

## Committee Reports to Presbytery

PMRV Stated Meeting, August 14, 2021

### Administrative Team – Sarah Dickinson, Sally Carlson, Gregg Miller, Pat Shipley

- Thank you, Leadership Team, for your thoughtful participation and feedback in that next step of our appreciative inquiry/discerning process taken at the June 15, 2021 meeting
- **The Admin Team collated & absorbed your responses**
  - *Please see separate document for the next proposed step together*, a step we'll take during our July 20 Leadership Team and a step we'll prepare to take at our August 14 PMRV meeting.
  - Admin has been processing your feedback from the June 15 meeting.
- **Homework:** In that separate document: You will see a summary and analysis of your feedback. You will see homework questions based on your feedback.
- **August 13: Pastors' Retreat Day at Calvin Crest – led by LeaderWise**
  - Nicole has sent out a detailed invitation & registration for this special event.
  - We hope a lot of pastors will be able to attend, learn and have a good time.
- **August 14: PMRV Day at Calvin Crest – special notes**
  - **8:30-9:30 Pre-Presbytery Event: for ALL Mindful Ministry: Body, Mind & Spirit**, led by LeaderWise consultant, Drew Benson
  - **10:00** Worshipful Meeting convenes, includes presentation from LeaderWise
    - **Working Well Together as Diverse People:** As the Body of Christ, As a Presbytery, As ones called to address challenges in church & culture (Including the Matthew 25 initiative)
  - **12:00-12:15 Leadership Team sets up time for discernment for groups over lunch** (see separate document/draft/review)
  - **Lunch, Discernment time**
  - **Lots of other special things at this meeting planned through other parts of our PMRV body (worship, COM, etc)**
- **Reminder – Personnel's updated Policy & Procedure document.** It's basically the same as its 2011 version. But certain places were in need of obvious updating. You can see it with the June meeting materials but we are waiting for this July meeting for approval.
- **The Admin Team meets again on July 19**
  - The wedge of homework/prep for the LT meeting July 20 may get adjusted, but ANY prayer and thinking that rolls into your heart and mind will no doubt get used. -We usually have a follow up email to you after this meeting.
  - We are looking at simple language to guide the August PMRV first in-person meetings.
  - Such as: PMRV is guided by current CDC guidance. At this time this includes such things as: If one is unmasked indoors, one is proclaiming full vaccination; staying home if unwell & maximizing safe spacing and ventilation.

### Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center – Craig Huffman

We just finished up a successful summer camp season. It wasn't the largest number of kids or the largest staff or the largest number of camp programs, but it was a good start on this side of the pandemic, where we didn't operate summer camp at all in 2020. The sound of laughter as campers connected face-to-face IRL (in real life) was amazing. Watching campers start the week shy and uncertain and end the week in tears as they left their new-found friends was heartwarming. The growth that the college-aged summer staff experienced in their spiritual lives as well as their professional endeavors is a testament to the power of the camp experience. There were hiccups and bumps along

the road, but overwhelmingly, the campers and their families were delighted that camp was provided and that it was a good and positive experience.

The Calvin Crest board of directors met on July 10 for a regularly scheduled meeting. Beyond taking care of the business of the board, they discussed the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Fun Day on August 21. The Board and Staff are excited to welcome the Calvin Crest Community, including new friends, to this great big reunion. Welcome Back! You are invited. Look for additional details in upcoming publications.

As the staff of Calvin Crest transition from the rush of summer camp to the steady frenzy of hosting groups of all sizes through the rest of summer and into the fall, we appreciate your prayers and support in all of the ways you do that.

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

- May 20, 2021 Meeting
  - Certified Michael Geiler, candidate for Ministry, authorized the circularization of his Pastor Information Form (PIF) and ready to seek a call to ministry.
- July 15, 2021 Meeting
  - Interviewed and accepted Jennifer Bruce, Presbyterian Church of the Cross as an Inquirer under care of PMRV. Jennifer is enrolled at University of Dubuque in the Masters of Divinity program beginning Fall 2021.
  - The CPM is looking for readers for Ordination exams for April 2022.
  - The Commission also met with Elder Kathy Padilla, West Hills Church, who is entering the Synod of Lakes and Prairies program for Commissioned Lay Pastor.
  - The CPM is continuing its discussion of a process for CRE/CE/CLP.

### **Faith, Education, Leadership Development – Linda Reffert, Chair**

FELD met on Thursday, June 17th at 3 PM. At that meeting (and in the week after), we

- Opened and closed with prayer
- Reviewed the covenant and talked about strengths and weaknesses we see in living it, in our presbytery
- Set up a free to participants (covered by FELD budget) child protection training for the churches of our presbytery. It will be over Zoom on Tuesday, August 31st from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. It is intended for pastors, staff, nursery volunteers, Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders - basically anyone who works directly with kids. The training will be conducted by Project Harmony training specialists. Continuing ed. certificates will be available for those who complete the 2 hour class to be able to turn in to churches, employers or insurance companies as needed. Nicole is helping with advertising and it should appear in Monday Morning Mail. Registration is very easy through a link that will be provided.
- Continued our discussion of Officer Training
- Planned adult and children's Matthew 25 book reviews for Presbytery website for July
- Discussed scholarship requests for Calvin Crest and Synod School

Decided not to meet in July

### **Mission & Evangelism – Matt Copen, Chair**

We met on June 22<sup>nd</sup> by Zoom at 5:00 p.m.

