

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant

March 16, 2024

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church

1511 El Dorado, Houston, 77062

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Acknowledgment of Native Lands and Peoples

We begin this gathering by recognizing that the land upon which we meet is the location of the ancestral homelands of many different nations, which include Alabama Coushatta, Anadarko, Biloxi, Caddo, Chickasaw, Karankawa, Kichai, Pankana Muskogee, Shawnee, Tawakoni, and Tonkawa, as well as our Hispanic neighbors to our south. We recognize that the state of Texas once belonged to Mexico.

We declare our respect for these children of God and our desire to honor them and the truth of their lives and their history, our shared history including the broken promises and other sins for which the dominant culture must repent. We affirm our responsibility to those who are still here, sometimes unseen, and we look for opportunities for true reconciliation, which we acknowledge will involve further action by, and change for, those in the dominant culture. Among our transgressions are the harmful stereotypes created for our entertainment.

We honor our Native siblings and seek to work for healing and justice that is truly “for all.”

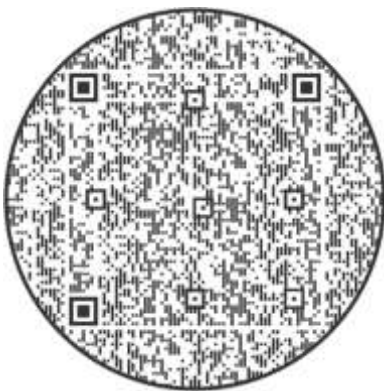
Preaching Today

Rev. Kathleen Davies is the Pastor of the Community of the Servant Savior in Houston. She received her B.A. in Religion from Baylor University in 1995 and then went on to earn her M.Div. from Yale University; Yale Divinity School. She is currently working on D.Min. at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is passionate about Reformed Theology, God's active love, and the life of the Spirit. She is foremost a Jesus follower, and takes seriously Christ's mandate to "love one another."



Today's Offering – Wildfire Recovery in Palo Duro Presbytery

The wildfires in the Texas Panhandle have devastated communities, destroying homes and businesses, and killing livestock. They have also burned up the grasses that cattle need for food. Our friends in Palo Duro Presbytery are supporting their congregations who are offering food and housing to those affected by the fires. Our offering will support the presbytery's outreach with disaster assistance and recovery.



Or use this link:

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbcHLC_tlhjycwZYF973swKOXHubq5Z7ap5JVmPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dxz3uiOIWUfjHXvO3hJ5u5vs=&ver=3

Docket

The Presbytery of New Covenant Stated Meeting – March 16, 2024

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, 1511 El Dorado., Houston

8:30 am Registration Opens Fellowship Hall

9:00 am Workshops

1. Becoming a Matthew 25 Church – Lemuel Garcia – Choir Room
2. Robin Moore -
3. Arts with God - Alternative Forms of Engagement with God for Small Gatherings – Anya Ezhevskaya – L 106/107 **This workshop will begin at 9:30 and will be 30 minutes long.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY!

For your information, RE means Ruling Elder.

THE PROPOSED DOCKET

Please silence all devices!

10:15 am **Welcome**

Moderator, RE Bonnie Keith

Opening Business

Moderator and Stated Clerk

- ⌘ Declaration of Quorum
- ⌘ Acknowledgement of Native Lands and Peoples
- ⌘ Adoption of the Docket
- ⌘ Omnibus Motion
- ⌘ Welcome by Host Church
- ⌘ Welcome of Others (First time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, New Minister Members, Exhibitors, Visitors)
- ⌘ Moderator's Remarks and Appointments
 - Parliamentarian
 - Tellers

WORSHIP – Rev. Kathleen Davies, preaching

Celebration of Ministry: Matthew 25 – Rev. Lemuel Garcia

Administration

Celebration of Ministry: The Pinemont Apartments – RE Martha Hollas

Nominating Committee

Celebration of Ministry: Wycliff Bible Translation - RE Anya Ezhevskaya

12:15 pm **LUNCH/VISIT THE DISPLAYS**

1:30 pm Meeting Continues (if necessary)

New Business (Only if submitted four days prior to meeting date, so it can be posted online 3 days prior)

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

(By rule of the presbytery, no later than 4:00 pm, unless the assembly votes by a 2/3 majority to extend beyond)

Today's Displays: Matthew 25; The Pinemont Apartments; Seafarers Ministry; Wycliff Bible Translation

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant will be
Saturday, July 20, 2024 hosted on Zoom.

Table of Motions

Omnibus: to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2023 Stated Meeting.

Administration: to approve the presbytery budget for 2024.

