

Committee and Commission Reports

Stated Meeting, April 13, 2024

Social Justice and Peacemaking – Rev. Carolyn Grice, Chair

The PMRV Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee met Tuesday, March 5th, via Zoom. The meeting opened with prayer and reading the administrative covenant.

Carolyn highlighted the information from the Matthew 25 conference that was pertinent to the discussion of next steps. The committee reviewed and discussed the resources provided to the Leadership Team regarding Palestine.

A sub-committee is working on a statement for the presbytery website. The entire committee is also looking at creating ideas and providing links of information and resources for individuals and congregations interested in doing something.

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

The committee will be undergoing the recertification process soon. We will join the session where the Synod SDOP will be recertified. Date to be determined.

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

The Calvin Crest Board of Directors met for a regular meeting on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at Calvin Crest. Along with receiving reports from the Executive Director and the five standing committees, the board also discussed some valuable information obtained from the Non-Profit Leadership Training that Calvin Crest is participating in this year. Those items included the three talking points that our board and staff will use to discuss Calvin Crest with others, the “Trust Triangle” from a Harvard Business Review article and some possible uses of the capacity-building grant that accompanies this program.

In addition, there were reports on the status of the property transfer, new policies to put in place as well as working on a process for identifying, recruiting, onboarding, and engaging new board members for 2025 and beyond.

Some upcoming events at Calvin Crest include:

- Men’s Retreat -- May 17-18
- Summer Camp – June and July
- Family Fun Day and Insteadium – August 24-25

Faith Education Leadership Development – Shelli Dart, chair

Shelli Dart, Jim Gaines, Suzanne Gorhau, Rick Holbert, and Rudy Wang attended the first FELD meeting of 2024. Suzanne will chair the committee and Shelli will be the Leadership Team representative. Shelli filled us in on what FELD has done in the past as well as what the Youth Ministry Group has been doing. The Committee approved several scholarships to Calvin Crest and Synod School. The Committee started to discuss the paragraph from the PMRV Manual of Operations about FELD’s responsibilities and will continue to discuss that in the coming months. Shelli Dart’s focus continues to be working with the Youth Ministry Group and the Church Educators Monthly meetings.

The Youth Ministry Group led a retreat at Calvin Crest March 1 & 2 with over 30 attendees from 6 different churches. Our theme was Frequency, tuning in to God's voice and tuning out noise and distractions. The weather was perfect, and our Small Group leaders were fantastic. The adult volunteers who attended jumped right in and did a wonderful job steering each group. There was lots of discussion, laughter, new friendships, and inspiring worship. We had a fantastic time tie dying our

shirts and looking for Jesus in surprising places. Our adult leaders hid tiny Jesuses all over the camp and the youth were delighted to find him everywhere. It led to great discussions that Jesus is always with us, no matter where we are. Our next event will be helping Dave Friedli with Insteadium 3.0 in August. We will continue sponsoring quarterly events for all the PMRV churches.

The Church Educators Group continues to meet most months on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Church of the Cross at 11:30am. We share ideas, curriculum recommendations, mission trip ideas, and inspire and support each other. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list, please let me know.

Administrative Team/Moderator Team – Sarah Dickinson, Gregg Miller, Pat Shipley, Marcia Cline, Matt Coplen, Regina Jeanpierre

Report: Admin & Moderator Teams (from joint meetings)

Here are some highlights from when Admin Team met jointly with the Moderator Team [3/4/24](#)

- As usual: We have very full meetings and good discussion.
- Discussion included: **Debriefing** about:
 - **Feb LT Mtg** Helpful meeting
 - **Feb PMRV Mtg**
 - Great coordination of Moderators and focus on “Energy” theme across the whole meeting;
 - good to have breakout discussions [and not have to report in], Historical society person just plumb forgot to log on.
 - **PMRV Statistical Reports** Comments on the data/trends (Pat)
 - **Churches in Transition** Clarifying the status of some churches
- **Other Discussion Items:**
 - **Prep for March LT mtg** What we anticipate so far
 - **Emergency Response** Affirming that MT & AT can meet together quickly should the need arise
 - **PDA** Jon Sloan moving to Homestead; Marcia will reach out and gather data for transition.
 - **August Presbytery Meeting**
 - Coordinating with BoP/Ken Green presentations (w/ Homestead)
 - Discerning joint worship (Nancy will touch base with PMRV Worship)
 - Moderator team looking at “enrichment” aspect for the meeting/retreat
 - **Nebraska Ecumenical Group**
 - Sarah will continue to meet with group. Goal: Strengthening mainline Protestant witness.
 - **New Worshiping Community Grant**
 - Arabic Fellowship Request; Matt will find out from Nick if the group is still meeting and where.
 - There is an office at PCM but no longer worshipping there.
- **Updates**
 - **PCOC applied to host specific PC(USA) Peacemaker:** Dumitru Roibu from Moldova; Pat signed for PMRV
 - **Pastor Well-being:** Note that Regina has a doctorate in this area! Discerning how resources, vendors, etc may be coordinated.
 - **Stated Clerk Transition Task Force:** Continues to meet and discern. Will have report for March LT
 - **On the radar:**

