

# Committee Reports

## May 5, 2020 Stated Meeting

### **FELD—Linda Reffert, Chair**

FELD did not meet in March. In lieu of the March meeting, a list of questions was sent to Committee members to explore why each member of the committee agreed to serve on FELD, what their hopes were for the committee, and what they saw as the faith and leadership educational needs of our presbytery. Committee members were also asked about preferred event types, speakers, and the types of roles they were most comfortable filling, etc. The questionnaire was kept to a few questions but there was a lot of meat in the answers of those who responded.

As of this date not all members have responded to the questionnaire. Of those who answered some answers would surely be changed in response to the way our lives (and ways of doing church) have turned upside down. The next FELD meeting will be via Zoom on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Commission on Preparation for Ministry—Rev. Jay Cline, Moderator**

CPM has not met. They plan to meet in May.

### **Stewardship of Resources (SOR), Rev. Gregg Miller, Chair**

Dave Emery reported that about 70% of per capita pledges have been received, which was about the same as last year at this time.

There were no concerns with the financials, except that investments have been hit hard with the market's downturn. They are expected to recover.

Discussions and Decisions made

The Korean Church has requested SOR to return their funds held in the 95 account. JD moved and Mike seconded that SOR send them a check to clear the 95 account. The motion was approved. There was discussion about the response the Presbytery should give considering the coronavirus pandemic and its effect on our churches. Some Presbyteries are giving cash grants to smaller churches to upgrade technology. 20 churches responded to Pat Shipley's survey about needs caused by the pandemic. SOR developed a Presbytery Response to the Covid-19 facing our churches.

- We are going to make available \$100,000 from the 95 accounts to be used for grants to our churches and to include Calvin Crest.
- SOR will determine a cap per congregation after the needs are known. COM will be asked to personally contact the pastors at our churches to tell them about these available funds. They will be directed to send their requests/statements of need to Gregg by April 24<sup>th</sup>. SOR will determine what the grants will be.
- Pat Shipley will be asked to contact the Stated Clerks of Session to have them begin the process of determining how the funds will be used.

The next official meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at noon, hopefully at The Presbytery Office. SOR will meet before this meeting to discuss the requests from churches who need a grant. SOR's grant recommendations will hopefully be a part of the Presbytery meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mission and Evangelism—Debbie Kippley, Chair**

Mission Evangelism had an email meeting.

The consensus of the Mission Evangelism Committee is that it would benefit PMRV to be a Matthew 25 Presbytery. We believe that we are already doing many things contained in the Matthew 25 guidelines.

If we have to address, one-area members believe eradicating systemic poverty would be appropriate and that this aspect affects the other guidelines. One member also stated that the existence of the Sudanese and Arabic Fellowships are strong aspects of our Presbytery that follow the Matthew 25 guidelines.

Michael Kuach's company has closed but he has retained his benefits. His wife works for a meatpacking company; she is working several days a week. He remains in good spirits. Easter Sunday, he recorded a worship service in the basement at Discovery on Facebook Live. He sang the hymn is Nuer, and it is so precious. It is in several different recordings, and you can see it on his Facebook page.

Sarah Dickinson and I have talked about the PDA Covid-19 Short/Long-Term grant for the Sudanese. We have brainstormed what path to take and will have a proposal.

We continue to be frustrated with this year's Komarek Grant procedure. We finished our work in January. Generally, once PMRV knows the amount that we have been allotted, the funds are available soon after that. We contacted the recipients in

February. Jody Filipi indicated that it might be May before funds are released. Even though the Mission Evangelism Committee has no control over this, it is a poor reflection on our committee.

#### **PDA—Jon Sloan, Chair**

PDA met April 16, 2020 via Zoom. We reviewed our first 2020 Presbytery Work Week and considered the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to that project.

We received reports on State and local work being done on the flooding and COVID-19 front. We reviewed two applications for PDA COVID-19 grants, approved one, and suggested a revision to the other. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at noon via ZOOM.

#### **Social Justice and Peacemaking—Carolyn Grice, Chair**

We met via email. We approved a motion to join the Abide Network, Pastor/Faith Leaders group of the Empowerment Network of North Omaha to seek donations for residents of the Omaha Housing Authority Towers in North and South Omaha. Most of these residents are low income elderly people with no family, no transportation and no food. We are working to get donations of food and supplies to deliver to the residents. I wrote a blurb for Monday Morning asking for help if churches feel so inclined. The Abide Network has a drive through for food and supplies on Monday afternoons, an deliver food and supplies Tuesday-Saturday. As with so many places now, they are low on donations. New Life Session has approved being a drop off site for donations.

#### **From Transition Admin Group**

Pat Shipley/Stated clerk, Sally Carlson/COM, Gregg Miller /SOR, Sarah Dickinson/Personnel.

We met on March 30 & April 13, 2020 (switching from monthly to every two weeks amid pandemic context) We checked in on a range of items. Some brief highlights below:

- COVID-19 Context
  - Grateful for Pat's leadership
  - Pastors' Zoom meetings - debrief
  - Emergency funds for congregations and ministries – understanding processes and opportunities
  - Gregg/SOR doing a big follow up; stay tuned
- PMRV meetings
  - Grateful for those who have helped PMRV adapt to Zoom context
  - Working through other niceties for big Zoom meetings
- Personnel
  - Continuing to discern needs especially given new context. Sarah tasked with Joan follow up (see below)

#### **From Personnel**

The search for our Presbytery's new office coordinator is underway.

A first batch of applications is being evaluated.

But also:

With the new context of pandemic is nearly impossible to imagine Joan training a new person on May.

Sarah spoke with Joan. Joan is willing to stay on for extra weeks (up to end of summer).

This will allow a safer exit for her and start for someone new.

So we will change the time frame for celebrating her service and retirement.

Please continue to keep this search process in your prayers.

#### **From Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship Covenant Group**

The PDA Covid grant singles out refugee and vulnerable populations so the SAPF seems like a fitting place and platform for disaster relief assistance.

Sarah and Debbie K. submitted proposal to Pat and our local PDA team April 17, 2020.

See Debbie's report for a delightful window into Pastor Michael's foray into Facebook Live on Easter.

#### **COM, Sally Carlson, chair**

We are currently working with Hope Church to support their interim search. We're in the process of contacting every pastor in the presbytery to express our support and remind them they have a team of folks praying for them. We have completed our revision of the COM section of the PMRV manual of operations. Triennial visits are on hold due to COVID-19.

#### **Worship & Spirituality Team, Suzanne Gorhau, Chair**

We met on April 16 to plan the 20-minute worship service for the Zoom Presbytery Meeting on May 5.