future than the one it has already locked into.

It is too late for us to undo the current damage. The oceans will rise. Extreme weather will be the norm. Fires will rage. ***It is not too late, however, to stop it from getting worse, but we have a very narrow window of time.***

Is “For Once” possible? I hope so. We all need a world that acts justly, loves mercy, walks humbly, and fights boldly for climate justice.

If you would like to do something to address the climate crisis in the presbytery or your church, please contact me, and we can start talking: [pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com).

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
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**of Creation**  
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*It is not too late...  
to stop it from  
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Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

**In September**

Sunday, September 5	Rev. Ric Connor Retirement Luncheon, Parkway, Panama City
Sunday, September 5 4 p.m. CDT	Shelby Baxter-Andrews Ordination Service, 1st, Pensacola
Monday, September 6	Labor Day -- Presbytery office closed
Tuesday, September 7 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Wednesday, September 8 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Thursday, September 9 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)
Thursday, September 9 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Board of Pensions "Financial Preparation for Aging Parents" webinar
Monday, September 13 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)
Monday, September 13 -- Wednesday, September 15	<u>Stewardship Kaleidoscope</u> , Cincinnati, OH/online In-person reg. deadline: Aug. 31/Virtual reg. deadline: Sept. 7
Tuesday, September 14 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry
Thursday, September 16 6 p.m. CDT/ 7 p.m. EDT	PC(USA) Year of Leader Formation " <u>Deacon Ministry</u> " webinar Reg. deadline: Sept. 8
Tuesday, September 21 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization
Thursday, September 23 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Wednesday, September 29 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	"I Stand With You" Task Force

**Looking ahead**

Tuesday, October 5 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Wednesday, October 13 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Thursday, October 14	Board of Pensions " <u>Nutrition Essentials for Lifelong Health: Happy Weight versus Healthy Weight</u> " webinar
Tuesday, October 19 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:00 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization
Saturday, October 23	<b>Fall Presbytery Meeting at Dogwood Acres or via Zoom (TBD)</b>
Wednesday, October 27 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	"I Stand With You" Task Force
Monday, November 1 -- Wednesday, November 3	<u>REvangelism Conference: 8 Habits of Evangelism</u>

October is  
**CLERGY  
APPRECIATION  
Month**

"...honor those leaders who work so hard for you..."  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (The Message)