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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 5, Issue 10

October 2022

## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

Even though I have spent 24 years off and on serving the Church in Florida, I have never been able to (or really wanted to) get used to 90+ degree weather in autumn. Lisa and I try to create the feeling of fall around the house with fall-time decorations but, one step out the door, and we know better. And don't even get me started about Christmas! Even though we love Florida, and the Panhandle in particular, I guess we will always be Virginians at heart.

Our reformed understanding of sin functions that way. We know what we should do,

but we don't always do it. We know we should be loving, gracious, forgiving, accepting, and joy-filled. But as soon as we take one step out the door, there abounds hate, distrust, fear, anger, war, poverty, racism, and a whole host of other kinds of things are not as they should be, and we are not as we should be.

Sometimes, we don't even have to step out the door, either! Yet, working to create



*The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin*

the right conditions for love and grace and all those attributes God calls us to live by is a good thing. Even though they may feel only like decorations in the beginning, they point to a better time; a better way of being.

Cooler weather is on the way; at least by Florida standards. Christ is on the way, too, bringing a peace that passes all understanding. It is time to get ready for both!

Roy

**Fall Stated**  
**Presbytery Meeting**  
Tuesday, Oct. 25 • 9 am CT/10 am ET  
*Registration begins an hour ahead*  
**First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, FL**



## **REGISTER NOW!**

### **ECCLESIA REFORMATA, SEMPER REFORMANDA THE CHURCH REFORMED, ALWAYS REFORMING**

A one-day seminar for Ministers, CLPs, Interims, Visioning Team Leaders and others seeking ways to do ministry in our changing culture.

**Dogwood Acres Koinonia Center**  
**Wednesday, October 5, 2022**  
 9:00 - 2:00 (Central Time)

Since before the onset of COVID-19 significant shifts in church life in the USA have been taking place. Many pastors and congregations are struggling with knowing how to provide ministry in our changing culture.

This one-day workshop, sponsored by the Committee on Congregational Revitalization and led by Rev. Mark Tidsworth, a PCUSA pastor and director of Pinnacle Leadership Associates, is designed to give insights and tools on how to move forward serving our Lord in this day and time.

#### **TOPICS FOR THE DAY**

- **Significant Shifts in Church Life**

Solid information on church trends and how to interpret and deal with them.

- **What the Church Needs from Pastoral Leadership**

Looking at a shift in perceptions of calling more towards clergy who can lead spiritual movements and vitalization.

- **Six Key Practices of Transformational Pastors**

A look at how transformational pastoral leaders spend their time and energy, along with the commitment to the mission of Christ's Church.

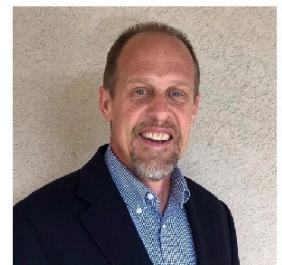
**COST:** \$10 includes the seminar, lunch, and snacks

**REGISTRATION:** Register at <https://forms.gle/KQcuEKN6yiP2Nj5m7>.

**QUESTIONS:** Email Mark Broadhead, Chair of CCR, at [minister@fpc-crestview.org](mailto:minister@fpc-crestview.org)

#### **REV. MARK E. TIDSWORTH**

With a keen curiosity about life, Mark explores the intersection of faith, church, and 21<sup>st</sup> century living. Mark has served as a pastor, new church developer, interim pastor, renewal pastor, therapist, nonprofit director, business owner, leadership coach, congregational consultant, leadership trainer, and author (six books). Mark is a frequent presenter in lay leadership team retreats, clergy gatherings, and denominational gatherings. Much of Mark's exposure to shifts in the 21st Century church flows from his work as President of Pinnacle Leadership Associates, a team of 21 ministering professionals based in Columbia, SC. Visit <https://www.pinnlead.com>



## Call for necrology reporting, session minutes for reading

► Please report deaths of ruling elders (whether currently serving on session or not) by Monday, October 3.

These are for deaths from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. They will be included in the necrology report at the October 25 presbytery meeting. If you have already submitted those names, you don't need to do it again. Submit online at [bit.ly/pofnecro](http://bit.ly/pofnecro) or email me at [statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com](mailto:statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com).