Committee on Ministry

- 1. COM moves and recommends that the Rev. Theodore (Ted) V. Foote be named pastor emeritus of First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas, effective August 1, 2023. (This motion—and the effective date—were approved by COM last spring, but were to be held for November 2023 meeting in order to surprise Ted at his retirement. It was inadvertently left out of the November 2023 COM report.)**
- 2. COM moves and recommends that the Rev. Phyllis Jones be granted honorable retirement effective March 31, 2024.**
- 3. COM moves and recommends that Presbytery recognize the April, 2023 retirement of Hector Rivera-Velez, who served as a chaplain in the Memorial Hermann Hospital system and grant him honorable retirement.**

Nominating: to approve the slate of nominees to serve in roles with the presbytery.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 40

We will speak of your faithfulness and your salvation

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you

May those who love your salvation say “Great is the Lord”

You are our help and our deliverer, do not delay, O God.

Let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep us

We will tell of the glad news of your salvation in the congregation

You put a new song in our mouths, a song of praise to our God.

Morning Hymn: Morning Has Broken p. 664 or Come Thou Fount p. 475

Call to Confession: Let us boldly approach God’s throne of grace, and with confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin together.

Communal Confession: God of justice, in baptism you anointed us to live boldly in the reality of your coming kingdom.

We confess that we have not fulfilled our calling.

We have not used your power to serve our neighbors.

We have walked away from oppression and injustice.

We have turned our backs on your beloved children who hunger and thirst in a world of plenty.

Forgive us, Lord.

Make us courageous servants of your justice, peace, and wholeness,

We confess in Jesus’ name. Amen.

(based on 2 Samuel 5 by Rev. Nathan Williams, Covenant Presbyterian Church, West Des Moines, IA)

(Silent personal confession)

Assurance of Pardon: You are loved beyond measure, you are forgiven and redeemed, you are precious and priceless, God has called you by name, God has forgiven your sins, as far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed your iniquity, you are restored to wholeness, you are embraced completely, you are the Beloved of God, live into this glorious truth and be at peace.

Passing of the Peace: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, to that peace we are called as one body. Let us share signs of peace and reconciliation with each other. May the peace of Christ be with you/**And also with you**

Prayer for Illumination: Gracious God, shine your light upon these words spoken and heard, let us be changed by them, let us be fed by them, let us be freed by them. Amen

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

1:4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

1:5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

1:6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

1:7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

1:8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

1:10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

1:11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon: Beloved Rev. Kathleen Kendall Davies

Affirmation of Faith: We believe in God: omnipresent, in every time, and in every place, generating and sustaining all life, nurturing relationship with Creation.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who lived and loved, taught and died; the One who conquered death and who surprises us with grace, when we least expect or deserve it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who journeys with us and makes our faith possible, in every situation and every circumstance.

We believe that every place we pause to recognize the mystery of our Triune God, is a sacred place, from sanctuaries in Lufkin and Nacogdoches to sunrises over Galveston. Surely, God is with us in every time and in every place, and we are grateful.

(Submitted by Jerie Lukefahr, Commissioned Ruling Elder (PCUSA), adapted for use by Kathleen Davies)

Hymn of Reflection: Baptized in Water p. 442

Call to Offering: Let us present everything we are to our loving God.

Doxology

Offertory Prayer: Giving and Loving God, accept the offerings of our hearts both tangible and intangible. Use everything we have and everything we are to further your dream for your beloved creation. We offer ourselves again and again to you, through Christ our Lord, Amen

Prayer of the People

Communion

Jesus said I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me. And they said, Lord, when did we do this? And he said, You did this for me when you did it for the least of these.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

May God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts beloved of God

We lift up our hearts in God for the gifts of Life given for all.

May we be reminded of how the Divine came into the world in one so small, young, and fragile, so the Gifts of Life Abundant are in the ordinary made extraordinary, in the bread of the earth and the juice of the grape becoming food of the Spirit, incarnations of the Sacred.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

May we be mindful of all those in need, all without a room, all with grief and fear, and to work for a world more just, so may this token of our daily bread, and this token of our cup of forgiveness which quenches the thirst of the soul, call us to go feed others.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

And may the sacred offering of this small meal, one to another, inspire us to acts of lovingkindness, all in the Spirit of the One who showed us faithfulness without fear, preparing a welcome table for all.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

O God, in the loving and liberating spirit of Jesus, we gather at this welcoming table open to all, remembering how Jesus gathered people from all the walks of life, stranger and friend and enemies, gave thanks to you, offered all the bread of life and the cup of blessing and proclaimed a covenant of love for all in your name.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

We remember too the wonder of his life, as we remember the wonder of all of Creation given unto us and how all life is precious.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

We remember the agony of his death, and all the terrors and the tyrannies that oppress people today.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

And we remember the resurrection, the mystery of faith in the everlasting Spirit, the triumph over fear, as we remember all those who have given Love the ultimate trust and the last word and who have worked to create the beloved community of renewed and abundant life.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

Help us to remember with this meal especially all those who are hungry, and may we treat all our meals as sacred and to be shared.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

Take us, bless us, so that even in and with our brokenness we may serve others. And now we join together in saying the prayer Jesus taught to those who would follow in his radically inclusive hospitable and justice-seeking way of the Spirit.