The highlight of our meeting was the opportunity to receive, discuss, and approve unanimously our first Matthew 25 grant request. It was from First Presbyterian Church of Omaha with a request for funds in support of their "Hand Up for Housing Walk-a-thon" coming up on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to address housing insecurity. The grant request for \$1000 was approved.

Members of the committee shared their various experiences contacting churches and pastors about the mission involvement of those congregations. Several members of the committee have shared via email to the committee some specifics of their interactions.

Rev. Carolyn Grice gave a report on three specific Omaha-area organizations that would be wonderful partners for congregations looking to engage in Matthew 25 ministry: Empowerment Network, No More Empty Pots, and Omaha Street School. Rev. Grice also reminded us that Omaha Housing Towers is still a place in much need of grace and compassion.

Current Matthew 25 congregations in PMRV: (8 - Gethsemane; First Shenandoah; First Omaha; Peace; West Hills; New Life; Discovery; Church of the Master)

Not specifically committee business, but the Reverend Emad Tawadrous has applied for and received a sabbatical grant through the denomination's 1001 New Worshiping Communities program. We celebrate with him.

### **Personnel Committee – Kathy Moore (RE), Chair**

Members of the 2021 Personnel Committee are:

Kathy Moore (RE)  
Cindy Harvey (MWS)  
Dick Meyer (MWS)  
Sarah Dickinson (MWS) Transition Past Chair

The Personnel Committee has not met since our June report was submitted. Activities since the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting include:

- The committee submitted to the Admin and Leadership Team our proposed revisions to the PMRV Personnel Policies & Procedures previously adopted August 20, 2011. The Leadership Team took them for initial review at their June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, requested one minor change, which was made and gave the Personnel Policies final approval at the July 20<sup>th</sup> Leadership Team meeting.
- The new approved Personnel Policies will be given to staff immediately and will replace the 2011 version on the PMRV website.
- During June, Kathy Moore and Cindy Harvey met informally with Nicole to continue ongoing discussion of ways to expand the communications function of her position. There were many ideas shared and the dialogue we presented in our last report will continue to be modified throughout the upcoming months.
  - We are fortunate to have such a strong staff team and want to make sure we cultivate and nourish their talents.
  - Personnel Committee will continue to discern any modifications needed in the job descriptions as people have now been in positions for over a year. We will frame questions related to job descriptions, responsibilities, organizational flow chart, etc. throughout the coming year. We could potentially recommend a process for consideration and goal setting to the Leadership Team.
  - Conversation will continue regarding technology capability of each staff and future accommodations for remote work options.
  - Conversation will continue regarding the best way to discern what churches would really like to see in the way of communications functions from the Presbyterian office.
  - One result of that meeting was for Nicole to send out a "Summer Hour" communication, reminding people of PMRV Office Hours and asking them to call or email before coming to the office to verify it is open.
- Kathy and Sarah will continue to finalize a Personnel Committee Handbook and Permanent Personnel Committee Records for each staff person

- Personnel Committee recommends the Leadership Team consider hosting an “Open House” in the Fall once COVID concerns are more fully abated and encourage/invite meetings to return to the office.
- The Next Personnel Committee Meeting is scheduled via Zoom for Monday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Rev. Jon Sloan, Chair**

#### Updates/Follow-ups:

- National PDA Grants to Douglas LTRG and Neighbors United: national money has expended; As such the grants approved at our June meeting were not made by national
- NEVOAD: Jon shared that discussion about recent wind damage; no federal declaration
- Sarpy COAD: Terri – meeting postponed to next week
- Douglas County LTRG: Jon shared about the three groups he is aware of that stayed at Peace and Church of the Cross
- Outstanding church reviews for disaster assessment paperwork; We elected to make this a passive committee item save for a time when no active disaster
- NE Presbyterian Foundation Grant: 1 year report submitted and our 2020 grant extended into 2021
- “Celebration of Resilience and Recovery” - 2021 weeks: 3 work weeks from 2020 grant remain – 2 are scheduled for 2021 • August 15-21, 2021 to coincide with Peace Lutheran Church staying at PCOC
- October 17-23 to coincide with FPC Kirkwood, MO staying at PCOC: Snack and Water donations (Terri)
- Money income going to Presbytery office to PDA account
- Money outgo from Presby office received grant
- Question about how much would be helpful for a goal for fundraising for food and water o Terri said it will vary by number of people but will be higher in August than it was last March 6.
- Next meeting: August 10 at Noon via zoom to allow us to make last minute adjustments/purchases before the workweek begins the following week

### **Self-Development of People – Carolyn Grice, Chair**

SDOP will meet on August 9<sup>th</sup>

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

Social Justice and Peacemaking did not meet in July. The next meeting will be in September.

### **Worship and Spirituality Working Group – Suzanne Gorhau, chair**

- The Worship & Spirituality Working Group met on July 15, 2021 to plan worship for the August presbytery meeting.
- We welcomed new member Mike Geiler.
- We discussed how to incorporate the worship elements into the docket.
- Our theme for the service is freedom in Christ.
- Jim Wiehe is going to give the message, Mike Geiler will provide music, and Carolyn Grice and Dwight Williams will preside at communion.
- We're going to purchase an electronic version of Glory to God so we can use it at presbytery meetings.