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The Panhandle Presbyterian

A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida



Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2024

Approval of motions kicks off 5-year process

The Implementation Taskforce presented three motions at the Winter Stated Meeting held Feb. 20 at First, DeFuniak Springs. All three were approved, thereby revising the Presbytery of Florida's By-Laws and Manual of Operations effective March 1, 2024.

These documents, based on the report and work of the Strategic Planning Taskforce, are being applied by all the presbytery ministries with the assistance of the Implementation Taskforce. Members of the taskforce are: Rev. Mark Broadhead (Retired), Elder Rick Clubb (Gulf Beach-Panama City Beach), Elder Tim Crawford – chair (First-Crestview), Elder Emily Evans (First-Lynn Haven), Elder Pam Nulty (Northminster-Pensacola), Rev. Erin Rugh (Faith-Tallahassee), and Elder Karen Weaver (First-Monticello).

The approval of these motions significantly changes the way we operate as we support our Vision “To be a presbytery of strong, healthy, energetic congregations advancing the ministries of Jesus Christ” and our Mission:

“To provide guidance, training, and assistance to our congregations”. Our vision and mission statements are vitally important to our presbytery’s coming success.

I say “coming” because this is only the beginning of the process for the presbytery’s transformation. The real work and guidance are found in the [Strategic Planning Taskforce Report](#) and its [amendments](#). This detailed and informative document is based on detailed interviews with members of the presbytery, in-depth research, and hours of prayer and study on how to best serve our congregations. Their recommendations wisely set us on a five-year path to normalizing how we help the entire presbytery advance the ministries of Jesus Christ.

In reality, the work described in the planning report is seeking to get us back to our roots, not unlike the founders of the Presbytery of Florida in 1841 put, “provide nurture and resources to assist the... churches in carrying out their mission.” (*150 Years: Frontiers in Faith*).

Continues on page 2

From the Strategic Planning Implementation Task Force (ITF)



*By Tim Crawford,
Chair and
1st, Crestview Elder*

**From the
Ministry of
Presbytery
Operations**

New presbytery staff member brings expertise and experience

Michael Martin is our Presbytery's new Accountant-Treasurer, with over 20 years' experience in management, operations, administration and teaching experience. He currently also serves as the City of Panama City Beach's Grants and Contracts Administrator and has been Habitat for Humanity of Bay County's Chief Financial Officer, as well as a Bay County Schools substitute teacher, owner of As Unto Him Cleaning Service, Panama City Rescue Mission's Director of Operations and Administration and Waterfront Rescue Mission, of Crestview's City Mission Director. He has a Master of Business Administration in Business Administration from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Arts from Bethany Bible College. Welcome, Michael!



Continued from page 1

This certainly is our goal in this redesign, to support each and every one of our churches! By doing so, we become the presbytery of not just who we want to be, but who we need to be.

To this point, the Implementation Taskforce's efforts have only been preparing. Now the real work begins. Be in prayer for each of the ministries; also be in prayer for every member of our

presbytery. You might ask, "Who is the presbytery?" I'm sure we all remember a time Roy Martin visited our congregation to preach and asked this very question. Of course, the answer is, "We all are!"

Ministry Responsibilities Redistribution

Ministry	Former Committee
Ministry Coordinating Council	<i>Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)</i>
	<i>Presbytery Administration (CPA)</i>
Congregational Health	<i>Congregational Discernment (CCD)</i>
	<i>Ministry (COM)</i>
Leadership Development	<i>Congregational Discernment (CCD)</i>
	<i>Educational Resources (CER)</i>
	<i>Mission and Outreach (CMO)</i>
	<i>Preparation for Ministry (CPM)</i>
	<i>Ministry (COM)</i>

Ministry	Former Committee
Pastoral Transitions	<i>Ministry (COM)</i>
Presbytery Operations	<i>Presbytery Administration (CPA)</i>
	<i>Congregational Discernment (CCD)</i>
	<i>Ministry (COM)</i>
New Church Formation	<i>New Congregational Development (CNCD)</i>
Representation	<i>Nominations (CN)</i>
	<i>Representation (CR)</i>
Dogwood Acres	<i>Dogwood Acres (DWA)</i>