Our God, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

And now Gracious God, we give you thanks that on the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread and gave thanks and broke it and offered it saying...

Here is the bread of life, food for the spirit. Let all who hunger come and eat. And then in the same gracious way he took the cup and pouring it out for his friends he said...**Here is the fruit of the vine pressed and poured out for us. Let all who thirst now come and drink.** We come to make peace. We come to be restored in the love of God. We come to be made new as an instrument of that love.

All are beloved. All are welcome.

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions:

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do we, as members of the Presbytery of New Covenant, accept these brothers and sisters as commissioners and advisory delegates to the 224th General Assembly, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples, and by the Holy Spirit, make them one church to serve you. Be with members of the General Assembly. Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use. In their deliberation, bring about what is best for us and for all people. As they meet, let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE

You are commissioned to service as commissioners and advisory delegate to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.
-- Colossians 3:17

Hymn of Praise: Go My Children, p. 547 (or) God of Grace and God of Glory p. 307

Benediction

2023 *Necrology*

Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Joseph Steven Spidell - February 14

Chang-Jue Lee - July 23

William Stewart MacColl - October 19

Charles Hendricks - December 25

Former Presbytery Staff

Carrie Walker - University (now dissolved) June 13

Forbes Baker - Sugar Land, First - June 30

Former Presbytery Moderators

Gene McKelvey - St. Philip - February 3

Gene Meyer - Northwoods - April 4

Elders, Deacons, Trustees

Bay City, First: Jim Coe, January 29

Baytown, Faith: Don Murray - January 1

Beaumont, Pioneer: Ruby Melonson - February 7

Brazoria, First: James D. McLaren, II - May 25; William Clarke II - October 22

Bryan, First: Marcia Miculek - May 5; Marshall Bookman Peters - July 2

Calvert, First: Charlie Briggs - August 5

College Station, Covenant: Brian Candee - October 23

Conroe, First: Leroy E. Crawford - April 21; Nancy May Penney - May 17;

Jerry Ivan McNeil - June 30; Thomas Freeman Braaten, Sr. - July 4; Alan

Crumley Bell - October 24

Crockett, First: Georganna Bozeman - August 3

Houston, John Knox: Margaret Was (Peggy) Rhodes - May 12

Houston, Oaks: Robert Craig Kramer - July 21

Houston, Pinecrest: James Hooper - January 5; Richard Boson - August 2

Houston, Pines: Jerrol (Jerry) Mowell - January 12; Elizabeth (Liz) Buelow - February 22; Janet Calhoun - March 6; Louis (Lou) Master - March 21

Houston, St Andrew's: Bill Gribble - March 11; Jim Smith - October 5; Susie Holman - November 8

Houston, St. John's: Barbara Brisch - September 23

Houston, St. Philip: Ellen MacDonald - June 13

Houston, St. Stephen: Joanne Purdy - November 17

Katy, New Hope: Joyce Johnston - March 28; Kent Andreas - June 3

Livingston, First: Rick Nobles - March 2; Mark Nye - June 8

Livingston, Indian: Ethelyn Cecile Battise Sylestine - March 9

Needville, St. Paul's: Ora Lee Preuss - January 15; Sylvia Pesak McLelland Tekyl - November 7

Pasadena, First: Sally Carr - January 6; Lawrence "Larry" Parks - May 29

Webster, Webster: Jo Ann Carr - January 11

West Columbia, Bethel: Anne Wagner - July 22

Wharton, First: Sandy Wilkins - July 18; Craig Gwinner - August 8

Church Anniversaries

First, Caldwell - 180 years

First, Crockett - 170 years

Indian, Livingston - 140 years

Trawick, Trawick - 110 years

St. Paul's, Needville - 100 years

First, Conroe - 85 years

Drake Memorial, Orange - 75 years

Emmanuel, Galveston - 75 years

First, Silsbee - 70 years

St. Andrew's, Beaumont - 70 years

Woodforest, Houston - 65 years

John Knox, Houston - 65 years

St. James, LaPorte - 60 years

Korean Central, Houston - 45 years

Grace Taiwan, Houston - 40 years

Atascocita, Atascocita - 40 years

Thank you for your faithful ministry in your communities!

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee is new in 2024, combining what was the Finance, Personnel and Outreach Committees. Our goal is to be good stewards of the assets of the presbytery to do its mission and ministry. This includes the various properties owned by the presbytery, some of which we own due to the dissolution of congregations. Here is a summary:

“Henke” – 546 Henke St. – currently leased

“University” – 3601 Blodgett St. – currently leased, tenant is interested in purchasing the property

5900 Pinemont – formerly Pathways Church of Houston which dissolved September 30, 2023. Currently negotiating a sale of the property. There is a tenant on a month to month lease.

