

PMRV Stated Meeting—Committee/Commission Reports For November 4, 2021

Calvin Crest Conference Center – Craig Huffman

As Calvin Crest enters the last quarter of 2021, we look back at the many good things that have happened at this place and through this place. We reflect on the small groups of campers and dedicated staff who spent a week of their summer learning and growing. We think of the volunteers who helped to keep this place in great shape and who gave of their time and talent to remodel cabins and build a beautiful picnic shelter by the pool. We think of the groups, small in number, but mighty in purpose, who wanted to be here for a time to connect with God and others in a beautiful setting. And we think of the donors who contributed financially to support and enhance the mission of this place. Calvin Crest is not out of the pandemic-related woods yet. There are still dark days ahead, challenges to be faced and things to experience and grow from. With your support and help Calvin Crest will be ready and able to meet the challenges that we are facing.

Mission and Evangelism – Rev. Matt Coplen, chair

The Committee met **on Tuesday, October 5th by Zoom at 5:00 p.m.**

Actions approved:

- Committee provided its budget request for Stewardship of Resources. The request remained the same except for an additional request of \$2,000 for Matthew 25 partnerships.

Nicaraguan Partnership		\$1,000
Mini-Grants	\$8,000	
HELP Adult Services		\$5,000
Crossroad Connection		\$2,500
World Mission	\$1,500	
Sudanese Fellowship		\$30,000
Arabic Fellowship	\$5,000	
Matthew 25 grants		\$5,000
Matthew 25 partnerships		\$2,000

- The idea behind the additional request of \$2,000 is for the committee to have funds at its disposal to partner with local organizations/groups that are pursuing Matthew 25 aims. As an example, the committee could make a financial gift to No More Empty Pots, a local organization working to fight the issue of systemic poverty.

Updates and Mission Celebrations

- Two Matthew 25 grants (\$2000) were awarded to First Presbyterian Church of Omaha in support of their Hand Up for Housing Initiative. Matthew 25 Grants -- Report from Rebecca Nichole regarding Hand Up for Housing and First Pres Church's event this past Sunday. They also had a festival after their walk with 22 supporting exhibitors, including MRV Presbytery. They expressed their thanks for the MRV Presbytery's financial support. Their goal was to raise \$12,000 and due to matching so far they have raised between \$50,000 and \$60,000 which will be shared by housing-related agencies they had previously identified.
 - New Horizon – Mary's church has a mission where they collect personal care items for children in need at four schools in Council Bluffs.
 - Plattsmouth – Cass County arranged a special camp for children impacted by past flooding, Camp Noah. The Plattsmouth church provided a greatly appreciated lunch for the camp.
 - Dundee – Jim Reiff reported that they had unused VBS materials which they were able to share with the Discipulos Church in South Omaha, which in turn held VBS and served over 50 kids.
 - Mission line item – Not a grant per se, but we agreed to send mission support to the couple MRV has supported in the past, Elmarie and Scott Parker, PCUSA regional liaison to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. The mission support will be \$1500.

Social Justice and Peacemaking – Rev. Carolyn Grice, Chair

The committee met on October 5th. The committee heard a presentation by Akile Bannister, founder and CEO of Bannister's Leadership Academy. This program is being recommended as a Matthew 25 resource.

The program started in 2007 in Douglas County. It has now spread to 11 counties across the state and there is also a site in Council Bluffs.

- The website is: <https://banistersacademy.org/>

The mission of the program is *Leading Families through Leadership*. The program is based on 12 pillars: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness honesty, integrity, perseverance, courage, unity, and creativity.

The proven beliefs of the program are advancing the self-sufficiency and well-being of At-Risk Youth by:

- ❖ Incorporating the youth voice
- ❖ Promoting educational attainment
- ❖ Strengthening the family
- ❖ Developing life skills
- ❖ Increasing resilience
- ❖ Fostering positive relationships
- ❖ Providing job training and employability skills
- ❖ Assessments and data

The program runs Friday nights and Saturdays and includes meals. There is a family component that runs in conjunction with the youth activities on Fridays that includes financial literacy and in-home family therapy services. All programs are free to families and youth. Youth receive a free polo shirt.

Funding sources including the Peter Kiewit Foundation, NE Crime Commission and Sherwood Foundation. He also shared information about the partnership with schools, especially Omaha Public Schools and North Platte Public Schools.

What are some things churches can do?

- ❖ Provide volunteers
- ❖ Cater a meal for approximately 65 people
- ❖ Sponsor a therapist for a month (\$35 per hour for 3 hours)
- ❖ Donations are always welcome

Self-Development of People – Rev. Carolyn Grice, Chair

No report at this time.

Administrative Team – Rev. Sarah Dickinson, Rev. Sally Carlson, Rev. Gregg Miller, Stated Clerk, Pat Shipley

Please watch for a report from Suzanne Gorhau. You'll recall the Leadership Team appointed a Task Force (Suzanne, Marcia, Kathy Moore, & Sarah) to dig into the discernment findings and to make recommendations. So this report/recommendations will be a highlight! The Admin Team concurs with what the Task Force will be sharing. Other than that, the Admin Team has been doing its usual tasks. Blessings on behalf of the Admin Team.

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

CPM has no report at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Rev. Jon Sloan, Chair

PDA met October 14th at Noon to plan for the work week October 18-23. We will be moving into passive operations until the next need arises

Stewardship of Resources – Rev. Gregg Miller, Chair

SOR met on Oct. 13th and here are the following items for your consideration: (we will be voting on all items attached). Besides, reviewing the financial statements of the Presbytery, we would like to present to the Leadership Team the proposed 2022 balanced budget.

We also present to you a new Mission and Ministry pledge form along with a new Remittance form, and a new cover letter explaining the purpose of the pledge form. Please review for our meeting because SOR is seeking your approval for each item.

I want to thank all the committees for submitting their budget requests on time and well done!

Worship & Spirituality Working Group – Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, chair

The Working Group met in September and October to plan the November Presbytery meeting worship service.

Personnel Committee – Kathy Moore, Chair

The Personnel Committee met via Zoom on September 28th.

- The Annual Fall check in meetings were held to prepare for staff reviews and salary recommendations. During the month prior to our meeting, two committee members met with each of three staff people: (Stated Clerk via Zoom, with the Communications & Office Coordinator and Accounting Assistant meetings occurring in person). The

substitute receptionist provided written feedback to our check-in questions. As a result, salary increase recommendations have been provided to SOR. Staff will be informed of their increase in early November.

- Following discussion with each staff person, we are recommending the following changes to existing Job Descriptions:

Stated Clerk, Item G.1. should now read:

Works in collaboration with a staff team ~~headed by the Executive Presbyter.~~

Stated Clerk, Item H., add a #6. to read:

Completes reference checks for incoming pastors and provides references for PMRV ministers circulating their PIF's.

Accounting Assistant, Add a new #5.

Prepares and sends out annual mission and per capita statements.

Re-number current #'s 5, 6, 7 and 8 to become 6, 7, 8 and 9.

No job description currently exists for the very part-time receptionist substitute. The committee will discuss this at a future meeting and develop one if necessary.

- We had extensive discussion with Nicole about communications ideas going forward. She has many wonderful ideas. To cultivate those to the fullest we recommend:
 - That Leadership Team create a Communications Advisory Committee to oversee and brainstorm this work with Nicole.
 - That this Communications Advisory Committee consider whether this would be a good time to work on a new logo/rebranding process with Nicole.
 - That the Leadership Team and/or this new Advisory Committee regularly generate new communications ideas and submit those to Nicole.
- We will schedule a future meeting as needed.

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

FELD met on Thursday, October 21st. At that meeting, the following business was conducted:

- Opened in prayer and with the covenant
- Reviewed and approved the minutes of the last meeting
- Discussed our budget for 2022
- Heard reports from our Youth and Worship subcommittees. There are some exciting youth worship and event opportunities coming up for church youth groups of any size in our presbytery. Be watching for more information. And worship will be wonderful at the upcoming Presbytery meeting.
- Reviewed the recent Pastor Boundary Training. Feedback was positive.
- Discussed the Officer Training Best Practices Luncheon plans and decided to postpone due to lack of response.
- Agreed to plan to do the next presbytery-wide Child Safety Training in August of 2023. Attendance trends have shown us this is best offered every 2 years.
- Becky Balestri will write a review of a church vitality book for our November Matthew 25 spot on the presbytery website. Linda Reffert will write the children's book review.
- Educators and lay education leaders are being encouraged to register for APCE before the end of the year to take advantage of early bird discounts and to apply for our APCE scholarship.
- Closed in prayer