Ministry	Moderator	Email Address
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Ministry of Congregational Health	Linda Lovins	artsedin@gmail.com
Ministry of Leadership and Development	Rev. Cathy Mooney	cathywooney@yahoo.com
Ministry of Pastoral Transitions	Rev. Lisa Martin	revlvmartin@gmail.com
Ministry of Presbytery Operations	Rev. Eric Spoon	gracepcpastor@gmail.com
Ministry of Representations	Rich Kangas	kansas265@gmail.com

New clerks' training available; minutes review planning underway

Annual Congregation Statistical Reporting to the Office of the General Assembly closed for congregations on February 16, 2024. THANK YOU to ALL the congregations who submitted their statistics. Yes, again, we have complete participation in the annual statistics. A huge "thanks" to the clerks of session and others who helped achieve this.

► I've just discovered policy documents the denomination has created, such as the [Appropriate Conduct Policy](#) all attendees of the 226th General Assembly are expected to read and follow. And you may have noticed mention of them in the presbytery's new manual policies. I'll share more about these soon.

► Several of our congregations have new clerks. Please contact me if

you want some training. I can come to you (or several of you at once!) or by Zoom. Email statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com or call me at 850-535-2335, ext. 3, to set it up.

► And finally, we need to **plan** how to get the 2023 minutes read. Email me your answers to these questions: 1) Are your minutes saved in an electronic format (like Word or Google Docs)? 2) Do you know how to combine those individual files into one document (so all of the minutes for the year are in one file)? 3) Do you know how to print that single file to PDF?

Please [email](#) your answers to me so we can determine if this would help facilitate the review. Please complete this soon. I've only heard from 22 of the 37 clerks. I will be following up with those in the coming weeks. I will be working on a video on how to merge the files into one and producing a PDF of that file. However, a date for the review has not yet been set, so please do **not** send your minutes to me until then!

From our Stated Clerk



*By Jeannie Dixon,
Fellowship,
Tallahassee Elder*

Renewal of Spirit

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL
GATHERING

3.16.24

Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 N. Meridian Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Registration 9 a.m. EDT
Meeting 9:30 a.m. EDT

Speaker: Shelagh Wirth, Moderator, Synod South Atlantic
Musicians: Winifred Heggins, Soloist
Joshua Shelton, Pianist

Register by March 10 at:
www.faithpcusa.org/presbyterianwomen
Pay \$18 at the door
Cash or Check to PWP

From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions

Presbytery welcomes two new minister members

At the February 20 presbytery meeting, the former Committee on Ministry introduced two new minister members being received by our presbytery. Meet them here:



Rev. Hanlim Chae began serving as Lafayette Presbyterian, of Tallahassee's Interim Pastor January 14.

Born and raised in South Korea, Rev. Chae served that country as a military officer and enjoyed a 13-year career as a civil engineer. Having met at a church in Seoul, he and his wife, Euna, actively participated their our faith community as choir members and leaders of a college group. They were blessed with two daughters and a son.

After relocating with his family to the U. S. in 2004, he was a sales engineer with a trading company, simultaneously exploring his own business opportunities. He became an integral part of a local Korean church, dedicating 16 years of service as a deacon, elder, Sunday school director, and finally, interim pastor. While sensing a calling to ministry since college, he initially pursued his dream of entrepreneurship. However, in 2013, divine intervention dramatically altered his path, redirecting him toward a life of service to the people of God. He was ordained in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida in 2019.

Since then, Rev. Chae served as an interim pastor for the Korean church and transitioned to a role as a parish associate at another church. Responding to God's calling, he ventured beyond his comfort zone to serve non-Korean congregations. His dream is to share the hope of Jesus Christ with individuals of all ages, from younger generations to older adults, who may feel isolated from their communities.

