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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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Stated clerk accepts additional duties

Our Stated Clerk, Jeannie Dixon, has graciously agreed to take on more responsibility during the time in which we do not have a part-time, temporary transitional presbyter.

As a point of information, it is not uncommon for the stated clerks of smaller presbyteries to also perform the duties of a general or coordinating presbyter. Our Book of Order requires (“Shall”) that each presbytery have a stated clerk, but does not require a presbyter.

The following are Jeannie’s additional duties:

“The Stated Clerk shall:

- Provide guidance during the implementation of the newly adopted By-Laws and Manual of Operations of the presbytery.
- Serve as advisor to all ministries of the presbytery.

- Serve as interpreter and facilitator to implement policies and actions of the presbytery.



**Jeannie
Dixon**

- Maintain contact with the congregations of the presbytery and help develop a climate of collegiality, openness, trust, love, and understanding among the congregations, ministries, and members of the presbytery as needed/ requested.
- Serve as head of staff of the presbytery and its office in the implementation of the presbytery’s policies, strategies, and programs
- Communicate the programs, policies, and actions of the synod and the General Assembly to the presbytery.”

From the Ministry Coordinating Council



*By Don Mowat,
MCC Moderator
And 1st, Lynn Haven
Elder*

SPRING SATED PRESBYTERY MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 18 • DOGWOOD ACRES
9 AM CT / 10 AM ET (REGISTRATION AT 8 AM CT / 9 AM ET)
*WITH WORSHIP, COMMISSIONING OF GA COMMISSIONERS,
BOARD OF PENSIONS REPRESENTATIVE CLARK SIMMONS... & MORE!*

From our Stated Clerk



By Jeannie Dixon,
Fellowship,
Tallahassee Elder

Pastors' terms of call forms fulfill Book of Order mandate

Here's a reminder to all clerks of sessions, treasurers and ministers: Your 2024 terms of call for installed pastors were due in March to the Stated Clerk, so please submit those as soon as you can. Not everyone has submitted the terms of call; there are 22 such positions in our presbytery, and only five forms have been received. The form can be found [on the Presbytery's website](#).

This is a requirement from the Book of Order (G-2.0804 Terms of Call):

"The terms of call shall always meet or exceed any minimum requirement of the presbytery in effect when the call is made. The session shall review annually the minister's terms of call and shall propose for congregational action (G-1.0501) such changes as the session deems appropriate, provided that they meet the presbytery's minimum requirements. The call shall include participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including both

pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly."

The 2024 Terms of Call form approved by the presbytery's former Committee on Ministry notes at the bottom that the form is to be returned to the Stated Clerk no later than March 1st of each year. Even if there is no change from the previous year, the form should be submitted.

It can be emailed to me at statedclerk@presbyteryofflorida.com.

TRANSITIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

UPDATE

The Nominating Committee for our presbytery's new Transitional General Presbyter began meeting weekly in early March. We have been hard at work fine tuning our expectations of the search process, the specifics of the position description, and the details of the Ministry Discernment Profile for the Church Leadership Connection. We are motivated to faithfully work through this season of discernment and look forward to keeping the presbytery updated as we advance in the process.



MPT helps to connect churches and ministers through CLC

The newly-formed Ministry of Pastoral Transitions, assigned some of the functions of the discontinued Committee on Ministry, held its initial meeting on April 2, 2024 under the leadership of Ministry Moderator Rev. Lisa Martin. Much of the focus is on the relatively new Church Leadership Connection process, which is designed to connect churches looking for a minister with ministers looking for churches. CLC utilizes an

algorithm to match forms submitted by churches, describing themselves and their needs, with forms submitted by prospective candidates, thus narrowing the search for both parties.

MPT will also form a panel to assist the ministry by conducting examinations of candidates for membership in the presbytery. The panel will consist of clergy and lay leaders to conduct examination as and when needed.

MPT and the Presbytery welcome Rev. James Holley as supply

pastor at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee. Rev. Holley comes to the pastorate after a career in the military and public service employment.

MPT also reminds Clerks of Session that each church should submit an annual report on ministerial terms of call. A majority of churches have not done so within the past year. A reminder will be sent directly to the Clerks. Also see our presbytery Stated Clerk's article with more information on page 2 of this newsletter.

From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)



*By Ed Nickinson,
MPT member and
Trinity, Pensacola
Elder*

DOGWOOD ACRES

Summer Schedule

- June 23rd-28th High School Week
- June 30th-July 3rd Family Camp
- July 7th-12th Intro, Discover, Adventure
- July 14th-19th Discovery, Adventure
- July 21st-26th Discovery, Adventure

Learn more and sign up at:
dogwoodacres.org

Or email:
eric@dogwoodacres.org





2024 Evangelism Conference

www.pcusa.org/evangelism

A Lifestyle That Exudes *Justice*

October 3-5, 2024
Louisville, KY

Registration Opens in April!

