

Committee Reports

February 22, 2020 Stated Meeting

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Committee

- Request churches celebrate Blue Shirt Sunday on March 15 rather than the planning calendar date of March 8th so that can lead into:
- Presbytery-wide work week March 15-21 – “**Celebration of Resilience and Recovery**”
 - o Work on site at flood sites
 - o Asking churches to “host” a day of the week at a worksite, so we know we have coverage each day. No cost involved to churches
 - o Food, materials and supplies, and T-shirts provided
 - o Publicity materials to be approved at February 6 PDA meeting for poster distribution at February Presbytery meeting
- Applying for a Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation grant to pay \$30,000 of a \$37,5000 grant request for work week in March as well as 3 other work weeks in 2020
 - o Invitation to Homestead PDA to join in planning and shared cost of the grant endeavor.
 - If Homestead joins, then some worksites will be inside bounds of Homestead
 - If Homestead does not, then all worksites will be inside bounds of MRV
- At February Presbytery meeting we have requested docket time to
 - o Announce March work week
 - o Remind churches who have not submitting their disaster assessment paperwork
- We have awarded three national PDA grants (all applications received have been approved)
 - o Douglas County Long Term Recovery Group – Computers for case management and materials and supplies for house rebuilding
 - o Church of the Cross for kitchen renovation to allow for better workgroup hosting (they are the National PDA site host selected for volunteer teams sent to MRV)
 - o Neighbors United – storage space for long term recovery groups without MRV boundaries

Social Justice and Peacemaking

A. Reviewed and reformatted the Manual of Operations committee description:

G. Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee

1. Mission

The mission of Social Justice and Peacemaking is to assist the Presbytery in its education and advocacy of issues related to social justice and peacemaking emerging from higher councils of the denomination by:

- assist the Presbytery in the development of programs and activities related to issues regarding social justice and peacemaking;
- work with other committees and relevant groups in the proper administration of special funds related to social justice, hunger, peacemaking, etc.
- and be responsible for education, action, and advocacy on social ministry/public policy issues on which the General Assembly, Synod or this Presbytery has officially spoken; and on political/legislative matters of concern to the Church.

2. Membership

The Committee has up to six individuals (presbyters and other church members) who represent different congregations within the Presbytery and who possess specific gifts and abilities to support and further the ministry described above.

B. Discussed announcing the survey about needs of the presbytery at the next stated meeting. Will compose something for Monday Morning when the survey is ready.

C. Discussed a fall conference on advocacy cosponsored with FELD. Jimmy Hawkins would be the keynote.

D. Approved a motion to recommend to PMRV that we become a Matthew 25 Presbytery. There is no financial cost-but education and recommend activities regarding social justice and peacemaking. Carolyn would present this at the next stated meeting.

Mission Evangelism Report

The 2020 Mission Evangelism Committee consists of Deborah Kippley, Chair, Matt Coplen, Josh Widman, Steve Hope, Mary Thomsen, and Joyce Faltis-Serenil.

As a committee, we have reaffirmed our support of the Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship (SAPF) and the Arabic Christian Fellowship.

The SAPF is building a strong relationship with Discovery Presbyterian Church and has established a SAPF Covenant Group that meets monthly. The Covenant Group consists of members of SAPF, Discovery, PMRV Leadership, COM, and the PMRV

Mission Evangelism committee. On January 12, 2020, in a joint SAPF/Discovery worship service, the Sudanese ordained John Kier and Gatwal Tut and installed Martha Dul as elders and ordained Par Ranch as a deacon. John Kier is attending the Discovery Session Meeting.

The Arabic Christian Fellowship gathers for worship, study, and fellowship on Saturday evenings at Community Bible Church located at 90th and Q. The gathering regularly consists of 12-20 people. With gratitude Pastor Emad has accepted an office space at Presbyterian Church of the Master in which he works from on a day-to-day basis.

The PMRV Nicaraguan partnership is emphasizing activities to strengthen our relationship with our partners. Thus, since our trip there in March 2019, we have held joint video calls every other month. Also, we share joys and concerns monthly and then pray for each other simultaneously at 2 pm on 2nd Mondays. On January 17, 100 Nicaraguan school children received school packets funded by PMRV Presbytery members. Packages included uniforms sewn by our partners' women's sewing collective, shoes, backpacks and supplies, at a total cost of \$9,500. Our partners would like to provide a 2nd uniform for the 100 growing children in June, the total cost of \$4,000, but honestly, that will be difficult to achieve.

Komarek Grants have been announced for 2019. The PMRV Mission Evangelism Committee received \$ 17, 800.00 from the Komarek Trust as well as support for the two pastoral candidates under care, Carolyn Grice and Matt Geiler. The \$17,800.00 was distributed to Hope Presbyterian Church, Mount View Presbyterian Church, Murray Presbyterian Church, and United Trinity Church.

Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship (SAPF) Covenant Team

SAPF/PMRV/Discovery Presbyterian Church

2-1-20 meeting notes (for use in PMRV Gold Star report)

Celebrated:

-January 12, 2020 10:30 Joint ordination/installation service

-New SAPF officers: Elders: Ordain John Kier; Install Martha Dul, Deacons: Par Ruach

-January 18 –joint officer training (Discovery & SAPF)

-Discovery Session includes SAPF elder, John Kier, and he was part of January 14 Meeting

-Sharing communion schedule and elements

Supported:

1. Revised PMRV directory listing

Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship – Covenant Group

Pastor/SAPF Michael Kuach

Elder/SAPF & Discovery John Kier

Deacon/SAPF Par Ruach

Other SAPF Leaders Rotating

COM Sally Carlson

COM Pam Otto

PMRV Mission & Evangelism Debbie Kippley

PMRV at large Suzanne Gorhau

Pastor/Partner Sarah Dickinson, Discovery

Elder/Partners Beth Galli, Madeline Geldis, Larry Scott (Discovery)

2. Discerning how SAPF & PMRV partner – keep as conversation across 2020

Some notes so far:

Keeping link to Mission and Evangelism

Considering connections to Matthew 25 initiative

Financial support understandings

Other notes

Next Meeting: Saturday March 7, 2020, 4:00 PM @ Discovery

Note: COM looking to schedule Triennial visit with SAPF some point this year

Calvin Crest Board

Let me start this report with some excerpts from a Jr. High campers' report in her church newsletter:

“Calvin Crest is an amazing place to spend time, grow spiritually, and connect with others. This year I feel more connected with God than ever before. I could feel him in our presence when I was at camp; I could see him in everyone there.”

When a young person spends extended time surrounded by nature, loving adults, worship, Bible Study, games and new activities, something amazing almost always happens. They become a better version of who they are. They often return home more helpful, more loving and more focused on their relationship with God. This impacts their family, their school, their church and their community in positive ways. Calvin Crest is an amazing supplement to the significant spiritual education that happens in the home and local congregation.

In addition to the impact summer camp has on campers, is the impact the experience has on college-age summer staff. These young people often grow up attending camp and feel compelled to give back a portion of what they've gained from camp. Through 10

days of paid training, the staff grow in their leadership skills, spiritual focus, behavior management, recreational repertoire and ability to interact positively with children and youth from diverse backgrounds. And these 21st Century Skills continue to be honed over the course of the summer as staff try different approaches to various situations. These skills--flexibility, conflict resolution, leadership, social skills and collaboration are the skills that set young people up for success in the work place.

Apart from summer programming, Calvin Crest offers programmed retreats and space for other groups to host their own programming. In 2019, Calvin Crest hosted groups representing churches, businesses, schools, service organizations, families and other groups. With approximately 60% of guests being adults, the conference center is a well-used facility.

As Calvin Crest celebrates 60+ years of service and ministry, the ongoing needs to update and improve facilities continue. In 2019 the following projects were completed:

- One cabin was renovated to improve accessibility and privacy in the bathrooms.
- Sidewalks were installed to improve accessibility to outlying cabins.
- Solar Panels were installed to improve efficiency, reduce utility costs, provide educational opportunities and enhance emergency water supply capabilities.
- Recreational opportunities were enhanced through an Eagle Scout Project.
- Replacement of some mattresses in the Proett Conference Center and Cabins.
- Replacement of benches for Meditation Point.
- Additional smaller infrastructure improvements.

The support of individuals, churches, foundations and the Presbytery enable Calvin Crest to continue to meet the needs of guests and campers of all ages. Grow Your Life Here!

Faith Education, Leadership Development (FELD)

- Held first meeting on February 12, 2020.
- Elected Cindy Harvey as Vice Chair, Becky Balestri as Secretary and Matt Coplen as Scholarship Administrator
- Reviewed FELD section of Manual of Administrative Operations and made suggestions for revision.
- Youth Working Group reported on a Presbytery Junior and Senior High Lock-in at Underwood Hills on February 29th
- Worship Working Group has been working on the Worship service for the upcoming Presbytery meeting
- We decided to offer Child Safety Training every other year, instead of every year, after watching attendance trends the last several years
- Discussed the need for Mental Health Training in our presbytery with Gospel Johnstone
- Due to Jason Brian Santos's job change and recent events in both our and Homestead Presbytery, we feel that we should withdraw our request to host Jason or Brian Frick at the August Presbytery meeting at Calvin Crest. It was suggested that we might all be better served by hosting someone(s) who could help our presbyteries explore ways to both proceed into the future and work together. At this point, we feel this should be turned over to the Leadership Team.
- Update on Calvin Crest Registration and Synod School for Summer 2020.
- We looked at our budget.
- Opened and closed meeting in prayer.

Worship and Spirituality Working Group

The Worship & Spirituality Working Group planned worship for the February 22 meeting at Church of the Master. Worship will include Carolyn Grice preaching, a group choir including anyone who wants to participate, and Gary Eller and Becky Balestri presiding at worship, including reading the names of those who have died in the faith this past year. We sponsored a retreat, "An Uncluttered Life: Making Room for the Holy," at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church on January 18 with approximately 35 people attending.