In addition to his pastoral pursuits, he enjoys singing in the choir, playing pickleball, and taking leisurely walks with his wife.

Rev. Blair Beaver looks forward to serving as First Presbyterian of Marianna's Pastor beginning May 12.

Born in Boone, NC, and raised in Charlotte, NC, he was baptized and confirmed at Providence Road United Methodist Church. He graduated from Northwestern High School, then Spartanburg Methodist College, with an AA in Business Administration.

In 1995, he married Kimberly Perkins at Faith Presbyterian Church, Laurinburg, NC, where God began to "call". In 1996, their oldest daughter, Hannah, was born. He became increasingly involved in the church while working as a land surveyor. He earned a BA in Religious Studies with National honors at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, then graduated with an M.Div from Columbia Theological Seminary. Along the way, he and Kimberly welcomed a son, Noah, and a daughter, Madison (Maddie).

His first call was as a solo pastor at Cornelius Presbyterian Church in Cornelius, NC. After three years there, he accepted a call to become Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian, Laurens, SC. In August 2009, he accepted the yoked position of solo pastor in Ruby, SC, serving Ruby Presbyterian and White Oak Presbyterian. In August 2014, he accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church in Bay Minette, AL, where he has served among loving Christians the last ten years.

He shares, "This journey has confirmed that there is only one God the Father, creator of all things, God the Son, Redeemer of the world and homouosios with the Father, and one Holy Spirit, the sustainer of God's all-encompassing Word and presence."



Subcommittee seeks summer scholarship campers and support

The Presbytery's Racial Justice Subcommittee believe going to camp is an opportunity everyone should enjoy! A limited number of full scholarships to Dogwood Acres Summer Camp are available for campers of diverse backgrounds.

Churches can help in two ways – Help recruit ethnic minority campers or pledge to support a camper family through donation of funds. We will also be recruiting persons to accompany the family as they prepare for camp, to



support their needs.

If you know an interested camper (or more), if your church would like to offer support to a family, or for more info, please contact me at susansbyram@gmail.com. We believe this can be the beginning point for some beautiful relationships as

we all grow together!

For details about camp (session dates and ages served), go to [Dogwood Acres' Summer](#). Campers are encouraged to apply with a friend to add to their success. Camps fill quickly, so be in touch soon!

From the Racial Justice Subcommittee



By Susan Byram, Subcommittee member and 1st, Pensacola Elder



DOGWOOD ACRES
RETREAT CENTER AND CAMP

Dogwood Mission Day
Please Join us

March 16th 9:00am Lunch Provided

Our main project will be constructing a shed for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to house their Disaster Relief Buckets. These buckets and supplies are distributed following flooding, storms, or other natural disasters. We are excited to partner with PDA and provide a much-needed resource for the communities in our Presbytery.



We will also have landscape, painting, trail maintenance, light carpentry repair, and office renewal projects for all skill levels.

RSVP to christy@dogwoodacres.org
So we can include you in our lunch count.



Dogwood Acres is the outdoor ministry of the Presbytery of Florida.

Their mission is to provide a retreat environment in which individuals and groups can grow in faith, enjoy wholesome recreation, and nurture Christian fellowship in a natural and unspoiled part of creation.

Dogwood's staff gently encourage children and youth to explore their beliefs and relationship with God, as they're ready, and to continue building their sense of accomplishment, appreciation of others' abilities, and a new perspective on what they're capable of achieving. It is their goal to provide an environment in which individuals and groups can grow in Christian faith as they experience fellowship and recreation in an outdoor ministry setting.

Presbytery gathers in serene setting at historic church

Over 70 minister members; elder commissioners; commissioned ruling elders; Christian educators; presbytery committee chairs, staff and officers; and visitors registered as participants at the Presbytery's Winter Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of DeFuniak Springs.