Other property concerns:

Christ Presbyterian, Houston – 1460 White Heather Dr. – congregation has the property listed for sale. They plan to stay together.

St Stephen Presbyterian, 2217 Theta St. – congregation is negotiating a contract to sell the property. They plan to stay together.

New Hope, Katy – 1350 N. Mason Rd. – congregation is considering their options and plan to stay together.

ChristChurch, Bellaire – 5001 Bellaire Blvd. – congregation is negotiating an offer for the block that they own at that address, and plan to build on land that they own across 3rd St.

St. James, LaPorte – 9725 Spencer Highway – congregation is considering their future.

Heritage, Houston – currently leasing separate worship, office, and storage spaces. Hope to purchase a property soon.

Faith, Baytown – 3900 N. Main St. – hoping to renegotiate mortgage terms.

The committee approved two Kelso Grants in January. These grants, up to \$5000, are available to help fund repairs to church facilities. First in Tomball received \$5000 for a monitored fire detection system for the Sanctuary, and Woodforest, Houston received \$4650 for remediation of termite damage.

OPERATING CASH FLOW ANALYSIS

OPERATING STATEMENT (2 Months Ended 2/28/2024)

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Total Operating Revenues | \$49,918 |
| Less Total Expenses before Depreciation | <u>(71,850)</u> |
| Operating Deficit | (20,907) |

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO FINANCE DEFICIT

| | |
|---|---------|
| Investment income @12/31/2023 | 695,718 |
| Less Funds Provided to General Council for mission and ministry | TBD |
| Funds available for reinvestment & future deficits | 695,718 |

LIQUID RESERVES @ 2/29/2024

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Balance Sheet @ 2/29/2024 | |
| Total reserves: cash & liquid investments | \$10,025,302 |
| Less Restricted funds @ 2/29/2024 | (903,868) |
| Total Unrestricted Reserves @ 2/29/2024 | \$9,121,434 |

NOTE: The "funds available to finance deficit" come from the proceeds from the sale of our former office building at 1110 Lovett. In September, 2021, the Finance Committee recommended to the General Council that disbursements from the income earned on these invested funds be distributed as follows:

- 40% to be distributed by General Council for mission and ministry
- 30% to be used for PNC operations if there is a deficit. If there is no deficit, then the funds are carried forward to be used in the future if necessary.
- 30% to be reinvested into the "Building Fund" at Texas Presbyterian Foundation

In September of 2023, a motion was approved to set up a GC Discretionary Spending Fund which would include:

1. Funds generated by the earnings (interest and dividends) and realized capital gains (new of realized capital losses) generated by the "Building Sales Proceeds and Unrestricted Reserve funds at Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF).
2. 20% of all monies that are realized from the sale of PNC properties.
3. Designated donations.

Further move that the remaining 80% of monies that are realized from the sale of PNC properties be placed in the Building Sales Proceeds account at TPF.

When a congregation chooses to dissolve, their property reverts to the presbytery under the trust clause. We have been able to lease some of these properties so that they are still being used for the purposes of worship and mission in those communities. When there is no group interested in leasing, then the property is sold.

The Committee is also responsible for the administration of the various grants available for Mission and Ministry in the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Funds Available for Distribution in 2024

Vision Initiative = \$73,956

Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grants = \$11,344 (max of \$2000 per grant)

Peacemaking = \$3089 (this comes from the presbytery's share of the PCUSA Peacemaking Offering)

Eldercare = \$1119 (max of \$1000 per grant)

Outreach = \$10,000 (max of \$2000 per grant)

Additionally, we provide funds for several Mission Covenant Partners, who each receive \$3,000 annually. They are CEDEPCA, CUPS, Prayers of the People, Seafarers, United Campus Ministry – Aggieland, and United Campus Ministry – Greater Houston.

The members of the Administration Committee are:

Charlie Bradbury (Chairperson); Deborah Bogar; Sharon Carey; Chris Friedersdorf; Jim Fryfogle; Martha Carol Giese; John Judson; Bill Parker; Kathy Sebring; Satoe Soga; Kristy Vits

