



## From the Ministry of Leadership Development



*By Tim Crawford,  
Florida Presbyterian  
Disaster Assistance  
Network (FLAPDAN)  
Liaison and  
1st, Crestview Elder*

## Now is the time for developing or updating disaster plans

Spring is in the air! Birds are singing, flowers blooming, and the sun is up later in the day, letting us enjoy the beautiful weather that much more. Not to put a damper on all the enjoyment spring brings, but now is the time to pull out your hurricane/disaster plan and get it ready for the 2024 hurricane season. Having a current plan for your church and your home is an essential part of being prepared for the upcoming season.

You might ask, "It was good last year – What changed?" Maybe nothing, but finding it out-of-date when trying to put the plan into action is not the time to update obsolete information. So, confirm your insurance information is correct, check to make sure the plan's contact information is up to date, and check in with those assigned duties to perform to make sure they are still available and able to perform them.

If you don't have a disaster plan for your church or home, now is the perfect time to start working on one. There are many resources out there to get you going. For your home, check out <https://www.ready.gov/plan> for lots of information about being prepared. For your church, there is an excellent sample plan at the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) website: <https://www.flapdan.org/sample->



Volunteers construct a building at Dogwood Acres for keeping disaster response cleanup kits on hand for when the need arises. (Photo courtesy of Eric Hearn)

[disaster-plans](#). Get started today.

Now that your plan is set and you have everything ready to go, what's next? Maybe help a neighbor put together a plan, especially if that neighbor is new to the area and never experienced a major weather event. Another option, if you have a group looking for a way to make an impact, is to prepare some cleanup buckets. Go to <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#bucket> to see how. This effort is especially important today as our own Dogwood Acres Camp now has a facility built specifically to store these valuable kits. Having them within the presbytery and close to areas prone to disaster simplifies the transport and helps get them where they are needed quickly.

If a storm is bearing down on your area, and you need help implementing your home's plan, don't wait, contact your church

office, the earlier the better. They will assist you in finding the help to make ready.

If have damage as the result of a storm, contact your church. They will help you find the assistance you need to start recovery process. Also know the Presbytery of Florida, FLAPDAN, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) are there as well. Each of these organizations have wide-ranging support mechanisms and resources for aid and will respond as soon as possible to any type of calamity.

Being prepared for the worst won't prevent a storm from impacting you or your church. But proper planning and preparation do offer the best chance at reducing the damage and limiting the chaos of any weather calamity. Pray for a calm hurricane season but prepare for the worst. And, most of all – stay safe!

## Resources available for creating Book of Order-mandated policies

Work continues at the General Assembly level to provide sample policies for child protection and sexual misconduct, harassment, anti-racism as mandated by the Book of Order.

Find helpful information at [www.presbyterianmission.org/legal-resources/creating-safe-ministries/helpful-resources/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/legal-resources/creating-safe-ministries/helpful-resources/)

This page has a PDF slideshow presentation on creating child-youth-protection policies: [www.presbyteria](http://www.presbyteria)

[mission.org/wp-content/uploads/Creating-Child-Youth-Protection-Policies.pdf](http://mission.org/wp-content/uploads/Creating-Child-Youth-Protection-Policies.pdf)

Many congregations ask why they need a child-youth protection policy when they have no youth in their congregation. You need this to protect any child/youth (grandchildren, neighbors, scouts, etc.) who may visit on occasion.

And this resource provides an overview of what should be included in your policies: [https://](https://pcbiz.s3.amazonaws.com/)

[media/Uploads/c69890a9-dd92-4f4e-bd94-af259c5caf70/](http://media/Uploads/c69890a9-dd92-4f4e-bd94-af259c5caf70/)

[Appropriate Conduct Page of GA Handbook - 2023 Final.docx](#)

► Please remember to submit deaths of elders throughout the year for the Presbytery's annual necrology. Information may be submitted throughout the year for deaths between October 1 and September 30. Go to the form <http://bit.ly/pofnecro> to submit the information. The form can be completed at any time before the end of September. This is for reporting the death of ruling elders and teaching elders; the elder does not have to have still been an active elder.

If you are not able to complete the form, you may email the information to me at [statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com](mailto:statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com) to enter for you. Include the elder's name, name of church, and date of death. The names received will be included in the October Presbytery meeting packet and read aloud during the meeting.

► There are several new clerks of session in our presbytery. Please contact me if you want some training. I can come to you (or several of you at once!) in person or by Zoom. Email me at [statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com](mailto:statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com) or call me at 850-591-6284 to set it up.

