

Presbytery Staff  
and Officers  
are here for you:

**Rev. Mark Broadhead**  
Stated Clerk  
Statedclerk  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Mary Hodges**  
Moderator  
mary37@comcast.net

**Christy Williams**  
Dogwood Acres Director  
christy@dogwoodacres.org

**Michael Martin**  
Accountant-Treasurer  
treasurer  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Melissa Willis**  
Administrator  
Mwillis  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Inside this issue:**

- Ministry of Leadership Development 2
- Ministry of Pastoral Transitions 3
- Dogwood Acres 4
- Caring for Creation 5
- Save the Dates 6

# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 7, Issue 8

August 2024

## Stewardship Team will be reaching out soon

**I**t is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of summer on the calendar, even if not meteorologically! It certainly has been a hot several months, and our power bills can prove it.

In the not-so-distant future, churches will be looking at budgets for the upcoming year and winding down their financial obligations for this one. Now it is time for our Presbytery Stewardship Team to reach out with a request that each Session begin to consider how to support our Presbytery, both with monetary pledges and with your time and talents.

Despite being without a General Presbyter for

several months, the work of the ministry teams continues, and the Search Committee is diligently working toward hiring a Transitional General Presbyter. Dogwood Acres has had a busy year and successful summer camps. In short, the Presbytery of Florida is rocking and rolling!

We ask that each Session, Clerk and Pastor review what they pledged this year in order to fulfill the pledge to the best of their abilities. You will be hearing from the Presbytery's Stewardship Team soon.

Thanks, always, for your continued support of your Presbytery. Keep cool!

## From the Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)



*By Ann Fyfe,  
MPO Member  
and 1st, Lynn Haven  
Elder*

# SUMMER STATED *Presbytery Meeting*

Saturday, August 24 • 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT

*Registration begins at 8 a.m. CDT/9 a.m. EDT*

@Northminster Presbyterian Church

1100 E 9 Mile Road, Pensacola, FL

[www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/](http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/)

## From the Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD)



*By Rev. Cathy  
Mooney,  
MLD Moderator  
and 1st, DeFuniak  
Springs Pastor*

## MLD guides commissioning of ruling elders to pastor

*“When the presbytery, in consultation with the session or other responsible committee, determines that its strategy for mission requires it, the presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery” (G-2.1001).*

In the church, we hear a lot about CREs these days. People ask:

- What does that mean?
- What do they do?
- How can I become a CRE?

“CRE” stands for Commissioned Ruling Elder. They are Ruling Elders who have undergone training to be commissioned to support and pastor churches, moderate sessions, administer the sacraments and other pastoral duties.

In the Presbytery of Florida, preparation to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) involves two phases: Exploration and Discipleship. These steps are designed to help the Elder explore their call, evaluate their gifts and for the Presbytery to support them as they prepare for this call. The oversight of this process is done by the Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD).

Along with a mentor relationship, the Explorer engages in education in five key areas:

- Education for Ministry
- Spiritual Development

- Interpersonal relations
- Personal Growth
- Professional Development

We suggest that this course work be completed through the two-year program of Union Presbyterian Seminary (UPSem), *Pathways to Learning and Leadership*.

Statements of faith, letters of recommendation, and session recommendation from the candidate’s home church are just some of the things needed to begin the process. As one moves through the process from explorer to disciple, and their course work is completed, as well observations of session work, worship services, interviews with MLD and meetings with a mentor, they grow in their knowledge of church and pastoral leadership. And, when ready, the MLD

approves them as ready for a commission.

The work of a CRE happens within the framework of a Commission/Call. Typically, CREs are not commissioned to work in their home congregations. CREs are helpful to smaller congregations and often take on part-time calls.

There are many places within our presbytery where CREs serve and lead and support our congregations. If you think God is calling you in this direction, let us know, and we can help you work through the steps and get started.

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Rev. Cathy Mooney, Moderator of the Ministry of Leadership Development for more information. ([cathymooney@yahoo.com](mailto:cathymooney@yahoo.com))

### TRANSITIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

## UPDATE

The Search Committee for our presbytery’s new Transitional General Presbyter has continued to work swiftly and intentionally. We have been hard at work reviewing applicants and have begun the interview process with an impressive set of candidates. We look forward to keeping you updated as our search progresses.





## MPT welcomes six ministers to Presbytery in 2024

The Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT) are pleased to celebrate the addition of six new ministers to the Presbytery since the beginning of this year.

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

**Rev. Blair Beaver** began serving as First Presbyterian of Marianna’s Pastor May 12 and was installed July 14.

**Rev. Glenn Hodges** began at First Presbyterian Tallahassee on June 10 as Designated Pastor. His service of ordination and installation was held July 28.

