

Committee Reports to Presbytery PMRV Stated Meeting, February 25, 2021

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

Here is what SOR has done on behalf of the Presbytery:

- We reviewed the Mission Pledge Form used by the Presbytery for possible changes to make to next year's form. Some suggestions were: 1) to simplify the form & accompanying brochure, 2) to add "& Ministries" to the title of the form to indicate that the funding covers the Ministries of the Presbytery – not only the Missions, and 3) to delay the deadline to February as most Sessions don't know what their budget is until their January meeting. It was also suggested to compare the form to that used in other Presbyteries. Our goal is to develop a new Mission & Ministry pledge form for the Presbytery this year.
- New COVID grants given out since the last Presbytery meeting:
 1. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clarinda, Iowa grant approved for \$3,000 to pay for equipment to enable live streaming.
 2. First Presbyterian Church, Omaha grant approved for \$5,000 to pay for equipment to enable air purification in the Sanctuary.
 3. First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue grant approved for \$1,689 to pay for upgrading equipment and cabling for on-line worship\
- In 2020, we gave out \$87,400.32 in COVID 24 grants to the churches of our Presbytery, we still have \$12,599.68 left from the Presbytery approval from May 2020 to allocate \$100,000 toward relief.
- In December, we reviewed the signature cards for the bank accounts, and found 1 card needed updating. Gregg Miller was added to an account at CORE Bank, and Dick Corwine's name was removed.
- Dave Emry (Treasurer for PMRV) updated the committee about the Financial Statements Review Report issued by Schwarz & Associates LLC on October 15, 2020. This was a review of our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019. A review is one step down from an audit. Dave noted there were no adjusting journal entries from the review.
- The investment team has recommended that \$25,000 be moved from the New Covenant Growth Fund to the New Covenant Income Fund to rebalance our asset allocation to 62% growth and 38% income. The committee approved the recommendation from the investment team at our January meeting and directed the investment team to make the change.

SOR Goals for 2021

- Begin updating our section of the Presbytery Manual of Operations at our February meeting.
- Develop a plan on how to fund Presbytery's mission and ministry work. How do we fund these works as funding is decreasing? Is Presbytery to be in the business of mission or do we help our congregations fulfill their mission work? We will be addressing these questions this year.
- Redevelop the Mission pledge form.
- Continue to review and reallocate 95 account funds. Develop Presbytery project accounts into a manageable and meaningful way.

For Your Information concerning 2020 financial

- Per Capita receipts for 2020 fell about 6% short of budget. This is typical. Overall, the 2020 end of year financials were about \$45,000 in the black. We are in a very good financial position compared to previous years. Investments earned about \$125,000 for the year.

Action Item from Stewardship of Resources

1. ***SOR moves the acceptance of the Financial Statements Review Report issued by Schwarz & Associates LLC.***

Faith Education and Leadership Development (FELD) – Linda Reffert (E), Chair

- The Committee met for the first time on January 21, 2021.
 - Members present were: Chair - Linda Reffert (E), Vice Chair - Cindy Harvey (M), Secretary & Worship Committee Rep - Becky Balestri (M), Scholarship Chair - Matt Coplen (M), Youth Committee Rep - Shelli Dart (E), Sandi Stuckey (E), Karen Johns (E), Alan Reinartz (Elder).
- For 2021 FELD will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11 AM.

- Our mission is to provide resources and training in the areas of Christian Education and Leadership. We also work to support and encourage participation within presbytery churches at Calvin Crest, Synod Schools and Continuing Education programming.
- Most recently we:
 - Began conversation with COM about offering a Boundary Training (most certainly over Zoom) in 2021.
 - Determined that we will hold our next Child Safety Training for Educators, Sunday School teachers & Youth Group leaders when many of our congregations have resumed in-person Sunday School and youth activities. We believe that will be fall at the earliest.
 - We are working with Nicole to create an online continuing ed scholarship form that will soon be on the presbytery website.
 - Discussed our role in supporting our Presbytery in Matthew 25 awareness. We have come up with several ideas involving resources and activities that we hope to put into place in the next month or two.
 - We began discussing the best ways we can support the churches in Officer Training.
 - We voted unanimously to postpone our "Big Event" until 2022. This event needs to be done in person and we do not have confidence that it would be safe to gather, nor would we likely get good participation in 2021.