► Attention, East District Clerks of Session and Pastors:

On Sunday, October 16, Christ Presbyterian, Tallahassee will host the meeting to read session minutes. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. EDT in the Koinonia Room at the church, located at 2317 Bannerman Road, Tallahassee.

This will be to read and approve the minutes for 2019, 2020, and 2021. If you have older minutes that also have not been read, bring them, too. We are behind since we weren't able to schedule this annual review during Covid.

What to do to prepare for the meeting:

1. Print the session record review form, found on the presbytery website at <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/app/>

[download/7126502598/Session+minutes+review+checklist+2021-04.pdf](http://download/7126502598/Session+minutes+review+checklist+2021-04.pdf)

2. Complete the form for each year (one form per year)

a. If you previously completed a form at the time you closed out your minutes, just use that form!

b. If you did not complete a previous form, use the current one for each year

3. Complete the information for each item in each of the SIX sections by either filling in the answer or circling yes/no (except for those items noted to be completed by READER)

4. Note the items on the last page that should be brought with you to the meeting

5. Completing the form ahead of time simplifies the review process. The reader only has to verify the answers and give a general review of the minutes.

Upon arrival at the meeting, each person will sign in, indicating their name and the name of the congregation and the years of minutes being reviewed. Each person will be paired up with another person and will exchange your books to review. The one reviewing (READER) may have questions and will ask those. Once a review has completed the pair will read the next set of minutes. This continues

until all the minutes presented have been reviewed.

The Reader will then sign the form and indicate if the minutes were approved without exception or with exception. If with exception, the reason must be listed. Those items would include:

- incomplete minutes (e.g., no indication of quorum present, lack of approval of previous minutes, absent members not listed, etc.
- OR
- missing required items (e.g., Sexual Misconduct Policy, Child Protection Policy, minutes in accordance with the Book of Order G-3.0204 Minutes and Records)

I find it helpful to also provide suggestions for improvement, if you see those. However, those should not result in an exception.

It is helpful for the clerk to present the minutes and assist with the reading. However, if you cannot attend on this date, please arrange for another elder (or the minister) to attend. It is vital that we have someone from each congregation present.

Please let me know by email or by phone (850-591-6284) if you are attending or sending someone else.

Please watch for announcements of Central and West District reading dates and locations.

### From our Stated Clerk



*By Jeannie Dixon,  
Fellowship,  
Tallahassee Elder*

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



*By Susan Byram,  
CMO member and  
1st, Pensacola Elder*

## CMO shares array of impactful Presbyterian church projects

The committee on Mission and Outreach seeks to connect local congregations across the Presbytery for the purpose of enhancing and supporting each other as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in our local congregations and around the world. Since January of this year, we have been reaching out to the churches across the Presbytery and asking for information on the various service and mission projects you are providing.

Here is a summary of the impact of the 17 churches we have heard from. If your congregation is not listed, please complete the form [here](#), and we will include you in our next update! If you have trouble with the Google form, simply email [susansbyram@gmail.com](mailto:susansbyram@gmail.com) a summary of your mission projects and best contact person for outreach, as well as your Presbyterian Women's group contact.

Many of our congregations are called to support schools with children in high need. Lynn Haven, Gulf Beach (Panama City), Euchee Valley (DeFuniak Springs), Grace (Panama City), Faith (Tallahassee), First Destin and First Crestview all have ministries to help schools through a variety of

programs including food backpacks for the weekend, providing school supplies and supporting homeless students.

The most common way we reach out is through support of other organizations doing God's work. The following congregations support numerous charities from Habitat for Humanity to Blood Drives to Cancer Charities. If you want ideas on being involved with great charities in your community, contact one of these congregations: First Milton, First Tallahassee, Northminister, Faith (PC), Gulf Breeze, First Pensacola, Laurel Hill and First Monticello.

These churches support senior adults in need in various ways: Lynn Haven, First Tallahassee, First Pensacola and Grace. Grace and First Tallahassee also support the homeless. First Pensacola houses and runs a Resale shop.

Lots of our congregations house a food pantry or significant food program. If you need ideas related to this, contact one of these churches: First Quincy, Gulf Beach (Panama City Beach), Grace, Gulf Breeze, Faith, First Monticello or First Crestview.