SAVE THE DATE

UKIRK
TALLAHASSEE
YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
UKIRK'S OPEN HOUSE

21 | May | 2024
6:00 - 7:30 pm

548 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301
HORS D'OEUVRES & DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED

LAUREL HILL ARTS & HERITAGE Festival

CALL FOR PERFORMERS, EXHIBITORS & FOOD TRUCK OPERATORS!

ARTS • CRAFTS • MUSIC • FOOD

SAT., JUNE 1, 10am - 3pm • FREE!

LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YARD • 8115 FOURTH STREET
LIVE LOCAL MUSIC • COTTAGE FOODS • CRAFTS ARTISTS • HISTORIC AND CULTURAL DISPLAYS

FOOD TRUCK & EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION: \$20
REGISTER FOR **FREE** AT bit.ly/30RT5rU

Stay for the entire festival and receive a \$10 refund!

PRESENTED BY
THE LAUREL HILL AND CRESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES
AND THE CRESTVIEW ARTISTS' COLLECTIVE

The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with children and youth.



Join Us!
When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!
April 1-May 19

PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

MLD plans Board of Pensions talk for May presbytery meeting

The Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD) encompasses all or part of several former Presbytery committees:

- Educational Resources
- Mission & Outreach
- Preparation for Ministry
- Congregational Discernment
- Ministry

In the most general sense, we ensure that the leadership of the Presbytery is educated, equipped, resourced, and nurtured.

It is a big job, and we have a fully active

ministry team leading the way. With two months on the job, we are already running to keep the work that has been done going and discover the new ways we will work going forward.

One of our tasks is the Education Hour of presbytery meetings. These have been helpful in the past, and we plan to keep that going by addressing topics that are timely and helpful for congregations.

The May presbytery meeting will include time with Clark Simmons, our Board of Pensions

representative, who will help us better understand the changes that are coming for 2025. He will share information and answer questions. We encourage personnel chairs, pastor nominating committee leaders, clerks of session, and others who count on the Board of Pensions to come for this time of listening, learning, and sharing.

If you have questions about the work of MLD, please reach out, ask questions; we are here as a resource and help to all of us in the Presbytery of Florida.

From the Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD)



*By Rev. Cathy Mooney,
MLD Moderator and
1st, DeFuniak Springs
Pastor*

1st Wednesday

SACK Lunch

South Atlantic Community Knowledge

A monthly zoom for sharing across the synod!

*Join, learn and share: experience, resources,
and best practices on a new topic each month.*



April 3 - Young Ministry

May 1 - Presbytery Leadership

June 5 - Women in Ministry

July 3 - Peacemaking

August 7 - Campus Ministry



To register, follow the QR code or visit synodofsouthatlantic.org

From Dogwood Acres



*By Christy Williams,
Director*

New projects = new possibilities at Dogwood Acres

As you drive up to the gate for Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery of Florida, you will now be asked to provide an access code for the new solar gate to open. This gives our property additional security, as well as ease of access to those who arrive on-site after business hours.

James Vance built a planter for our landscaper, Kay Lachet (Lafayette, Tallahassee) to install flowering shrubs to greet people on their way into camp.



The pole barn that will house Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief buckets is almost finished! This project was started during our March Mission Day. You can see from the photo below that it will be large enough to house one of our tractors and still have plenty of space for pallets of relief buckets and even our Kubota. These buckets will be



accessible to communities throughout the Panhandle in the case of a natural disaster. James Vance (Fellowship, Tallahassee), Brant Copeland (Retired pastor) and Robert Commerford (DWA staff) continue to work to finish this project.

Bill Wert (First, Quincy) built this amazing giant Adirondack chair that will be painted and ready to welcome campers and retreaters to the camp.



Currently, the yellow retreat house, formerly the Presbytery of Florida office, is being painted and refurbished for individuals and retreat groups to use. In the next few weeks, we will break ground on the new outdoor cooking pavilion that will honor the ministry of Ben and Kathy Powell. The funds for this project have come from the generosity of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola and their annual Jelly Bean Run.

There are still more projects we are working on to make Dogwood Acres a retreat center that is hospitable to adults and a summer camp that is fun for campers. Every new project we complete means new possibilities in ministry on our site. If you are interested in helping with one of our upcoming projects, contact christy@dogwoodacres.org.

We purchased an EV

We did it. We purchased our first electric vehicle. After lots of research and comparison shopping we selected a 2024 Ford Mustang Mach -E. I have to laugh because I remember in high school when the first Mustangs came out, that they were considered a sports car, and here I am, decades later in my senior years, the owner of a Mustang.

