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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 4, Issue 11

November 2021

## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

What a great Fall presbytery meeting! It was so good to see so many of you in person again. Dogwood Acres Director Ben Powell and the Committee on Dogwood Acres did an outstanding job hosting the meeting. They provided wonderful space, food, and a warm welcome to each of us. I cannot say “thank you” enough for their hard work in putting it all together and a special thank you to Ben for his hours and hours of personal investment to make sure everything went smoothly.

The meeting itself was chock-full of information about new and ongoing work; everything from voting to enter into a mission partnership with a group of Presbyterian Women in Guatemala at the request of your Committee on Mission and Outreach, to hearing about congregations engaged in working with your Committee on Congregational Revitalization to see what God has in store for their futures. We welcomed new members into the presbytery; gave praise to

God in uplifting worship, received an invitation for you to partner with Bethel Presbyterian Church in DeFuniak Springs October 30 to brighten up their sanctuary with a coat of paint, along with other projects (because we are a connectional Church!); approved a budget for 2022 that will allow presbytery to continue to support its member congregations in a variety of ways, as well as serve the needs of people beyond ourselves; and celebrated and approved members of our presbytery who have volunteered to help on presbytery committees and other needs (We surely would like for you to be one of them!)

And, on top of all that, there was such a good spirit all through the meeting! There was singing and laughter and prayer and great joy. In other words, we had church!

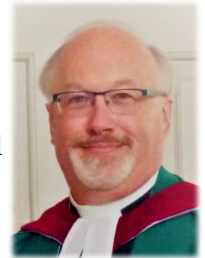
I am further encouraged that I have had several requests to offer another round of officer training by Zoom as I did last year. I am happy to say that you will see a flyer in this newsletter

giving details about the when and how of said training. I never seek to replace the training our skilled and talented pastors offer, only to give another perspective. And, since several of our churches do not have regular pastoral leadership, I hope the training I provide will help and encourage those who have accepted the call to be ruling elders, deacons, and trustees.

Once again, we will record the sessions so that, should you have to miss one, you can watch the recording. But I hope to see any and all who would like some training to join us and participate in person!

I hope you will join in on all the uplifting activity going on in the life of Florida Presbytery!

Roy



**The Rev. Dr.  
Roy Martin**



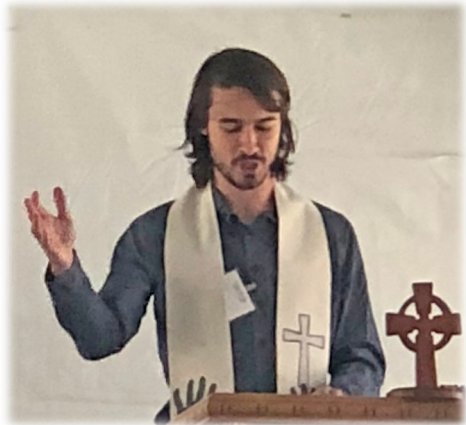
### Attendees enjoy fall weather and fellowship at Oct. 23 presbytery meeting



Florida Presbyterians of all ages gathered last Saturday at Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp. The Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA) and DWA Director Ben Powell worked diligently to provide all amenities needed for a successful meeting, as well as a fun pre-meeting overnight event at DWA on Friday.

Shown at left, the participants meet under a large tent at Kelley Field.

Below, from left, new Presbytery minister member-at-large the Rev. Casey Aldridge preaches a sermon from the Book of Job. The Rev. Jordan Goodwin, also a new minister member-at-large, reads scripture. 1st, Lynn Haven Music Director Brad Thoreson provides music and serves as technical director.



Below, at left, CDWA member and 1st, Quincy, Director of Christian Education Lisa Wilder (at right of the table) greets 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill Pastor Rev. Mark Broadhead (in foreground) and 1st Crestview, Elder Tim Crawford.