By Virtue of Office: David Elledge, Presbytery Treasurer

The Proposed Budget for 2024

| Presbytery of New Covenant Summary of Proposed 2023 and 2024 Budgets | Proposed 2023 Budget | Actual 2023 | Proposed 2024 Budget | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| Benevolence Receipts | | | | |
| From Churches | 252,830 | 320,937 | 251,000 | |
| From Individuals | - | 10,125 | 10,000 | |
| Per Capita for OGA | 66,349 | 84,835 | 62,000 | |
| Total Benevolence Receipts | 319,179 | 415,897 | 323,000 | |
| Other Income | | | | |
| Interest Income | 400 | 14,055 | 25,700 | TPF (14,400) Prosperity (11,300) |
| Misc. Income | - | 3,465 | 4,800 | Greater Cathedral Church |
| Rental Income | 15,600 | 12,125 | 6,000 | Hanka |
| Total Other Income | 16,000 | 29,645 | 36,500 | |
| Total Revenues | 335,179 | 445,542 | 359,500 | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| General Council Expenses | | | | |
| Benevolences to Synod | 10,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 | |
| Per Capita for OGA | 66,349 | 84,835 | 62,000 | |
| Audit Fees | 10,000 | 10,030 | 10,000 | |
| General Council PJC Expenses | 7,000 | 4,181 | 5,000 | |
| Total General Council Expenses | 93,349 | 114,046 | 87,000 | |
| Ministry Expenses | | | | |
| Committee on Ministries | 700 | - | - | |
| Communications | 3,650 | 3,676 | 3,650 | |
| Innovation & Vitality | - | - | - | |
| Resource Center | 500 | 263 | 500 | |
| Administration - Covenant Partners | 28,000 | 26,140 | 28,000 | |
| Total Ministries Expenses | 32,850 | 30,079 | 32,150 | |
| Administrative Expenses | | | | |
| Finance - Insurance, Legal & Payroll Support | 55,000 | 72,109 | 55,000 | Legal reduced by 20,000 |
| Ops-Building Maintenance | 26,000 | 26,098 | 26,000 | |
| Ops-Equipment | 12,000 | 12,933 | 12,000 | |
| Ops-Income | - | (405) | - | |
| Ops-Office Supply | 2,000 | 467 | 400 | |
| Ops-Postage | 500 | 54 | 100 | |
| Ops-Utilities - Telephones | 9,750 | 9,275 | 9,750 | |
| Ecclesiastical Affairs | - | - | - | |
| Personnel Compensation | 240,000 | 232,070 | 240,000 | Includes 5% increase 4-1-24 |
| Personnel Benefits | 89,300 | 89,055 | 93,000 | BOP increased |
| Professional Reimbursements | 7,000 | 8,132 | 7,000 | |
| Total Administrative Expenses | 441,550 | 449,778 | 443,250 | |
| Total Expenses | 567,749 | 593,903 | 562,400 | |
| Total Revenues Minus Total Expenses | (232,570) | (148,361) | (202,900) | |
| Other Sources Of Cash In To Balance Budget (Building Sales Proceeds) | - | - | - | |
| Funds to be Transferred from Operating Account to balance the Budget | 232,570 | 148,361 | 202,900 | |
| Additional Financial Information | | | | |
| Investment Increase | | 1,591,275 | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | | | | |
| Checking and Deposit Accounts and Certificate of Deposit | | 306,682 | | |
| Investments with TPF | | 9,773,296 | | |
| Total Cash and Cash Equivalents | | 10,079,978 | | |

Revised 3/8/2024

Budget Notes

This includes a 5% increase for the presbytery staff. No increase was offered in 2023. 5% covers the increase in the Cost of Living in Houston.

Presbytery of New Covenant Universal Grant Application (2024)

Please type your application.

Grant Source: Please read the purpose/qualifications of the grant carefully, then select only one of the 5 grant categories below by placing an X in the box. Fill out the grant application form completely and accurately. Use N/A or none in those blanks that do not apply to your project. An applicant may apply for multiple grants, but **separate forms are required for each project request**. A grant request must be approved by the applicant's session or governing board prior to submission.

- Vision Initiative:** Priority is given to projects that increase the overall membership of New Covenant Presbytery. They may be the result of new church development, redevelopment of established churches, general outreach to unchurched individuals or other approaches consistent with the mission of the Presbytery. *PLEASE NOTE: Vision Initiative grant applicants will generally be expected to raise at least half the cost of the grant-supported activity, with grant funds providing the balance.* AMOUNT AVAILABLE \$73,956
- Lynn Johnson Social Justice:** Funds are to be used for social justice issues, particularly for issues concerning equality and inclusion of all persons regardless of sexual orientation. Maximum grant is \$2000. AMOUNT AVAILABLE \$11,344
- Outreach:** Projects should passionately engage and support local and global mission efforts in order to be God's redemption to a hurting world. These projects should be aimed at helping people outside the applicant's congregation. Maximum grant is \$2000. AMOUNT AVAILABLE \$10,000
- Peacemaking:** Peacemaking activity can take varied forms, but generally seeks to bring people of diverse races, cultures, ethnicities, or religions closer together. Projects might include environmental concerns, arms control, and gun safety. Maximum grant is \$2000. AMOUNT AVAILABLE \$3,089
- Elder Care:** Projects should provide care for the elderly and senior citizens. Maximum grant is \$1000. AMOUNT AVAILABLE \$1119

Guidelines:

Title of Project: _____

Organization Name: _____

Organization Relationship to Presbytery: _____

Organization Address: _____

Organization Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

Name of Principal Contact: _____

Email Address of Principal Contact: _____

Telephone of Principal Contact: _____

Description of Organization: _____

Total Cost of Project: \$ _____

Amount of Grant for which you are applying: \$ _____

What are the other sources of funding? _____

(For Vision Initiative Grants, certification of other funding sources may be required.)