This is an incredible car. It has serious acceleration that pins you to the back of the seat, not that we do that very often, and we never ever again have to go to a gas station or get an oil change. We just plug the car in the wall of our garage to charge its battery. There is so much technology, that I am not sure that we will ever master it all. It has all the features of a gas car, plus more, including a map that shows you where all the charging stations are located.



The largest benefit is that our driving of this car, no longer contributes carbon emissions and because 100% of our home energy is from the City of Tallahassee’s community solar, we are not adding more carbon emissions when we charge it at home.

Electric vehicles are not a fad. The car industry is rapidly switching to electric vehicles, but there will be ups and downs, as we all transition. In 2023, they made up nearly a fifth of the new car market, and they are the fastest growing sector of the new car market.

We have yet to take a long distance trip, so

haven’t dealt with the issue of finding charging stations. This is a worry but charging stations are beginning to spread around the country. Some friends, just traveled from Maryland to Texas to see the eclipse, driving an EV truck, pulling a trailer.

All and all, I feel good about owning an EV and it is fun to drive. They are easier to maintain, clearly cheaper to “fuel” up, better for the environment and, best of all, the prices are going down. You can purchase EVs for less than \$30,000!

You might wonder why I am telling you about purchasing an EV. It is because studies show that what really works to change people’s mind is not education, although it does influence some, but social comparison. We moved quickly on this after having a friend for dinner who had both an EV car and a truck. He did it. We have done it, and you could, too.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
Presbytery Stewardship of Creation Enabler
[*\(pammcvety@hotmail.com\)*](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com)

“They are easier to maintain, clearly cheaper to “fuel” up, better for the environment and, best of all, the prices are going down.”

Trinity Presbyterian Church

VBS 2024

SAVE THE DATE

Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP Psalms 56:3
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Week of June 3rd

All children who have completed kindergarten through completed fourth grade are invited to join the fun!

**PRESBYTERY
OF FLORIDA**

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

In May	Looking ahead
<i>Wednesday, May 1</i> Florida Corporate Annual Report Filing Deadline	<i>Saturday, June 1</i> Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival <i>10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT</i>
<i>Wednesday, May 1</i> Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force <i>8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET</i>	<i>Monday, June 3</i> Self Development of People (SDOP) Committee <i>10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET</i>
<i>Wednesday, May 1</i> Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom <i>11 a.m. CT/noon ET</i>	<i>Tuesday, June 4, 11, 18 & 25</i> Transitional Presbyter Search Committee <i>1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET</i>
<i>Thursday, May 2</i> National Day of Prayer	<i>Wednesday, June 5</i> Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force <i>8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET</i>
<i>Monday, May 6</i> Self Development of People (SDOP) Committee <i>10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET</i>	<i>Wednesday, June 5</i> Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom <i>11 a.m. CT/noon ET</i>
<i>Tuesday, May 7, 14, 21 & 28</i> Transitional Presbyter Search Committee <i>1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET</i>	<i>Monday, June 10</i> Ministry of Leadership Development <i>1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET</i>
<i>Thursday, May 9</i> Ministry of Presbytery Operations <i>2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET</i>	<i>Monday, June 10</i> Synod of South Atlantic Florida African American Clergy & Educators Zoom Gathering
<i>Saturday, May 11</i> First Presbyterian of Milton Mothers Day Market	<i>Thursday, June 13</i> Ministry of Presbytery Operations <i>2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET</i>
<i>Sunday, May 12</i> Mothers Day	<i>Sunday, June 16</i> Fathers Day
<i>Monday, May 13</i> Ministry of Leadership Development <i>1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET</i>	<i>Wednesday, June 19</i> Juneteenth
Saturday May 18 Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting @ Dogwood Acres Registration begins an hour ahead <i>9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET</i>	<i>Wednesday, June 26</i> Racial Justice Subcommittee <i>10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET</i>
<i>Sunday, May 19</i> Pentecost	<i>Tuesday – Thursday, June 25 – 27</i> General Assembly committee meetings online
<i>Tuesday, May 21</i> Ministry of New Congregation Development <i>1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET</i>	<i>Sunday – Wednesday, June 30 – July 3</i> Dogwood Acres Family Camp
<i>Tuesday, May 21</i> UKirk Tallahassee Open House <i>6 – 7:30 p.m. ET</i>	<i>Saturday – Thursday, June 29 – July 4</i> General Assembly in-person @ Salt Lake City, Utah
<i>Wednesday, May 22</i> Racial Justice Subcommittee <i>10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET</i>	
<i>Monday, May 27</i> Memorial Day – Presbytery office closed	
<i>Tuesday, May 28</i> Moderators and vice moderators of the Ministries of Congregational Health, Leadership Development and Pastoral Transitions	