## From our Stated Clerk



*By Jeannie Dixon,  
Fellowship,  
Tallahassee Elder*

**LAUREL HILL ARTS & HERITAGE Festival**

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AND THE CRESTVIEW ARTISTS' COLLECTIVE

*Save the Date!*  
**Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting**  
Saturday, May 18 • 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET  
Dogwood Acres  
Camp & Retreat Center



**DOGWOOD ACRES**  
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

CHANGE LIVES THIS SUMMER

COME WORK AT CAMP!

- GROW IN YOUR FAITH
- MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS
- SPEND A SUMMER OUTDOORS
- DEVELOP NEW LIFE SKILLS

MALE APPLICANTS NEEDED  
MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER



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VISIT  
[DOGWOODACRES.ORG/SUMMER/SUMMER-EMPLOYMENT](http://DOGWOODACRES.ORG/SUMMER/SUMMER-EMPLOYMENT)  
OR SCAN BELOW



## Plastics overture going to General Assembly this summer

Last month, I wrote about the Presbyterians for Earth Care's fossil fuel overture going to the General Assembly this summer. There is another overture from PEC, and it is on plastics. I recently got asked to give a talk on the problem of plastics and readily agreed, having no idea how difficult or serious the issue had become.

We all like the convenience and disposability of plastics in our lives, but guess what? They don't go away just because we throw them away. They are around essentially forever and are piling up in places we don't want them, harming wildlife, polluting the environment and even finding their way into our bodies and causing health problems. By 2050, there will be more plastics than fish in the ocean.

They also are made from fossil fuels, and the fossil fuel industry is promoting them. As the world transitions to renewable energy, the industry is counting on plastics as their next growth market. Some are calling it Plan B for the industry. The International Energy Agency reported that plastics are set to drive nearly half of oil demand growth by midcentury.

There is an informative four-minute video that I encourage you to watch, entitled *The Story of Plastics* that explains what is happening with them.

The overture is entitled



“On Becoming Free from Plastics” and has multiple asks, which I have simplified:

1. Encourage all our settings to commit to changing from a disposable culture to a reusable, sustainable one.
2. Encourage education within our congregations and in our communities to advocate for alternatives to single-use plastics.
3. Reduce the use of single-use plastics and packaging.
4. Commend all settings of the church to preach, educate, organize cleanup events, support businesses that avoid single use plastics, and encourage MRTI to ask companies to reduce their production and use of plastics, particularly eliminating single-use plastics wherever possible.

Living out our mission to care for God's creation is a serious necessity and, unfortunately, too often difficult, as I learned when preparing a talk on plastics to my Sunday School class. I was shocked to learn that the plastics industry and

the fossil fuel industry have a lot in common in using tactics from the tobacco industry to get us addicted to their products, and both industries oppose more sustainable options.

When I taught the Sunday school class on plastics, I ended up giving my presentation a second title – “The Screaming Woman”, because having to process and talk about yet another product that is hurting creation was way more than I bargained for when accepting the speaking request. Also, because it's impossible to rid our lives of plastics, it was hard to find a positive message. But there is one: Even if we can't totally avoid them in our lives, we do have other options for living our lives in more sustainable ways that are safer, healthier and yes... cheaper.

Hoping you will read and support both these overtures with our GA commissioners. Happy to answer any questions. [pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com).

### Caring for Creation Notes



By  
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*Presbytery Stewardship of Creation Enabler*  
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*“I was shocked to learn that the plastics industry and the fossil fuel industry have a lot in common in using tactics from the tobacco industry...”*

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**The Panhandle Presbyterian**

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

<b>In April</b>		<b>Looking ahead</b>	
<i>Monday, April 1</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Self Development of People (SDOP) Committee	<i>Wednesday, May 1</i> 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
<i>Wednesday, April 3</i> 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force	<i>Wednesday, May 1</i> 11 a.m. CT/noon ET	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom
<i>Wednesday, April 3</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee	<i>Monday, May 6</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Self Development of People (SDOP) Committee
<i>Wednesday, April 3</i> 11 a.m. CT/ noon ET	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom	<i>Thursday, May 9</i> 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations
<i>Monday, April 8</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of Leadership Development	<i>Monday, May 13</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of Leadership Development
<i>Monday-Thursday, April 8 -11</i>	<a href="#">NEXTChurch National Gathering</a> @ Falls Church, VA	<b>Saturday May 18</b> 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	<b>Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting @ Dogwood Acres</b> Registration begins an hour ahead
<i>Thursday, April 11</i> 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET	Ministry of Presbytery Operations	<i>Tuesday, May 21</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of New Congregation Development
<i>Tuesday, April 16</i> 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET	Ministry of New Congregation Development	<i>Wednesday, April 24</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
<i>Thursday, April 18</i> 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET	Ministry Coordinating Council	<i>Monday, May 27</i>	Memorial Day – Presbytery office closed
<i>Monday, April 22</i>	Earth Day		
<i>Wednesday, April 24</i> 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee		