Several churches

house community programs that make a difference. First Pensacola houses an Narcotics Anonymous program that meets 12 times each week, and First Chipley houses AA meetings. Grace houses Scout groups and a community choir.

Childcare is a huge need, especially these days, and at least three of our churches offer childcare centers. I am confident there are others, and networking with each other would provide a format for sharing concerns and ideas. Contact First Tallahassee, First Pensacola or Grace if you'd like more info on this. I hope the others who offer this ministry will let me know!

Finally, a few churches have outreach programs or partnerships overseas. Grace supports missionaries in South Sudan. Both Faith and Gulf Breeze have partnerships with Guatemala.

This is an overview, based on the responses I've had since January. CMO seeks to serve you and support you by sharing ideas and offering ways to maximize your impact to the Glory of God. Please complete the form linked above or email me if you have not already!

**CCR**

**T**his month, CER interviewed John Guthrie at First Presbyterian of Tallahassee, who recently stepped down after years of leading the team for “The Inquirers” adult Sunday school class. It has 15-20 core members, which grew to over 50 attendees on Zoom. John joined the leadership with strengths in computer electronics, which put him in exactly the right place when Covid-19 hit.

**Describe your Sunday school audience.**

*John:* Urban mostly, younger and older, retired and working, professors and students, we are open to all “inquiring” adults with various interests and backgrounds.



*First Presbyterian of Tallahassee’s very varied “Inquirers” gather in a hybrid format*

**What was your process for choosing and preparing topics/speakers?**

*John:* We spend 8-16 hours per week on scanning theology and Bible study texts to topics of faith in *Presbyterian Today* and new books by leading theologians. Topics are all over the place, as we are a stone’s throw from the Capital. Many smaller classes do well with 2-3 hours of

preparation. The simplest source is to use the lectionary scripture passages for a more in-depth exploration of what the sermon will be on. Always there, always timely and reinforces worship.

**How did you deal with electronics before, during, and after Covid?**

*John:* Before Covid, we used overhead projectors and were able to play DVDs to show on a screen. During Covid, we increased our audio-visual equipment to show a wealth of online material on Bible study, stewardship, social justice issues like homelessness, poverty, environmental issues, and divisiveness of politics. Now, we use a hybrid way- (20 in-person/ 8-10 on Zoom) to include those living or on vacation far away, those vulnerable to illness young and elderly, shy, ride-challenged, and bed-bound.

John says, “Adult education is an exciting, personally rewarding ministry opportunity for teachers to learn and grow in their faith.”

**From the Committee on Educational Resources (CER)**



*By Esther Moring, Chair, and 1st, Tallahassee Elder*

**From the  
Committee on  
Nominations  
(CN)**



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

**Presbytery Committee Corner:  
Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)**

**T**his month, we continue our series on presbytery committees by featuring the Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA) which is chaired by Rev. Brad Clayton, pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee. This committee oversees the management of presbytery funds, property, and staff.

**What are your committee's priorities for the rest of the year?**

We are currently working on the presbytery budget for 2023 and are reaching out to our churches seeking shared support pledges for next year. We are also continuing to research and explore plans for a new presbytery office building to be built at Dogwood Acres

**What are the top two accomplishments of your committee?**

In the past two years, every church in our presbytery has pledged financial support in some

amount. We are always grateful for the support from each congregation. We have also developed policies for our reserves so that we can help congregations and provide resources for new growth.

**What qualities are you looking for in potential volunteers interested in serving on your committee?**

Someone who is dedicated to the church, but who has some knowledge in finance, property development or

management, or personnel/human resources.

The CPA has two vacancies on the committee to fill. If you are a female elder from the east district, or an elder or minister from the central or west districts, and are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Glenn Hodges at [ghodges37@comcast.net](mailto:ghodges37@comcast.net). See you at the corner next month!

**FOR YOU SHALL GO OUT IN JOY,  
AND BE LED FORTH IN PEACE.**  
ISAIAH 55:12

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION**

9/4-10/2 2022

**GULF BREEZE  
Presbyterian Church**

**PUMPKIN  
PATCH  
FUNDRAISER**

**October  
18th-31st  
11am-6pm**

100 ANDREW JACKSON TRAIL  
GULF BREEZE FL, 32561

## CR spotlights Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month

**L**atino-a and Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually between September 15 and October 15. September 15 is crucial because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico's Independence Day is September 16, and Chile's Independence Day is September 18.