At right, from left, volunteers Elaine Courtney, Janet Yates, Shari Anderson, Janet Martin and Wendy Kempa serve delicious refreshments as meeting attendees arrive. Below, from left, volunteers Becky Rose, Pam Dillon and Cheryl Cosson greet and register meeting participants.



Below, at left, Bethel Presbyterian, DeFuniak Springs, shares a display about Black History. At center, Trinity Presbyterian, Pensacola Pastor the Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton preaches a sermon during the morning worship entitled "Created Anew: Creativity in Connection", based on Jonah 3:1 – 4:11 and Mark 1:14-20. Below, at right, Freeport Presbyterian Elder Becky Rose serves as liturgist during worship. (photo courtesy of Elder Jeannie Dixon)




3.16.24
Jellybean5k.com

BRINGING THE SWEETS TO THE STREETS



Above, commissioners in breakout groups discuss, share concerns and ask questions about the proposed revised Manual of Operations the Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force will present for approval. At right, participants fellowship over a lunch of barbeque pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, chips and homemade peach cobbler. Below, resolutions of thanks are presented, from left, to Rev. Dr. Pam Phillips, Rev. Taylor Phillips, Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten and Rev. Dr. Roy Martin upon their retirements. Roy also received a beautiful crystal cross in appreciation for his service as our General Presbyter.



At left, outgoing Presbytery Moderator Elder Don Mowat looks on as General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Roy Martin offers a blessing for Rev. Mark Broadhead as incoming Moderator and Elder Mary Hodges as incoming Vice Moderator.

From Dogwood Acres



By Christy Williams, Interim Director

Youth at conference learn how faith can overcome fears

Our annual Dogwood Youth Conference brought together middle and high school students from across the Presbytery to explore ways that their faith can uphold them despite the stresses and fears they experience in their lives. Youth were guided through the weekend by college students from UKirk and former camp counselors currently at UNF. In small groups, youth studied stories about Jesus and his disciples as told in the gospel of Mark.

Youth participated in the closing worship service by

sharing some of what they had learned. Some of those things were:

- ❖ Jesus gets IN the boat with us, no matter what the storm around us is, Jesus is with us.
- ❖ God puts people in our lives who we can rely on to give us a hand or a listening ear. There are helpers nearby if we reach out.
- ❖ Having a circle of connection, a community of faith, helps us conquer our fears and anxieties.

Here is a prayer the high school group wrote together to end the retreat:

Dear God,
Thank you for bringing us together for this time of fun and fellowship.
Let us remember in time of need, you are always there for us when the boat is rocky.
It is you we turn to for the strength to have faith in a world full of fear. Help us to remember that when we feel broken, you will shape us into something new and beautiful. In your name we pray, Amen.



Celebrate SDOP Sunday

March 10, 2024 *and beyond!*



www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/sdop-sunday/

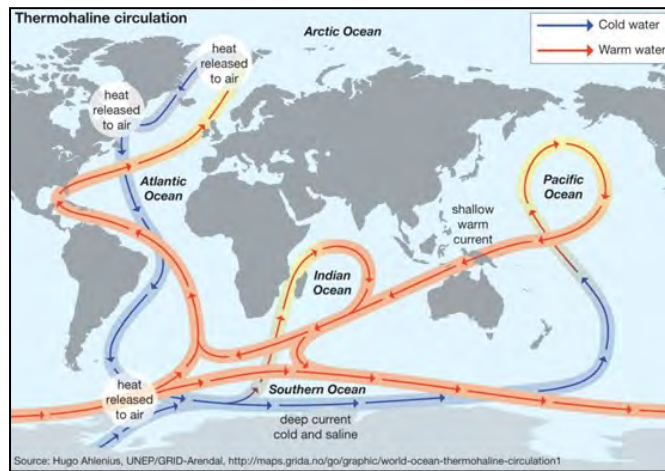
Here I go again: Another overture

One of the most uplifting movies for me is *Mama Mia*. Its songs lift me up, especially the catchy, toe-tapping title song, “Mama Mia”. Its wording, “here I go again,” came to mind as I wrote this column. Here I go again with another overture that asks the denomination to remove its investments from the fossil fuel industry.