Date of approval by Session or Board: _____

When are the funds needed to implement the project? _____

Has this organization applied for a grant in the past? ____ Which grant and when? _____

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT

1. General Description of Activity for Grant including:
 - a. a description of the project
 - b. project budget. This should be for the total project, broken down with as much detail as possible
 - c. the target population to be reached
 - d. the desired outcome - please provide measurable outcomes if possible
 - e. names of those who will be involved in administering or otherwise carrying out the work of the project or program.
2. Explain how the project meets the grant guidelines for the grant source selected on page one.
3. Explain how the project fits with the Mission and Vision of the Presbytery of New Covenant:

Mission Statement: Seeking God by helping the Body of Christ foster faith, hope, love and witness.

Vision Statement: Through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, the Presbytery of New Covenant seeks to connect the body of Christ by facilitating relationships between individuals and missions to share God's love throughout creation.

Tagline: Receive love. Share love. Repeat.
4. If the project seeks funding for construction of permanent facilities at the applicant organization's facility (e.g. church), how will these facilities be used for other ongoing mission and outreach operations of the organization?
5. How will the success of the project be measured (please be as quantitative as possible)?

Printed Name of Authorized Signer: _____

Signature and Date: _____

Date sent: _____

Please confirm that your application has been received.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED FROM APRIL THROUGH MAY 21. PLEASE SEND ELECTRONICALLY TO CHARLES LEIBOLD (cleibold@pbyofnewcovenant.org) AND LYNN HARGROVE (lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PROJECT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 30 OF THE FOLLOWING CALENDAR YEAR. IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETED BY THE DEADLINE, PLEASE SUBMIT AN INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT. ANY FUNDS NOT USED FOR THE PURPOSE DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE PRESBYTERY. PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS REGARDING THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS ARE DUE BY FEBRUARY 15 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR. REPORTS SHOULD BE SENT TO:
CHARLES LEIBOLD (cleibold@pbyofnewcovenant.org)**

REVISED - MARCH 11, 2024

Committee on Ministry

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

4. COM moves and recommends that the Rev. Theodore (Ted) V. Foote be named pastor emeritus of First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas, effective August 1, 2023. (This motion—and the effective date—were approved by COM last spring, but were to be held for November 2023 meeting in order to surprise Ted at his retirement. It was inadvertently left out of the November 2023 COM report.)
5. COM moves and recommends that the Rev. Phyllis Jones be granted honorable retirement effective March 31, 2024.
6. COM moves and recommends that Presbytery recognize the April, 2023 retirement of Hector Rivera-Velez, who served as a chaplain in the Memorial Hermann Hospital system and grant him honorable retirement.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. CLERGY RETREAT APRIL 28—MAY 1 at CAMP ALLEN

Pastors: See the flyer in your presbytery packet

Elders: Encourage your Pastor to go!

B. 2024 COM Functions and Contact people

COM Chair: TE Karen Estes (Woodforest PC)

Exams: TE Charley Shurtz (First PC, Bay City) will serve as Chair; TE Laureen Suba (HR) will serve as vice-chair

CPM: TE Tom Coop will serve as chair; TE Greg Davis will serve as vice-chair

Congregational Care needs: TE Jim Gill (HR) will function as the Contact person

Calls and Contracts: TE Fairfax Fair (First PC, Pasadena) and TE Ed Wolf (First PC, Pearland) will serve as the contact people

Please send all calls and contracts to the presbytery office:

MCurrie@pbyofnewcovenant.org

Or by snail mail COM Presbytery of New Covenant, 4803 San Felipe, Houston, 77056

C. From the Board of Pensions Updated tax resources are now available at pensions.org :

The Tax Guide for Ministers TY 2023,

Housing Allowance Letter, and

Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches: What You Need to Know for 2024

Direct Link: <https://pensions.org/what-we-offer/tax-resources>

D. 2024 Pulpit Supply List—The March 2024 version follows this report

Retired Pastors, Chaplains, those working on advanced degrees, in special ministries, parenting, etc: If you would like to be added to the pulpit supply list (or are available for longer term pulpit supply or interim work) please contact Committee on Ministry through Mary Currie: mcurrie@pbyofnewcovenant.org. Supply pastors are often needed all over the presbytery! And if you are in a chaplaincy or specialized ministry it can provide an opportunity to introduce people to your work as a chaplain/minister.

III. ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY (COM did not meet in December, 2023)

1. Welcomed 3 New Minister Members of Presbytery

(statements of faith found at the end of this report)

- A. **Michael (Mike) Magee** is a retired minister transferring from Middle Tennessee Presbytery. Also a medical doctor, he was ordained in 2006 by Middle Tennessee Presbytery. Mike attended Auburn University (BS); UT (that’s a T as in Tennessee) M.D.; and Vanderbilt M.Div . He has moved to Houston to do Grandfather duty.
- B. **Bowook Seo** is an Associate Pastor at Korean Central Presbyterian Church working with the children’s ministry program. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church of Korea (April, 2012) He moved to Marietta Georgia in 2019. He is transferring from Atlantic Korean American Presbytery. He attended Hannam University (BA), Presbyterian University in Korea (M.Div) and is now working on a D.Min. in Asian American Ministry at Columbia Seminary.
- C. **Bobby Daniel** has been serving as parish minister at First Presbyterian Church in Orange since 2021 while working to finish the requirements to transfer his ordination/be ordained in the PCUSA. He attended William Carey College (BS) and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div). He was Ordained in June, 2001 by the Southern Baptist Convention and served churches in Louisiana. He and all of First PC Orange are looking forward to the transfer of his ordination to the PCUSA and his installation as pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Orange on April 7, 2024 at 4:00 in the afternoon!

2. Approved New Terms of Compensation :

Approved at the January 9, 2024 COM meeting:

The call between Fred Seay and FPC Sugar Land

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 55,000 |
| Housing | 30,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 3,000 |
| Board of Pensions | 33,150 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 1,700 |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 6,503 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |

The call between Kallie Pitcock and Westminster, Nacogdoches

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 40,300 |
| Housing | 20,000 |
| Reimbursed Books, Professional and Travel | 7,525 |
| Board of Pensions | 23,517 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 2,175 |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 7,650 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |

The call between Tara Thompson and St Andrews, Beaumont

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 58,000 |
| Housing | 42,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 1,500 |
| Books, Professional expenses | 3,000 |
| Board of Pensions | 39,000 |
| Other paid insurance | 492 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 4,500 |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 7,650 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |

A renewal of the CRE contract between Carl Slagley and FPC, Pearland, effective January 1, 2024
 Powers granted: Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Officiate at Marriages, and Moderate the Session
 in the absence of a pastor; Compensation \$150 for each Sunday served

A renewal of the CRE contract between Carl Slagley and Emmanuel, Galveston, effective January 1, 2024
 Powers granted: Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Officiate at Marriages, and Moderate the Session
 in the absence of a pastor; Compensation \$150 for each Sunday served

Approved at the February 6, 2024 COM meeting:

A call between Bowook Seo and Korean Central PC, Houston for Associate Pastor, effective 1/1/2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$24,000 |
| Housing | 24,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate as needed | |
| Books, Professional expenses as needed | |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 1,836 |
| Board of Pensions | 19,500 |
| Study Leave allowance | 1,400 |
| Other compensation | 600 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

A new Interim Contract between Matt Morse and FPC in Bryan effective August 1, 2023

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 55,000 |
| Housing | 30,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 3,000 |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 1,836 |
| Board of Pensions | 33,150 |
| Other compensation | 600 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 1,700 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

The call between Daniel Vanek and St Thomas, Houston

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 30,000 |
| Housing | 35,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 2,000 |
| Books, Professional expenses | 325 |
| Board of Pensions | 25,350 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 1,500 |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 4,973 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 5 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |

A new contract between Richard Kleiman and Webster PC for part-time Parish Associate, effective 1/1/2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$14,000 |
| Housing | 10,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 2,000 |
| Books, Professional expenses | 1,000 |
| Social Security supplement | 1,960 |
| Board of Pensions (NA) | 0 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |
| Sick Leave | 5 days |

A new interim contract between Tom Sharon and Webster PC, effective 1/1/2024

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 61,000 |
| Housing | 24,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 4,000 |
| Books, Professional expenses | 1,000 |
| Board of Pensions | 33,150 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |
| Social Security compensation up to 7.65% | 1960 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

Renewal of the stated supply contract between Maury Millican and Trawick,Trawick PC, effective 1/1/24

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$15,094 |
| Contributions to Retirement Plans (UCC) | 3,255 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate as needed | |
| Other Compensation | 1,200 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

Renewal of the stated supply contract between Lloyd Crosby and Pioneer PC, Beaumont effective 1/1/24

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Salary | \$ 9,600 |
| Housing | 3,600 |

Approved at the March 5 COM meeting:

The call between Paul Kucera and Bethel PC, West Columbia, effective January 1, 2024

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Salary | \$ 37,439 |
| Housing | 23,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 800 |
| Social Security compensation over 7.65% | 2,865 |
| Board of Pensions | 26,294 |
| Books, Professional Expense | 1,800 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 1,500 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