The Lyndon Johnson administration was the first to observe Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. President Ronald Reagan expanded it to cover 30 days.

The Hispanic/Latino community represents various cultures and nationalities and mixed cultures composed of people from South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Spain, and other places. Hispanics/Latinos are the largest group of people of color in the United States and the third largest group of people of color in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek,



there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:27-29).

The inclusion of the Latinx and Hispanic community in representative of the unity of believers in Christ as reflected in the diversity of our presbytery. In Christ, God unites persons through baptism, regardless of race/ethnicity by the power of the Spirit. Therefore, there is no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. Hispanic/Latino-a people are involved in worship and evangelism and are equal partners in ministry and mission.

It is with gratitude that we share in the celebration of Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Committee on Representation, in conjunction with the Committee on Nominations, will host the education hour at the October 25 presbytery meeting. The education hour aims to generate awareness about the work of the Presbytery and broaden our vision concerning inclusive participation.

"Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (1 Peter 2:10)."

What does representation mean? Representation means including participants at the presbytery level by the criteria of geography, race/ethnicity, gender orientation, and church membership type (teaching elder, ruling elder, member). The Presbytery's inclusion of the Committee on Representation reaffirms its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. We cordially invite you to come prepared for an engaging hour to discuss the fruitfulness of representation, which will generate new relationships, respect for one another, and a desire to serve everyone.

### From the Committee on Representation (CR)



*By Glenn Hodges, Chair, and 1st, Tallahassee, Elder*

## From Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp



By Eric Hearn,  
Program Director

## Spiritfest 2022 offers youth weekend of fun and faith

**D**ogwood Acres is excited to be hosting Spiritfest again for the first time since 2019. We will be hosting middle school youth from across the Presbytery for a weekend of fun and faith formation. The theme for this year's retreat is "Live Life Loud", and students will be learning about how their lives can tell Loud stories for Christ every day.

Along with the middle school youth, Dogwood will also have the assistance of several high school youth who will have the opportunity to help lead their peers in guided small group times

and worship experiences. This weekend experience is a great opportunity for all youth to grow not only in their faith but also to learn about themselves.

The weekend will be filled with times for the youth to be in community together through small group study times and worship but also guided workshops and fun camp activities. If all this sounds exciting to you or youth that you know it is not too late to get signed up. Contact Program Director Eric Hearn



([eric@dogwoodacres.org](mailto:eric@dogwoodacres.org)) or visit the Dogwood Acres website

([www.dogwoodacres.org/events/spiritfest-dyc/spiritfest/](http://www.dogwoodacres.org/events/spiritfest-dyc/spiritfest/))

to get all the information you need to get involved in this exciting experience.

## From the Committee on Ministry (COM)

## Erin Rugh ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament

**O**n Sunday, September 25, Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, held a service of ordination for Erin Rugh, their new Associate Pastor for Youth and College Ministry. At right, from left, Erin responds to the constitutional questions for the ordination, conducted by Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley. Below, the attendees join in the laying on of hands for Erin.





## The Inflation Reduction Act: a gift to Creation and the Least of These

**T**he Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will invest \$369 billion in climate solutions and environmental justice. **This is the single most important action this country has ever taken to address the climate crisis and help alleviate the unequal pollution and climate burden on the “least of these”.**

It does so much for so many, there isn't enough space here to even just list it. But here is a brief list and some resources if you want to learn more.