**Rev. Kwon Soo Cho**, who has been serving for some time at the Korean Community Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, will soon be installed as the Pastor. The date for his installation will be announced.

**Stacey Kaye White** will be the new Designated Pastor at Freeport Presbyterian. She is set to begin August 4 and will be ordained as



Shown at left, Rev. Glenn Hodges, who’s served as a longtime First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee ruling elder, is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as FPC of Tallahassee’s Designated Pastor in a July 28 service and celebration, with music, reflection and fellowship.

a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed August 25.

**Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson** was approved by MPT to be the Church Planter for the Presbytery New Congregation in South Walton County. MPT will propose her approval by the Presbytery at the August 24 meeting. Her installation should be sometime in September.

Welcome to each of our new ministers!

MTP also has approved some minor changes to the guidelines which accompany the Pulpit Supply list. The new list and guidelines should be available soon on the Presbytery’s website.

## From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)



*By Ed Nickinson, MPT member and Trinity, Pensacola Elder*

2024 Evangelism Conference

# A Lifestyle That Exudes Justice

October 3-5, 2024  
Louisville, KY

[pcusa.org/evangelism](http://pcusa.org/evangelism)

## From Dogwood Acres



By *Christy Williams,*  
*Director*

## DWA summer camp fun “invited” all into God’s work

Usually, the woods around Dogwood are calm, restful places to still your soul and renew your spirit. But, since the beginning of June, the Spirit has been moving, and there is not much rest! Our Summer Camp season buzzed with activity.

Throughout our Dogwood Summer Camp program, we welcomed campers representing at least ten churches in our Presbytery, as well as campers from other denominations or no church affiliation. We are thankful for the wonderful campers sent to us from: FPC Lynn Haven, FPC Defuniak Springs, FPC



Quincy, Freeport, Faith, Christ, FPC Tallahassee, Parkway, Gulf Breeze, and Trinity, Pensacola.

We had nine counselors on staff this summer who have been nurtured in their faith by FPC Tallahassee; Trinity, Pensacola; and FPC Marianna.

We also had three resource staff join us to assist with setting things

up, leading games, dishwashing, and other responsibilities as needed. These three high schoolers are active at their home churches: Christ, Faith and Trinity, Pensacola.

Our theme for the summer was “Invited into God’s Work in the World”. Our volunteer chaplains, including Bill Lamont, Emily Bruno and Brant Copeland, each found unique ways to help campers understand that they are invited into God’s family and have a role in doing God’s work in the world.

Between the hikes, swimming and canoeing, axe throwing, challenge course, games, 9-Square in the Air, silly songs, Bingo, Ga-ga ball, archery, and S’more-making, there were conversations about faith, songs about Jesus, questions about how we live out what God invites us to do, and relationships formed that build up God’s kingdom in a beautiful, sweaty, giggly, kind of way that can only happen at camp, but should happen more often everywhere.

# SAVE THE DATE!

Spiritfest  
October 11-13  
Middle School Youth

Dogwood Youth Conference  
February 7-9  
Middle/High School Youth





## Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture passed GA ... then didn't

The theme of the General Assembly this summer was “Live into Hope”. And that is what thousands of Presbyterians did with yet another overture – the fifth one – asking the denomination to remove its investments from the fossil fuel industry.

The overture passed out of committee, then passed the full assembly by a substantial margin. After lunch, the assembly reversed their earlier decision to divest and replaced it with another business-as-usual item that keeps us invested in the fossil fuel industry.

How can this happen? It happens because when the divestment overture (ENV-02) is heard in committee, Overture advocates and others have an equal opportunity to explain the rationale behind it, as do denominational representatives who oppose it. And, this year, the many messages from advocates and others about the relationship between the denomination’s investments in the fossil fuel industry and the harm the industry is causing to all of creation were powerful and carried forward to the floor of the GA, where commissioners voted for it.

After lunch, in plenary, there was a motion to reconsider, and the majority of the voices, including multiple



denominational staff, that commissioners heard from all advocated for business as usual, which involves more shareholder engagement and a company-by-company review regarding divestment. Overture advocates do not have a voice at plenary, so the folks who understand the overture and are best able to defend it do not have an opportunity, even before a reconsideration of their overture.

The commissioners responded to what they just heard and disapproved the divestment overture. They approved an amended staff item (ENV-06) to direct the MRTI to immediately identify the top ten fossil fuel companies that derive the majority of their profits from the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels and with which there will be no promising engagement and immediately divest from those companies.

Many commissioners most likely felt this was a

compromise that supported the staff processes and pushed them to divest. Unfortunately, not much divestment will happen. One analysis suggests that there may be only one company and possibly two (Occidental and EOG) that would be candidates for engagement and possible divestment.