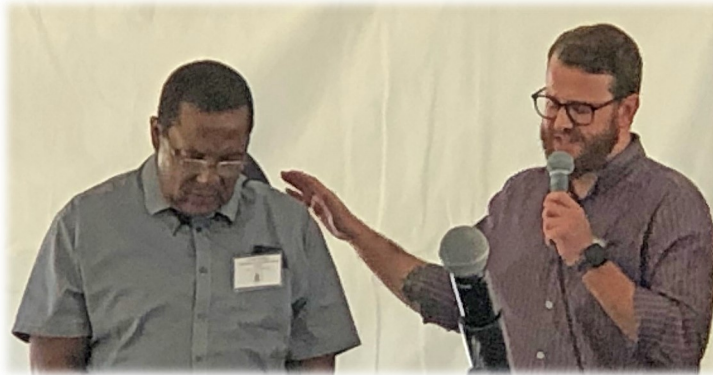
At center, CDWA Chair and Gulf Breeze Pastor Rev. Bill Lamont brings a friend.

At right, minister member-at-large Rev. Emily Proctor and daughter, Madeleine, catch a breeze at DWA's playground.





Shown at right, "I Stand With You" Anti-Racism Task Force member and Korean 1st, Ft. Walton Beach Pastor the Rev. Sun Kim shares his congregation's concerns about anti-Asian racism. The presbytery adopted new anti-racism guidelines presented by the Committee on Mission and Outreach. Also approved was a Guatemalan international missions partnership outlined by CMO member and Freeport Elder Becky Rose, at far right.



Shown at left, from left, Committee on Representation (CR) Chair and 1st, Tallahassee, Elder Glenn Hodges is received as an Inquirer for Ministry. Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and Christ, Tallahassee, Pastor the Rev. Sheldon Steen leads prayers for him.

Below, at left, churches and organizations set up displays about their missions. Below, at right, attendees fellowship over boxed lunches.



We open the door to celebrate  
**"God is with us!"**



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

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 19



## From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



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

## CCR suggests stillness and pause in the season ahead

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are upon us! And with these special and sacred seasons in the church year come budget making, stewardship season, election and training of new deacons and elders, and an analysis of how we've done in the passing year and what we'll hope to do in the coming year.

Typically, there's more activity in congregational life in the fall than in any other season. This year's fall season is similar to last year's, in that the pandemic is still with us, though thankfully it is decreasing in numbers of cases and positivity rates. We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we?

Still, this year is somewhat different. As we come out of Covid and begin to meet and worship in person once more, we may want to rush into doing as much as possible in our church life, catch up for all we've missed over the past seasons. But, perhaps this year, November and December can be reflective, quiet, and calm as we re-engage with congregational life almost post-pandemic.

Congregational revitalization has its roots in God. "I am about to do a new thing" God declares through the prophet Isaiah (43). New is good, we say! Bring it



on! We're more than ready to see/do/learn/be something...new! Activity of any kind is a blessing, after what we've been through, right?!?

Isaiah follows up God's declaration with a question: "Can you perceive it?" The act of perceiving the new that God is about to do requires a watchful eye, a discerning spirit, an awareness. "Be still, God says through the Psalmist, and know that I am God." (46) Being still can be uncomfortable for us, especially after nearly

two years of pandemic stillness. We'd rather rush headlong into what's before us than be still and quiet in the presence of God who goes before us.

CCR is taking a break from working with new congregations during November and December. We need to "be still" so that we can be more aware of the "new thing" that God is about to do among the wonderful congregations that make up Florida Presbytery.

The committee and I encourage you and the congregation of which you are a part to pause, give thanks, and rest secure in God who has been with us these many pandemic months, and who will journey with us into the futures that God has planned for us.

### First Presbyterian Church of Havana

# Homecoming

Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021

Worship at 11:00

Covered-Dish Dinner following



- Preaching by Rev. Bill Bess
- Kirkin O' the Tartans
- Bagpipes
- Reconnect with church family!