Mission & Evangelism – Rev. Matt Coplen, Chair

Committee Members: Matt Coplen (M) ~ chair, Mary Thomsen (E), Joyce Faltis-Serenil (E), Carolyn Grice (M), Steve Hope (E), Rebecca Nicol (E), Jim Reiff (E), Tom Albaum (M)

- M&E committee has regularly scheduled meetings with our first meeting planned for mid-February; at that time we will establish our regular meeting date and time for 2021.
- The primary focus of the committee is three-fold: one, we are one of the three Presbytery committees that is helping the Presbytery as a whole discern and live out its Matthew 25 commitments; two, we serve as a resource and conduit between the congregations of the presbytery to inform and encourage mission and evangelism locally and around the world; three, we serve as the liaison between the presbytery and three specific Presbytery mission efforts (the Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship; the Arabic Christian Fellowship; the PMRV Nicaraguan Partnership). We also oversee the allocation of the Presbytery's mission grants and the Komarek grant process.
- Recent actions by the committee include: the approval of 3 mini-grant requests totaling \$3,999 to Hope Presbyterian, Villisca, and Arabic Christian Fellowship, divided equally. A new form to be used by the Arabic Christian Fellowship to request money that has been allocated by the Presbytery for this ministry has been created for both streamlining and accounting purposes. Manual of Operations revisions have been submitted.

Information to be aware of:

- applications for mini-grants can be submitted throughout the year, but there is a limited number of dollars available; please apply as soon as possible; the application is available at www.pmr.org
- applications for Komarek grants can be made through Jody Filipi who is the liaison between the trust and the presbytery; the application is available at www.pmr.org. Please notice that the Komarek grants are specifically related to physical repairs and improvements of church buildings. Please submit applications as soon as possible.

Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship (SAPF)

Individuals serving are: Rev. Sally Carlson, Rev. Sarah Dickinson, Beth Galli (E), Madeline Geldis (E), Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, John Kier (E), Debbie Kippley (E), Michael Kuach, CLP, Pam Otto (E), Par Ruach (D), and Larry Scott (E)

- The Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship is an example of being Presbyterian:
 - They have paid, in full, 100% of their 2021 per capita!
 - (Mechanics-wise: SAPF gave a check to Discovery which bundles it with their per capital check.)
- Ongoing notes:
 - Practicing safety and logistics of in-person/on-site worship at Discovery
 - Still working through some practical needs for pastor
 - Looking for a good way to connect with Mission and Evangelism in 2021. Group will plan to send updates to the M& E committee chair as a start.

Worship & Spirituality Working Group

Members: Chair, Suzanne Gorhau (M), Ardys Hansum (E), Bob Keefer (M), Kris Ortell (E), Becky Balestri (M), Bonnie Wilkins (M)

- Regular meeting day: 3rd Thursday at 9am

- The primary focus of our work is to plan and lead the worship services for the Presbytery meetings.
- We sponsor spirituality and theology events for the presbytery.
- A project we started last year is recording stories of racism. We're editing them to 5–10-minute videos and adding discussion questions so churches in the presbytery will be able to use them for discussions on racism.

Social Justice and Peacemaking

Committee Members: Chair, Carolyn Grice (M), Kevin Bushnell (E), Greg Carlson (M), Monika Gross (E), Robert Keefer (M), Kate Roberts (E)

- The committee will meet via Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30, as needed.
- The committee will focus on providing resources for Matthew 25 implementation at the presbytery level.
- The committee will work in cooperation with FELD and the Mission/Evangelism committees to provide resources churches need to implement Matthew 25.
- The committee will keep the presbytery apprised of social justice and global peacemaking activities.