I believe that commissioners understood the urgency of the climate crisis and wanted the church to address it with its investments. Yet, because of the complexity of the issue, GA procedures that exclude overture advocate input at plenary, and especially because of the strong staff advocacy of denomination processes in committee, at plenary and elsewhere, the divestment overture didn't pass.

The end of my message to the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee was, “We should be **led by our faith, not by our investments and processes**. The teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to love our neighbors and to care for the least of these. We cannot do this while profiting from an industry that is hurting them.”

### Caring for Creation Notes



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

*“I believe the commissioners understood the urgency of the climate crisis and wanted the church to address it with its investments.*

*Yet ....*

*The divestment overture didn't pass”*

**PRESBYTERY  
OF FLORIDA**

Mailing address:  
P. O. Box 7  
Chipley, FL 32428

Physical address:  
3368 Harmony Rd

Phone: 850-535-2335  
or 850-535-2440

E-mail:  
office@presbyteryofflorida.com  
Website:  
www.presbyteryofflorida.net

**Ministry Coordinating Council**  
Elder Don Mowat  
dmowat@bellsouth.net

**Ministry of Congregational Health**  
Elder Linda Lovins  
jartsedlin@gmail.com

**Ministry of Dogwood Acres**  
Rev. William "Bill" Lamont  
gbpcpastorbill@gmail.com

**Ministry of Leadership  
Development**  
Rev. Cathy Mooney  
cathymooney@yahoo.com

**Ministry of New Congregation  
Development**  
Rev. A. J. Mealor  
revmealor@gmail.com

**Ministry of Pastoral Transitions**  
Rev. Lisa Martin  
revlwmartin@gmail.com

**Ministry of Presbytery Operations**  
Rev. Eric Spoon  
gracepcpastor@gmail.com

**Ministry of Representation**  
Elder Rich Kangas  
kangas265@gmail.com

**The Panhandle Presbyterian**

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

<b>In August</b>	
Sunday, August 4	<a href="#">College and Young Adult Sunday</a>
Monday, August 5	Synod of South Atlantic "Sabbath by the Pool" for women in
Tuesday, August 6, 13, 20, 27	Transitional Presbyter Search Committee 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET
Wednesday, August 7	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET
Wednesday, August 7	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday <a href="#">Sack Lunch via Zoom</a> Topic: Campus Ministry 11 a.m. CT/noon ET
Thursday, August 8	Ministry of Presbytery Operations 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET
Sunday, August 11	<a href="#">Youth in the Church and the World Sunday</a>
Monday, August 12	Ministry of Leadership Development 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET
Saturday, August 24	<b>Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting @Northminster, Pensacola</b> <i>Registration begins an hour ahead</i> 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET
Sunday, August 25	Service of Ordination and installation for Stacey Kaye White @ Freeport 3 p.m. CT/4 p.m. ET

<b>Looking ahead</b>	
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24	Transitional Presbyter Search Committee 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET
Wednesday, Sept. 4	Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET
Wednesday, Sept. 4	Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday <a href="#">Sack Lunch via Zoom</a> Topic: Basic Needs Ministries 11 a.m. CT/noon ET
Sunday – Saturday, Sept. 8 – 14	<a href="#">Christian Formation Week</a>
Monday, Sept. 9	Ministry of Leadership Development 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET
Thursday, Sept. 12	Ministry of Presbytery Operations 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET
Sunday, Sept. 15	<a href="#">Evangelism Sunday</a>
Monday – Wednesday, Sept. 23 – 25	<a href="#">Stewardship Kaleidoscope</a> , Portland, OR
Friday – Sunday, Sept. 27 – 29	<a href="#">Faith, Tallahassee Marriage Retreat @ Evermore Resort, Orlando</a>
Thursday – Saturday, October 3 – 5	<a href="#">PC(USA) Evangelism Conference, Louisville, KY</a>
Sunday, Oct. 6	<a href="#">World Communion Sunday</a>
Monday – Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 23	<a href="#">Wee Kirk Conference @ Montreat Conference Center</a>
Friday – Sunday, Oct. 23 – 25	Spiritfest Middle School Youth Retreat @ Dogwood Acres
Sunday, Oct. 20	<a href="#">Children's Sabbath</a>
Tuesday, Oct. 29	<b>Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting @Christ, Tallahassee</b> 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET
Sunday, Oct. 31	Reformation Sunday
Sunday, Nov. 3	Daylight saving time ends
Saturday, Nov. 9	<a href="#">Southeast &amp; Puerto Rico Region of Partners in Christian Education (SOAP) Regional Event</a>




**wee Kirk**  
CONFERENCE

**October 21-23, 2024**  
Visit [montreat.org/wee-kirk](http://montreat.org/wee-kirk)