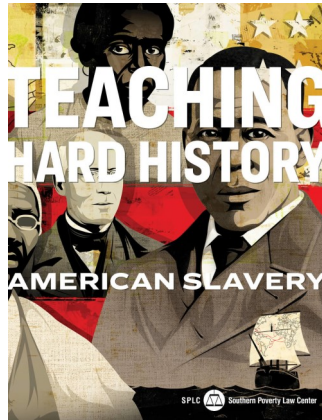
*Weather permitting, worship  
and dinner will be on the lawn.*



**Review: *Teaching Hard History: American Slavery*  
(Video series produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center, 2021)**

**A**s Reformed Christians, we believe in one God: Father-Son-Holy Spirit. Another name for the Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Truth”.

According to John 8:32, Jesus tells his disciples, “You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.” As Jesus’ followers, we are committed to know and proclaim what is true, including historical truth. Often such truth is hard because it reminds us of human sinfulness and of our bondage to sin. Thank God, when we recognize and confess our sins, God is faithful and just to free us from our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.



Since the State of Florida has placed restrictions on the way history can be taught in public schools, our churches have an opportunity to teach children and youth the hard history of our culture’s past and present. The Southern Poverty Law Center has produced 10 videos that teach the

truth about slavery and its consequences. Various historians and scholars have contributed to this examination of slavery and its impact on the lives of enslaved people and on our nation’s development. The series shows how those enslaved have influenced our history and the culture in which we live, providing comprehensive K-5 and 6-12 frameworks and resources. It is available at <https://www.learningforjustice.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery>. You can watch the videos at <https://www.learningforjustice.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery/classroom-videos>.

**From the  
“I Stand With  
You” Anti-  
Racism Task  
Force**



*By  
Rev. Harvey Jenkins,  
Task Force member  
and Minister (HR)*



**★ CHIPLEY SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & ★  
HIGHLAND GAMES**

SATURDAY 11.06.21 | 9AM - 2PM

\$5.00 ADMISSION

SUNDAY 11.07.21 | 10:30AM

**KIRKIN O' THE TARTAN**

First Presbyterian Church of Chipley  
658 5th Street



## Officer Training Course via Zoom

### Instructor:

The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin,  
General Presbyter,  
Presbytery of Florida

### Purpose:

To prepare new and continuing elders, deacons, and trustees for their ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) through study of the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and the Form of Government in the PCUSA Book of Order.



**Course Schedule:** Every Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. CT/4 p.m. ET Nov. 7 through Dec 5.

All participants must register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZUud-qvrT8tGNbRXtGrjAzHacFHiNUMVmdv>

All lessons will be recorded should anyone have to miss a lesson.

**Course Materials:** All participants will need the most recent copy of the Book of Order. A free, downloadable PDF is available on the PC(USA) Store website at

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/OGA19010/book-of-order-20192023-download.aspx>

Other materials will be recommended but not required during the course.

The course is offered at no cost to participants.

### Lessons:

*Nov. 7* Presbyterian understanding of its mission, the role of the confessions, and principals of church government

*Nov. 14* Presbyterian understanding of the congregation

*Nov. 21* Presbyterian understanding of ordered ministry (clergy, ruling elders, deacons, etc.)

*Nov. 28* Presbyterian understanding of the roles of church councils (sessions, presbyteries, Synods, and General Assembly)

*Dec. 5* Presbyterian understanding of the Church's relationship with civil authority, ecumenicity, and how to interpret and amend the constitution



## Presbyterian Climate Change actions both disappoint and excite

I am sometimes disappointed and occasionally excited by what our denomination is doing to address the climate crisis, but always grateful that the Lord has not given up on us, even though we are failing to protect his creation.

An ongoing example of what disappoints me is the Presbyterian committee, Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI), bragging that it is having a [successful proxy season](#) while, year after year, not doing the one thing that it has the power to do – put our faith before our money by divesting our fossil fuel holdings. Then I read [young Presbyterian clergy were arrested](#) along with Indigenous people in front of the White House, where they were asking the Biden administration to take stronger action to address the climate crisis. This is courageous faith-based leadership that excites me and makes me proud to be a Presbyterian.

MRTI, composed of Presbyterian financial folks and others, proclaims it is addressing the climate crisis and being successful when the United Airlines board of directors agrees to conduct an *evaluation* and issue a *report* on how its lobbying activities align with the Paris Climate Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius. Thirty years ago this would have been an accomplishment. Today it is



very little, when one considers that we are in a crisis. That MRTI feels successful and brags about it, because it gets a motion passed that leads to a report while refusing to categorically divest from an unrepentant industry whose carbon emissions are destroying creation, is incomprehensible.