Personnel – Kathy Moore, Chair (Report submitted by Rev. Sarah Dickinson, retiring member)

Members of the 2021 Personnel Committee are: Bonnie Conner (RE), Cindy Harvey (MWS), Dick Meyer (MWS), Kathy Moore (RE)

- Personnel meets as needed across the year and keeps in touch with the staff across the year.
- PMRV staff:
 - Stated Clerk, Pat Shipley (half time)
 - Office & Communications Coordinator, Nicole Geiler (half time)
 - Accounting Assistant, Tina Claus (part time)
 - Administrative Assistant, Sue Barrett (Mondays and as needed)
- Personnel Committee Goals:
 - We hope to facilitate a healthy work environment for paid staff as well as others who serve within PMRV.
 - We keep the PMRV Covenant and urge all committees to do so as well.
 - We work to understand PMRV staffing needs in concert with the Leadership Team.
 - We work with those in paid positions to facilitate communication, support and accountability.
 - We provide a platform for job searches.
 - We keep position descriptions and compensation agreements up to date.
 - We have a yearly review process.
 - We provide a budget based on the review process and PMRV needs.
 - We are usually very busy the last part of the year.
- This past quarter we have been doing mostly low-key staff supportive work. We have an amazing staff!
- After 2020 with its many transitions in 2021 we look forward to a quieter year (let's hope!). One thing we see developing - the PMRV communications platform, especially with Nicole's interest and skill set.
- The first part of 2021 – outgoing chair Sarah Dickinson is passing the baton to Kathy Moore.

Calvin Crest Camp Conference and Retreat Center – (Report submitted by Craig Huffman, Director)

The Board of Directors of Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center met on January 9, 2021. During the meeting, the members elected Haley Allen (laity) to continue serving as Moderator of the Board. Johnathan Harbeck (laity), Kathy Egr (laity), Dave Friedli (laity-if approved), Steve Niles (clergy) and Robert Rose (clergy) also serve as members from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. Representatives from Homestead Presbytery include Jon Ashley (clergy), Kathleen Splitt (clergy), Bob Leavitt (laity), Barb Kudera (laity).

The board is scheduled to meet every other month in 2021, and the primary work is two-fold—Governance of Calvin Crest and volunteer work to support the mission and ministry throughout the year. This involves ensuring that high-level policy and direction is set and assisting with promotion and implementation of specific tasks or activities. During the last four months, the board has approved a budget, discussed ongoing needs regarding the pandemic, business operations, summer camp and how best to support staff, families and guests.

Each of the five standing committees (Personnel, Programming, Marketing, Finance and Buildings and Grounds) are working to develop their goals for the coming year based on the current vision and priorities. Calvin Crest continues to be available for a variety of groups to utilize the facilities for retreats, craft weekends and other events and are preparing to operate in-person summer camp with appropriate precautions to provide residential camp opportunities for the children and youth in our congregations. More information will be forthcoming including a few brief Minute For Mission type videos for you to share online, in your services and during virtual events.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – Rev. Jon Sloan, Chair

- PDA has not met.

Admin Group (sub group of the Leadership Team) – Sally Carlson, Gregg Miller, Pat Shipley, Sarah Dickinson

What is the Admin Group?

This sub group of the Leadership Team meets every 2-3 weeks. In 2020 the group was called the Transition Admin Group and had the following tasks (per 10/2019 PMRV mtg):

Seeking to be faithful, as an admin group we are...

- Identifying the needs, tasks and coverage for staff vacancies & transitions
- Identifying the timing and communications for PMRV's understanding transitions
- Resourcing the Leadership Team
- Collecting insights along the way into our Presbytery's needs & opportunities

In 2021 the group became the Admin Group and has the following tasks (per 10/2020 PMRV mtg)

- Help coordinate the administrative and communication needs and opportunities of the presbytery
- Help the presbytery keep faithful to its mission
- Resource the Leadership Team

This is part of the structure that allows PMRV to not have a paid staff person in an "executive" role. PC(USA) recognizes this staffing pattern and gives it a designation. PMRV, along with many other presbyteries these days are "D" for "different." Across 2021 we will continue to try out this model again and see how it is going.

Typical meetings

- Each meeting opens with a reminder of the tasks that we have been assigned and that we adhere to the PMRV Covenant.
- We have a "laundry list" of check in items including:
 - Listening to pastors & congregations and assess patterns, needs & opportunities, especially in the challenging Covid context
 - Sort through matters that bounce between committees or don't have a home
 - Keep in touch with the wider Body of Christ (Synod, GA)
- We report to the Leadership Team and their minutes reflect our work

Past Quarter Highlights

- We identified areas to address, planned for and led annual Leadership Team Orientation (January 19)
 - Worship
 - Building relationships
 - Covenant
 - Vision
 - Matthew 25 initiative
 - Administrative protocols