- **Reference:**
- **Gold Star**

Item	Jan-Mar 2024	April ff	Detail
Send notice	SC Pat	LT Mod or Nicole	
Gather reports & format	SC Pat	LT Mod or Nicole	Note: 4x/yr = PMRV mtg report
Set LT docket	LT Mod Marcia	LT Mod	
Zoom link	SC Pat	Office/Nicole	Communications will set up

- **Prayers for churches seeking pastoral leadership**
 - April: Rev. Aaron White begins at PCM
- **AT/MT meets next: 4/4/24 1:30 Zoom**
- **Other Administrative Reference**
 - **Vision 2024** (approved by PMRV Nov. 2023 mtg)
 - **2024 Presbytery meetings** – 2/22/24 (Zoom) 4/13/24 (in person) 8-16&17/24 Calvin Crest 11/7/24 Zoom
 - **Manual of Operations Suggested Revisions** (toward 2024)
 - How MAO is updated: Ordinarily not more than one time of year;
 - LT: Add Worship and Spirituality
 - Policies: Add -Administrative Hub
 - **Process for LT** –As much as possible, anything that goes on the LT docket – especially things that require fruitful discussion, let items bounce into MT/AT first to tease out angles of what is being discussed and also include a “Read Ahead” for LT members. (so that we aren’t discussing important topics “cold”)

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Commission on Preparation for Ministry – Al Zimmerman, Moderator

The Commission will meet on Thursday, April 11 at Faith Presbyterian/LaVista at 2 p.m.

Worship and Spirituality Committee – Rev. Becky Balestri, Chair

We met at the Presbytery office at 9:00 am. Present were Becky Balestri, Mike Geiler, Ardys Hansum, Mike Harvey, Bob Keefer, and Kristen Oertell. We began with check-in, by considering the Presbytery covenant, and with prayer.

After some debriefing on the February worship service, we resumed work on the April worship service. We decided:

- We will have people self-select into groups of five or six; we will assign each group a season of the liturgical year (some groups may duplicate)
- We will ask them to look at the list of hymns provided and think about which they would choose to use for a service during that season. We will direct them to think about what Scripture(s) may be a source for that hymn. And we will have them consider: What does it say about God? What is its theological focus? If they have time, then they are to do the same with another hymn. Afterward, they will return and share an Aha! Moment. Finally, we will comment on “intelligence” in intentional use of music in worship.
- We had selected three hymns to be sung; we will use them in this order: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art,” and “When Morning Gilds the Skies.”
- We will use a Litany for Easter rather than a confession of sin.

Assignments:

- Becky will prepare the handouts (the hymns by season), using *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990)

- Becky will bring about 50 hymnals
- Bob will give the directions to the groups
- Bob will write the liturgical material, distribute it for comment, and then see that it gets to Mike G; if screens are available at the church, we will not print a bulletin
- Becky will ask Nancy Ross-Hullinger to preside at the Table; she will also ask her to have Gethsemane provide the elements for the Lord's Supper and will ask her about the availability of screens
- Becky will ask the Leadership Team to direct the offering to the Omaha Street School

We agreed to do something for National Day of Prayer (May 2). Becky volunteered to have the service/event at Faith Church if it is during the day. Bob will communicate with SJ&P about it.

With respect to the Laura Rasmussen event: Only three signed up. She Laura, Becky, and Suzanne will meet to discuss what to do.

We had some conversation about hoping the Leadership Team will look at the overall scope of the life of the Presbytery: its calendar, events, and such. And then about 10:05 we adjourned with prayer.

Stewardship of Resources (SOR) – Rev. Michael Elliott, chair

1. Report from Treasurer

Our per capita from churches is ahead of last year by about \$50K. It is early in the year so we are not sure that means anything going forward. We paid our per capita to PCUSA and Synod this month.

Per capita and Mission and Ministries expenses show no abnormal expenses through February.

Investments Recap:

- Balance on 12-31-21 was \$1,201,101.81.
- Balance on 12-31-22 was \$1,001,456.24.
- Balance on 12/31/23 was \$1,191,549.15.
- Balance on 03/12/24 was \$1,252,026.01.

We gained back about \$60K in the last couple of months. The economy and inflation are continuing to affect the markets. We are invested in the long term with income and growth funds at New Covenant Funds. We have finally gained back all our 2022 losses in this last year. Let's hope the trend continues through the next year.

2. Report from SOR

Our report is the financial statements for January 2024.

Personnel Committee – Kathy Moore, Chair

The Committee has not met and will reconvene prior to the April Stated Meeting.

Transition Task Force — Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger, chair.

Report will be presented.

Nominating Committee – Linda Reffert, Chair

No report. Linda Reffert (402) 676-3230 or lkreffert@aol.com

Mission and Evangelism – Rev. Matt Coplen, Chair

No report