October 11, Indigenous People's Day, 136 people, including three Presbyterian clergy whom I know and highly respect, were arrested in front of the White House while calling on President Biden to declare a climate emergency and stop approving fossil fuel projects.

I have often wondered whether I would have the courage to get arrested, because breaking the law is a huge sacrifice. **This act of civil disobedience is evidence of how concerned these clergy are about the climate crisis and how normal opportunities to bring about change are failing us, even in the church.** It also is a testimony to their

deep faith and witness to God's command in Genesis to care for all of his creation.

So, I am both disappointed in part of our church for its unremarkable response to the climate crisis, and indebted beyond measure to the brave clergy who are sacrificing themselves for the future of my grandchildren. In our irrational world, these clergy give me hope and buttress my belief that the church has an important role in addressing the climate crisis.

Bravo to these gutsy leaders, Reverends Abby Mohaupt (who doesn't capitalize her name), Rob Marks and Colleen Earp who are following in Jesus's footsteps by making a personal sacrifice, and who are affirming the Biblical mandate to "keep" his creation.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at [pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com).

## Caring for Creation Notes



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

*"... I am both disappointed in part of our church for its unremarkable response to the climate crisis, and indebted beyond measure to the brave clergy who are sacrificing themselves ..."*



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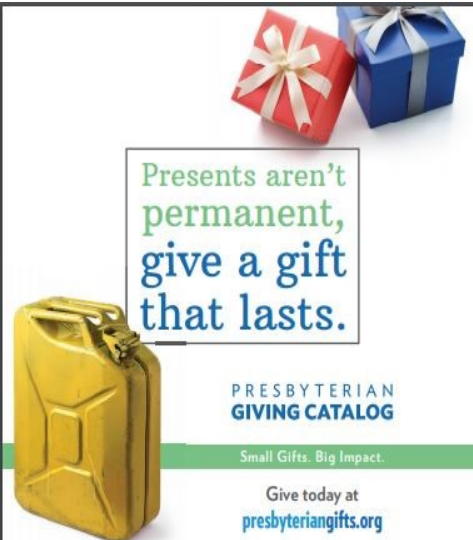
Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

**In November**

Tuesday, November 2 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Saturday, November 6	1st, Chipley, Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Sunday, November 7	Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, November 7	1st, Havana, Homecoming
Sunday, November 7	1st, Chipley Kirkin' o' the Tartan
Sunday, November 7 Thru Sunday, December 5	Elder Training via Zoom with Rev. Dr. Roy Martin
Tuesday, November 9 9:30 a.m. CST/ 10:30 a.m. EST	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Wednesday, November 10 11 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Thursday, November 11	Veterans Day
Saturday, November 13 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Representation (CR)
Monday, November 15 6 p.m. CST/ 7 p.m. EST	Annual Statistical Reporting Training via Zoom with Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon
Tuesday, November 16 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Thursday, November 18 11 a.m. CST/ Noon EST	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
Wednesday, November 24 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	"I Stand With You" Task Force
Thursday and Friday, November 25 & 26	Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving
Tuesday, November 30	Giving Tuesday

**Looking ahead**

Friday, December 3	Annual statistical reporting begins
Sunday, December 5	Elder Training via Zoom with Rev. Dr. Roy Martin
Tuesday, December 7 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Wednesday, December 8 1 p.m. CST/ 2 p.m. EST	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Saturday, December 11 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Committee on Representation (CR)
Sunday, December 12	Gulf Breeze Presbyterian "Walk to Bethlehem"
Thursday – Sunday, December 16 – 19	Faith, Tallahassee "A Christmas Carol"
Tuesday, December 21	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Friday – Monday, December 24 – 27	Presbytery closed for Christmas
Friday, December 31	Presbytery closed for New Year's



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PRESBYTERIAN  
GIVING CATALOG

Small Gifts. Big Impact.

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