

PMRV Committee and Commission Reports

For November 3, 2022 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery

Social Justice and Peacemaking – Rev. Carolyn Grice, Chair

- Present: Sandi Hannah, Bob Keefer, Greg Carlson, Nicole Geiler, Shelli Latham, Kevin Bushnell, Carolyn Grice and guest Aledia Mikale.
- Carolyn welcomed everyone and opened with prayer.
- Carolyn announced that the next meeting, Nov 1st, would be held jointly with Mission/Evangelism, FELD and SDOP. Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson from the PCUSA Mission Agency will present information on Matthew 25 and SDOP.
- Presentation-Aledia Mikale from the Omaha Black Doulas Association provided information on this program.
 - They currently have 13 black doulas in Omaha, one Latino and are looking for a Korean
 - The need is strong for representation in medical services in the Omaha area for people of color
 - The services the organization provides are free to the clients
 - Their focus is on nutrition where they have a garden and teach gardening skills
 - They have a diaper drive and giveaways with 60-100 families. They can provide diaper trade-ins, where if a mom has unused diapers, she can trade them for the next size up
 - The group conducts a community baby shower. They usually find their clients through these community showers. They have presenters, discuss prenatal visits, vaccinations, gestational diabetes; help mothers create birth plans (mothers have the power of choice to determine the type of birth they want); they are taught comfort techniques (also teach techniques to the spouse or support person).
 - Doulas are present through labor and delivery. They are present through the first hour after delivery. They teach breastfeeding techniques and provide post-partum care. While they recognize they are not medically certified to do anything when red flags occur, they can alert the client to seek medical help right away. They help get the home set up for a newborn and stay around for 3-6 weeks, one hour/week after the birth.
 - What can churches do to help?
 - Donate whatever they can financially
 - Help recruit more doulas
 - Provide venues for community baby showers
 - Can also donate things like diapers through their Amazon page.
- Palestine Update-Sandi Hannah shared information about Palestine and information from this last GA regarding the status. The GA acted declaring Israel an apartheid state. It took ten years to get this statement implemented. Amnesty International has also done this. A community fundraiser with St. Timothy's ELCA Church on 93rd & Dodge in Omaha coming up. It will support two programs for youth in Palestine.
- Kevin Bushnell shared that a new GA committee has been created addressing Christian Zionism. It will be working with other faith organizations to understand the realities and dangers of Zionism in the western hemisphere, particularly helping Palestinians in South America. Zionism is being directly driven by Israel.
- Afghanistan Update-Kevin shared that there are not as many refugees as there were last spring although they continue to arrive in the Metro area. Efforts are underway to help them help themselves through a nonprofit organization.
- Kevin provided the closing prayer at 12:22pm. Next meeting: November 1st, 11:30.

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

The committee has been meeting via email. Two applications have been submitted. Work is being done to review and submit for approval. The organizations have been encouraged to also submit an application at the synod level. More details will be provided next month.

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

- As Calvin Crest engages in the busiest fall in three years, we are reminded of the importance of what this place represents in the lives of the children, youth and adults who spend time here. As participants gather for their event, they often feel the stress of life lessen and are filled with the calm that comes in dedicating some time to faith development, community building and holy rest. The staff at Calvin Crest strives to develop the facilities and atmosphere that enables this to happen.
- The Board of Directors is engaged in the ministry and seeking the future direction that Calvin Crest needs to move towards to continue to provide a place of spiritual nourishment, replenishment, and development for those who seek this in their lives.
- With so much happening in the world, we all need a little of what Calvin Crest offers.

Faith Education Leadership Development – Rev. Cindy Harvey, chair

Present: Becky Balestri, Matt Coplen, Shelli Dart, Jody Filipi, Cindy Harvey, Ellen Scott,

Excused: Karen Johns, Allen Reinarz

- Cindy opened the meeting with prayer. The check-in question was “Who is a person you got to have a conversation with who totally blew your mind?” We discussed the paragraph of the Covenant on “act with encouragement...” The previous meeting’s minutes were approved.
- Shelli opened her report about youth, noting the “spiritual gift of mute.” The Youth subcommittee is looking to do something over Christmas break, possibly an around town mission type of event. She asked FELD members if any of us have recommendation for mental health resources for youth. The subcommittee is also considering doing an event in the spring at Calvin Crest.
- The Worship subcommittee is making plans for the November presbytery meeting worship experience. Also, preliminary plans are underway to do a Ted Lasso group conversation, somehow.
- Matthew 25 movies: Ellen will be reviewing “Just Mercy” for October; Shelli will review “Men of Honor” or “42” for November (yes, catch up from September.) Regarding anti-racism training, Cindy reported that we are still waiting for GA guidance on this.
- The committee approved Julie Anderman’s proposal for a clergy spouse retreat. WE will offer it on April 22, 2023. We will invite Homestead, Central Nebraska, and Prospect Hill to the event too. Our minimum number of participants to make this happen is 10. We will charge for meals and board to the participants. Becky will make the arrangements for this event.
- FELD needs to offer a Project Harmony training session for those who work with children in August/September of 2023.
- Next meeting is October 25, 2022, at Church of the Master. Matt Coplen closed the meeting with prayer.

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

- Admin Team met jointly with the Moderator Team (Suzanne Gorhau, Marcia Cline, Matt Coplen)
- Our meeting opened with checking in with one another, recalling the PMRV Covenant and prayer.
- Discussion included:
Debriefing about:
 - September LT meeting and other happenings around PMRV

Manual of Administrative Operations Updating

- We continue to have productive conversations and updates
- LT team approved the updates so far (September version)
 - *Reminders on Manual updating: Most updates reflect: -Necessary updates that match how PMRV actually does things;*
 - *Suggested updates from Synod as to what needs to be in a manual -Closer alignment with the “Stepping Up to the Plate” Vision that PMRV approved in November 2021 (i.e. Using an Administrative Hub, Moderator Team, Admin Team*

Misc items

- worked through details of 9/29/22 special meeting
- discussed prep for 10/18/22 LT meeting
- approved a strategy for how to discuss GA items (across November & February dockets)
- discussed a 2023 project of rethinking how PMRV budget is set up
- Asked Pat to claim space at Calvin Crest for August 11-12, 2023

JUST ADMIN TEAM

- discussed characteristics for AT work among many other things
- **Other Administrative Reference**
 - **Pastor Well-being TF** (Suzanne, Sally, Sarah) are working on next steps.
 - **Communications TF** (Suzanne convener; includes Kathy, Carolyn, Sarah) LT approved TF suggested protocols at the September LT meeting. TF will need to mop up a few things and we'll all continue to work through examples and keep learning!
 - **AT typically:** Meetings (and emails/communications) continue to focus on our “usual” purposes:
 - Help coordinate the administrative and communication needs and opportunities of the presbytery,
 - Help the presbytery keep faithful to its mission, -Resource the Leadership Team

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

- SOR met on October 12 to finalize the 2023 budget. (Budget included in materials.)
- We want to thank all of the committees and Tina and Nicole for helping to get this proposal together. During our discussion today, we are going to have conversations with the following committees to help them understand that they are 95 accounts available for their mission and ministry plannings for 2023: Youth Ministry, Mission & Evangelism.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry – Jay Cline, Moderator

Actions of CPM are included in the Stated Clerk Report. CPM will meet on Nov. 10th.

Personnel Committee – Kathy Moore, Elder, Chair

The Personnel Committee met via zoom on October 5, 2022, to prepare for the annual staff check-in process. Interview questions were finalized, and meetings have been scheduled with all three PMRV staff the week of October 10th. We discussed a potential range for salary increases and will meet again via zoom on October 18th to finalize those decisions.

Worship and Spirituality Committee – Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, Chair

The Worship & Spirituality Committee met on September 29, 2022. We planned worship for the November 3 presbytery meeting on zoom. We're also planning several upcoming discussion groups and theological events for PMRV.

Mission and Evangelism – Rev. Matt Coplen, Chair

- Our most recent meeting was held on Tuesday, October 4th. We met in the Fellowship Hall of New Life Presbyterian Church of Omaha, where we saw the amazing Bible-inspired murals painted by the congregation on the walls. Carolyn Grice gave us some history of the congregation and some of the mission work evident just looking around.
- The committee approved a budget request for 2023.
- The committee approved a mini-grant request of \$2,000 from Villisca Presbyterian Church for the community's food pantry that is supported to a great extent by the Presbyterian Church.
- The committee approved a Matthew 25 Partnership gift of \$650 for New Life Presbyterian Church to help with their Saturday morning food giveaways. The money will be used to offer hot chocolate, coffee and hot soup to community members as they wait in line for food and other assistance.
- Following our meeting, the committee made a couple of decisions by email related to conversations that were held during the meeting:
 - We approved a gift of \$650 to "A Place at the Table" – a five-congregation mission project of the churches in Shenandoah, Iowa. "A Place at the Table" is a once a month meal for anyone and everyone and there is also a guest speaker invited who shares other avenues for assistance within the community.
 - We approved a gift of \$200 to "Hand-up for Housing" to further the efforts of several presbytery congregations to offer assistance in the area of affordable housing.
 - The committee is currently receiving Komarek Trust grant applications. Our next committee meeting will be November 7th at Discovery Presbyterian Church at 1:00 p.m. We anticipate that a financial representative of the Komarek Trust will join us by zoom to discuss the applications and make recommendations to the Trust. As of this report, 4 applications have been received.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – Jon Sloan, Chair

PDA resources for ongoing current concerns in the world:

- https://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/2021_at_a_glance_final.pdf
- https://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/hurricane_season_2022_appeal_insert_final.pdf
- https://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/ukraine_appeal_bulletin_insert.pdf
- https://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/pick3.pdf
- http://pma.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/poster-school-kit.pdf
- Either:
 - https://pda.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/gift_of_the_heart_kits_2_up-jan2017.pdf
 - OR**
 - http://pma.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/poster-cleanup-bucket.pdf
 - AND**
 - http://pma.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/poster-hygiene-kit.pdf