Big wins in this bill:

- ▶ Invests large amounts in clean energy and solar
- ▶ Reduces carbon emissions by up to 40%
- ▶ Provides for consumer incentives (tax credits and rebates) for solar, batteries, electric vehicles (EVs), energy efficiency and electrification
- ▶ Creates millions of jobs and help protects health, preventing up to 3,900 premature deaths each year

Wins for you:

- ▶ Projected average family savings if you take advantage of incentives of over \$1,000 per year.
- Tax credits for EVs: New ones up to \$7,500 and used \$4,000
- ▶ Rebates for home efficiency upgrades and electrification (removing gas)
- ▶ Rebates for heating

heat pumps and electrical panelboards, branch circuits and feeders

Wins for the “least of these”:

- ▶ \$3 billion in environmental and climate justice block grants
- ▶ Business incentives for solar projects for disadvantaged communities
- ▶ Funding and loans for rural renewable electrification
- \$315.5 million for air monitoring in low income communities

Wins for our communities:

- ▶ \$3 billion for U.S. Postal Service to electrify its fleet
- ▶ \$1 billion for clean school and transit buses, garbage trucks and other heavy-duty vehicles, prioritizing communities overburdened by air pollution.
- ▶ \$3 billion to clean up air pollution at ports by installing zero emissions equipment and technology
- ▶ Grants to help state and local governments adopt the latest building energy codes, which will save homeowners on their utility bills
- ▶ More than \$20 billion to help farmers and ranchers shift to sustainable practices like crop rotation and cover crops
- ▶ \$50 million to protect mature and old-

growth forests

- ▶ \$2.6 billion in coastal resilience grants to protect and restore coastal communities and ecosystems

Wins for our churches:

- ▶ Allows for tax-exempt organizations to take advantage of the 30% solar tax credit via Direct Pay. This provision doesn't begin until January 1, 2023
- ▶ Makes available block grants for community-based nonprofits (churches?) addressing [communities disproportionately impacted by climate change](#).

- ▶ Over time should lower church utility bills as renewable energy is implemented

This is the breakthrough we have been waiting for. This bill does an enormous amount of good for God's creation and especially for the “least of these”. I hope you are inspired to learn more and to take advantage of the incentives to reduce your home, business, or church energy use and to help low income communities.

*Resources:*

- [White House Announcement](#)
- [Center for American Progress](#)
- [Rewiring America](#) – can calculate how much money you will get.

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
*Pam McVety,*  
*Presbytery*  
*Stewardship*  
*of Creation*  
*Enabler*  
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*“This is the breakthrough we have been waiting for.”*

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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

In October	Looking ahead
Saturday, October 1 11 a.m. CDT/ Noon EDT	Thursday, November 3 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT
Lauren Scott's Ordination, Trinity, Pensacola	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Sunday, October 2 3 p.m. CDT/ 4 p.m. EDT	Sunday, November 6
Reception to honor Ben Powell, 1st Presbyterian of Quincy	Daylight Saving Time ends
Wednesday, October 5 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. EDT	Sunday, November 6 11 a.m. EST
The Future of Ministry, Dogwood Acres	Kirkin' o' the Tartan, 1st Presbyterian of Havana
Thursday, October 6 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Tuesday, November 8 9:30 a.m. CST/ 10:30 a.m. EST
Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Wednesday, October 12 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Wednesday, November 9 1 p.m. CST/ 2 p.m. EST
Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Friday, October 14 – Sunday, October 16	Friday, November 11
Spritifest middle school retreat, Dogwood Acres	Veterans Day
Monday, October 17 4 p.m. CDT/ 5 p.m. EDT	Monday, November 14 10 a.m.. CST/ 11 a.m. EST
Committee on Educational Resources (CER)	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
Tuesday, October 18 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Monday, November 14 3 p.m.. CST/ 4 p.m. EST
Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Tuesday, October 18 – Monday, October 31 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST	Tuesday, November 15 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST
Gulf Breeze Presbyterian pumpkin patch	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Saturday, October 22 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Saturday, November 19 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST
Committee on Representation (CR)	Scottish Festival and Highland Games, 1st Presbyterian, Chipley
Saturday, October 22 10 a.m. CST	Sunday, November 20
Pet blessing drop-in event, 1st Presbyterian, Milton	December Panhandle Presbyterian submissions deadline
Thursday, October 20	Thursday, November 24 – Friday, November 25
November Panhandle Presbyterian submissions deadline	Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving
Tuesday, October 23 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Tuesday, November 29
<b>Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting,</b> 1st, Quincy Registration begins at 8 a.m. CDT/9 a.m. EDT	Giving Tuesday
Wednesday, October 26 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	Wednesday, November 30 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT
CMO Racial Justice Subcommittee	CMO Racial Justice Subcommittee