If you are thinking, “Hasn’t the church already done that?”, you would be partially correct. The General Assembly approved a recommendation from the Committee on Mission Responsibility through Investments for the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation to divest from five fossil fuel companies, and they did. Only, the Foundation reinvested in other fossil fuel companies, and it is suspected that the Board of Pensions did the same thing.

The goal is to not just partially divest and certainly to not reinvest in other fossil fuel companies, but to completely remove all our money forever from this industry, which is knowingly and for profit wrecking the planet’s climate.

If you are wondering why we persist with this request, it is because climate change persists and is getting worse. The costs are now in the trillions, and far too many of our



brothers and sisters have been devastated by it.

It also is getting scarier. A 2023 [study](#) published in the journal *Nature Communications* reported that the Gulf Stream system could collapse as soon as 2025, but likely by 2050. You do not want this to happen. A collapse would severely disrupt rains that billions of people depend on for food in India, South America and west Africa. It would increase storms and drop temperatures in Europe and lead to more sea level rise on our east coast.

Our refugee problem is pretty bad now, but it could get worse if those billions of people become desperate for food. A multi-year climate-related drought in Central America is already partially responsible for why we have so many refugees on our southern border.

The overture going to the General Assembly, is entitled “Removal of investments in and subsidies for fossil fuels”. It declares that continued

support of the fossil fuel industry is irretrievably incompatible with the mission and goals of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. It asks that this industry be put on the denomination’s list of prohibited securities and that it be done with all due speed and diligence. It also asks that our money be invested in clean renewable energy and that the federal government stop subsidizing this industry.

You can learn more about this overture by going to the [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) website, where there is a copy of the overture and a slide presentation.

NOTE: If anyone in the Florida Presbytery is interested in concurring with this overture, please let Jeannie Dixon (statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com) know ASAP. A called meeting will have to be held and the concurrence submitted to the General Assembly before the May 4 deadline.

Caring for Creation Notes



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

“Our refugee problem is pretty bad now, but it could get worse if those billions of people become desperate for food.”

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OF FLORIDA**

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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

In March	
Friday, March 1 5-7 p.m. CT	Trinity Presbyterian, Pensacola
Saturday, March 2 7 a.m.—1 p.m. CT	Rummage Sale
Monday, March 4 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Self Development of People (SDOP) Committee
Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20 & 27 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
Thursday, March 7 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Black History Seminar Series @ 1st Presbyterian of Lynn Haven
Saturday, March 9 6:30 a.m. CT	Trinity, Pensacola Jelly Bean 5K Walk/Run
Saturday, March 9 Registration at 9 a.m. ET	Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering @ Faith, Tallahassee
Saturday, March 9 9 a.m. CT	Dogwood Acres Mission Workday
Sunday, March 10	Daylight Saving Time begins
Thursday, March 14 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations
Wednesday, March 20	Mr. Rogers Day
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday
Wednesday, March 27 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
Friday, March 29	Good Friday – Presbytery office closed
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday

Looking ahead	
Wednesday, April 3, 10, 17 & 24 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
Wednesday, April 3	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom
Monday-Thursday, April 8 -11	NEXTChurch National Gathering @ Falls Church, VA
Thursday, April 11 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations
Tuesday, April 16 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of New Congregation Development
Thursday, April 18 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET	Ministry Coordinating Council
Monday, April 22	Earth Day
Wednesday, April 24 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee



Mr. Rogers Day is March 20

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and was a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation is worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20 was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

Visit pcusa.org/mrogers for a complete list of things to do, a compilation of helpful PC(USA) resources, worship ideas and links to additional sites and resources.

 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



Brought to you by the Office of Christian Formation and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

Presbyterian Association of Musicians

**Worship & Music
Conference**



JUNE 16-21
&
JUNE 23-28

MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA