

## **PMRV Committee and Team Reports For Stated Meeting: February 16, 2023**

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

The committee met via email for the January meeting. Carolyn Grice will continue as chair. The updated committee roster is in progress. Those currently serving are Bob Keefer, Greg Carlson, Kevin Bushnell, Nicole Geiler, Cathy Killpack, Steve Burgess. We have co-opted Shelli Latham.

The committee is currently looking at ways to implement the Troubled Waters series in the presbytery. "**Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance**" to the presbytery. There are four episodes. **The series** is a *documentary resource produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for communities and congregations to facilitate conversation and engagement around the issues of race and racism. As we struggle as a nation with these deep systemic and structural issues on a daily basis, we hope this series can be a resource to listen to one another, have difficult but honest conversations and collectively work together to disrupt structural racism.*

*This project is the result of the collaboration across two Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) agencies and several offices and initiatives as well as responding to General Assembly actions. Each episode is about 18 minutes.*

*Last year the committee heard from several non-profit organizations about what they do and how churches can help. An updated list will be posted to the PMRV website.*

### **Self-Development of People (SDOP)** – Rev. Carolyn Grice, Chair

No Report

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

Calvin Crest ended 2022 in good financial position due, in part, to the generous support of churches, individuals, businesses and foundations that continue to see the value in the outdoor camp experience and its impact on the spiritual growth of children, youth and adults.

Summer Camp plans are well underway with a balanced slate of offerings for all ages. More information on registration opportunities will be coming this month, though registration is already open at [www.calvincrest.camp](http://www.calvincrest.camp). In addition to that, we have a few retreats for adults throughout the year as well as our popular Family Fun Day on August 19 along with an overnight youth retreat scheduled for August 19-20.

The Calvin Crest Board of Directors will have their annual board retreat at Calvin Crest on January 13-14. Conversations continue with Homestead Presbytery representatives about the transfer of property to the Calvin Crest Corporation. The document below is from Homestead Presbytery regarding those discussions.

#### **STATUS REPORT ON HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CAMP CALVIN CREST**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Throughout 2022 leadership of Homestead Presbytery and Camp Calvin Crest have been discussing the future relationship of the presbytery and the camp. The presbytery's Administration and Finance Committee initiated the discussions due to concerns about the presbytery's ability to provide financial support to the camp in the face of the presbytery's diminishing resources needed to fund essential presbytery programs and staff. In addition to Homestead Presbytery's difficult financial

future, it also faces challenges in staffing the presbytery's volunteer and compensated leadership positions.

Homestead Presbytery is not alone in its predicament. Other presbyteries are reducing or sharing staff and redrawing boundaries. In early 2023 Homestead Presbytery will initiate conversations about our mutual needs with our neighboring presbyteries. However, given current financial challenges and uncertain futures, it is necessary to plan and provide for the future of Camp Calvin Crest.

## **AFFIRMATIONS**

The conversations between the leadership of Homestead Presbytery and Camp Calvin Crest have been Spirit-led, resulting in the following affirmations.

1. Together, we affirm the wisdom of the Synod of Nebraska in the 1950's for its purchase of the property to establish a Presbyterian camp located at the population center of Nebraska Presbyterians. In 1977, when the boundaries of synods and presbyteries in Nebraska were reconfigured, the new Synod of Lakes and Prairies transferred the ownership of Camp Calvin Crest to the new Homestead Presbytery.
2. Together, we affirm the faithful support of many in the camp's 65 years of service to Christ and seek to assure the future of Calvin Crest for decades to come in new and exciting ways.
3. Together, we affirm it to be in the best interest of Calvin Crest that the property be transferred from Homestead Presbytery to the Calvin Crest Corporation as a Presbyterian camp and conference center.

## **TENTATIVE TIMELINE FOR 2023**

1. Homestead and Calvin Crest Leadership will develop a mutually agreeable plan to transfer the property from Homestead Presbytery to Camp Calvin Crest, a registered corporation.
2. Plan will be circulated and presented to the Presbyteries of Homestead, Missouri River Valley, and Central Nebraska for information and action, as needed.
3. We propose that the August 11th meetings of the Presbyteries of Homestead and PMRV be an occasion to highlight the history and future of the Calvin Crest ministry.

Carl Eskridge, Co-Moderator, Administration and Finance Committee, Homestead Presbytery  
[eskridgecb@gmail.com](mailto:eskridgecb@gmail.com), 402-730-1225

## **Faith Education Leadership Development (FELD) – Rev. Becky Balestri, Chair**

- The members of FELD are Becky Balestri (chair), Jody Filipi (secretary), Karen Johns (New Life), Shelli Dart (First, Bellevue), Ellen Scott (Dundee), and Rudy Wang (Korean).
- The Presbytery Manual of Operations says, "The mission of the Faith Education and Leadership Development Committee is to provide resources and training in the areas of Christian Education and Church Officer Training; assist congregations in their development of Christian Education programs including Educator support and teacher-training opportunities; maintain a relationship with the ministry of Camp Calvin Crest through those serving on the Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center Board of Directors; carry out the Presbytery's responsibilities identified in *The Book of Order* to provide encouragement, guidance, and resources to its member churches in the areas of faith and leadership development; maintain the Presbytery's media equipment and resources, and to encourage and foster the mission of its working groups." That's a lot to live up to.
- FELD will be hosting a one-day retreat for Clergy Spouses on April 22, 2023. Please be watching for more information soon.
- FELD hopes to offer a congregation vitality education experience during 2023.

- The committee will continue to support youth events throughout the presbytery, and scholarships for Calvin Crest and for Synod School. FELD also supports the Christian Educator group that meets regularly.

## **Administrative Team (AT)** – Sarah Dickinson, Sally Carlson, Gregg Miller, Pat Shipley

Admin Team met jointly with the Moderator Team on 1/9/23

- To: Leadership Team (LT) + for the 2/16/23 Presbytery Meeting
- From: Admin Team (AT): Sally Carlson, Gregg Miller, Pat Shipley, Sarah Dickinson/notetaker
- Moderator Team (MT): Suzanne Gorhau, Marcia Cline & Matt Coplen

Since this is for the first meeting of the Leadership Team and the Presbytery in 2023 some notes of introduction.

- **What is the Administrative Team (AT)?**
  - The Admin Team was established by the Presbytery in November 2019. It has 4 members: The Stated Clerk and 3 others who have served PMRV for a while and represent different committees. Instead of having a presbyter or executive, this team coordinates those functions (called the Administrative Hub) along with the Leadership Team.
- **AT typically**
  - Stays in contact across the month by phone and email and then at least monthly convenes for the purpose of:
    - Helping coordinate the administrative and communication needs and opportunities of the presbytery
    - Helping the presbytery keep faithful to its mission
    - Resourcing the Leadership Team
    - And making sure we understand what's going on and can help the LT & presbytery
- **AT in 2022**
  - Started coordinating more actively with the Moderator Team (MT). We now meet regularly as a AT/MT team. (The MT is the presbytery moderator, vice moderator and immediate past moderator)
- **Highlights from when Admin Team met jointly with the Moderator Team 1/9/23**
  - Our meeting opened with checking in with one another, recalling the PMRV Covenant and 4 callings and prayer.
  - Discussion included
    - **Debriefing** about December LT meeting and other happenings around PMRV
    - **Prep** for:
      - **Leadership Team Meeting 1/17/23 Planning the Annual Training/Retreat meeting**
        - Theme: "The Joy of Being a Team"
        - The training will be rooted in the Vision & Administrative Hub for 2023
        - As usual: A broader range of leaders are invited to this meeting/training, including representatives from Calvin Crest, Nominating, Youth, COR, PDA, Synod Commissioners & the Treasurer; + 2 deep representatives from Nominating & COM
    - **GA Recommendations**
  - **Recommendation to the Leadership Team**

- AT & MT had another deep conversation about the most faithful way for PMRV to approach GA 225 items that need presbytery approval by June 2023. We've discerned this approach:
      - Ask the Stated Clerk to recommend which items may be referred to different PMRV committees/entities for study.
      - Ask those committees/entities for their recommendations for them to be present at a 4/24/23 pre-presbytery meeting informational Zoom.
      - Whole presbytery votes on recommendations at the regularly scheduled 4/29/23 in-person meeting.
  - **Various other discussions**
    - Looking ahead to the February 2023 PMRV meeting
    - Congregational Vitality Initiative (from Synod resource). Plan to learn and discuss more.
    - Making sure we coordinate the above initiative along with conversations about a Aug 11-12 retreat speaker and/or any plans FELD may be making.
- **We meet next:** 1/31/23 1:30 PM via Zoom.

#### **Other Administrative Reference**

- **Vision & Hub 2023** (approved by LT December 20, 2022 and in the PMRV mtg materials for Feb. 2023 mtg)
- **Tasks Forces** Pastor Well Being

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

Stewardship of Resources has not met. The report is the Financial Report provided to Presbytery.

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

CPM met on February 9, 2023, and welcomed new members to the Commission. See Stated Clerk's Report.

#### **Personnel Committee** – Kathy Moore, Elder, Chair

The Committee did not meet. No report.

#### **Worship and Spirituality Committee** – Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, Chair

Members: Chair Suzanne Gorhau, Becky Balestri, Michael Geiler, Ardys Hansum, Bob Keefer, Kristen Oertell

- We plan the worship services for the four presbytery meetings every year.
- This year we've sponsored Theology on Tap, which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 11:30am at the Brazen Head Irish Pub to talk theology.
- We're sponsoring a "Theology of Hymns" event on March 9 at 3pm at the Presbyterian Church of the Master.
- We'd planning a future Ted Lasso discussion group when the new season comes out.
- We're working on some videos of people sharing their stories of experiencing racism to use for discussion in our local churches.

## **Mission and Evangelism** – Rev. Matt Coplen, Chair

The members of the Mission and Evangelism Committee for 2023 are: Matt Coplen, Carolyn Grice, Cindy Harvey, Rebecca Nichol, Joyce Faltis Serenil, and James Reiff.

Two exciting areas of mission that we will be exploring this year:

Committee members will be asked to serve as liaisons to some of PMRV's partners in ministry including Crossroads Connection, HELP Adult Services, and our Nicaraguan partnership. This same work as liaisons will be extended to our immigrant ministry groups as well. The goal (or hope) is that we will be able to get more of our churches involved in these ministries in part by reminding ourselves that they are there and by letting you know who they are and what they are up to. Some exciting and wonderful ministry is happening, and we too often don't know enough about it.

The second area of extended ministry that we hope to explore this year is to dig a little deeper into the committee's job description. In the last couple of years we have primarily been a conduit of funds to our congregations through mini-grants, Komarek grants, and Matthew 25 grants. That is wonderful and rewarding work and we are please to work alongside our churches. This year, though, we would like to explore how we might help our congregations have conversations with one another that might lead to new, or improved, or collaborative ministries and mission. Please be on the lookout for these opportunities, but please also let us know what you would like.

Three types of grants are available through the Mission and Evangelism committee:

Mini-grants – these are up to \$2000 dollar grants that are intended to facilitate mission projects in our PMRV congregations. From our perspective as a committee, we give wide latitude in our designation of mission because we trust that the Holy Spirit will lead our congregations to do wide and varied missions in their contexts and settings.

Matthew 25 grants – these grants are similar to the mini-grants in terms of our openness to a congregation's mission discernment. The one caveat with Matthew 25 grants is that the mission needs to be intentionally related to congregational vitality, systemic poverty, and/or structural racism. We do ask that any requests related to Matthew 25 grants would be local projects.

Komarek grants – these are brick and mortar grants that are overseen by the Mission and Evangelism committee on behalf of the Komarek trust. Applications can be submitted at any time, but the committee does its work reading and discerning among the various requests in the fall of each year when we have been advised what dollars are available.

For all three grants, the applications are available on the Presbytery's website.

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

The Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee received a donation for local disaster assistance from the Hand-Up for Housing walkathon hosted by the Matthew 25 group at First Presbyterian Church of Omaha. Roughly \$9500 was raised for PDA and we are incredibly grateful for the support!