The call between Wm Michael Gable and FPC, Angleton, effective January 1, 2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$18,561 |
| Housing | 42,900 |
| Other dental insurance | 1,448 |
| Other Vision insurance | 92 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 3,000 |
| Reimbursement of SECA up to 7.65% | 4,820 |
| Books, Professional expenses | 1,300 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 1,700 |
| Board of Pensions | 24,751 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

The call between Becky Downs and John Knox, Houston; effective January 1, 2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$23,685 |
| Housing | 35,020 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 2,500 |
| Reimbursement of SECA up to 7.65% | 1,812 |
| Reimbursement of SECA over 7.65% | 3,178 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 1,700 |
| Board of Pensions | 24,759 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |
| Vacation | 5 weeks |

The interim contract between Livingston and John Hirling, effective January 17, 2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$15,000 |
| Housing | 16,500 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 500 |
| Reimbursement of SECA up to 7.65% | 2,100 |
| Books, professional expenses | 150 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 850 |
| Board of Pensions | 24,746 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 2 weeks |

The interim contract between Ed Wolf and FPC, Pearland, effective February 13, 2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$30,200 |
| Housing | 30,200 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 830 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 200 |
| Board of Pensions | 23,556 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Vacation | 4weeks |

A **6-month** Stated Supply contract between Tom Coop and FPC Navasota: Effective April 1, 2024

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$ 9,000 |
| Housing | 4,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | 500 |
| Reimbursement of SECA up to 7.65% | 995 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 250 |
| Books, professional expenses | 500 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 1 weeks |
| Vacation | 3 weeks |

The call between Kallie Pitcock and Westminster PC, Nacogdoches

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary | \$40,300 |
| Housing | 20,000 |
| Travel Reimbursement @ IRS Rate | |
| Books, Professional expenses | 7,525 |
| Study Leave Allowance | 2,175 |
| Board of Pensions | 23,517 |
| Study Leave (plus clergy retreat if offered) | 2 weeks |
| Paid Medical Family Leave | 12 weeks |
| Vacation | 4 weeks |

3. Other Actions of COM (Note: Did not meet in December, 2023)

A. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery at the January 9, 2024 COM meeting:

1. The following ministers were transferred to other presbyteries:
 - Rose Niles to Presbytery of New York city effective December 6, 2022
 - Will Rogers to Heartland Presbytery effective 7/25/23
 - Ting-Yin Lee to San Jose effective 12/11/2023
2. Approved renewing the contract between Nacogdoches, Trawick Presbyterian Church and Maury Millican.

B. February actions all reported above

C. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery at the March 5, 2024 COM meeting:

1. Approved Ministry Discernment Profiles for First Presbyterian Church, Galveston and First Presbyterian Church, Pearland.

Statements of Faith:

Michael (Mike) Magee, H. R

I trust in the one God of all peoples and times, Creator and Source of all that is good. God's Intelligent Design is revealed in our "comet-catching" gas giants of the outer solar system, asteroid-catching moon, meteor-burning atmosphere, and the Earth's liquid iron core, whose magnetic field prevents the biosphere's destruction by ionizing radiation. God's continuing Providence is revealed by aesthetically-pleasing, oxygen-synthesizing, carbon-trapping, edible vegetation, and by that great contradiction to the second law of thermodynamics, the persistence and flourishing of life on Earth for 4 billion years. When creation groans, we witness not God's intent, but collateral damage from the homeostasis needed for the survival of Earth, and the agency of human beings confused by nature and nurture. God is not in the wind, earthquake, fire, or destructive human agency. Through God's Spirit, God is the One whose Word gives comfort and courage in dark valleys, and who is in the hearts of those who give aid.

I trust in Jesus Christ, the Incarnation of God's compassion, who reveals God's purpose for all humankind. Jesus is not meek and mild. Jesus boldly explained Divine Intention behind the Law and the Prophets. He shocked and awed the world with His description of God's reign in His Luke 4 mission statement and the Beatitudes, His ethics in the Sermon on the Mount, His economy of God in the Parable of the Vineyard Laborers, and His welcome into community of the outcasts of His day. In His Parable of the Prodigal, and the Sheep and the Goats, He prescribes intra-community behavior. In His Parable of the Good Samaritan, He redefines neighbor, and prescribes behavior toward strangers. Jesus' Resurrection by God out of the ashes of rejection, suffering, and murder, gives us hope that no one, no community, and no Godly cause, are beyond the power of God's deliverance, restoration, and reclamation. We declare Jesus our Lord and Savior, when we love as Jesus loved, and embody Jesus' ministries.

I trust in God's Spirit, within whom we live and move and have our being. Amid the loud internal and external voices of nature and nurture, we listen for the Spirit's "still small voice," in worship, scripture, prayer, and Christ's church, healing our own brokenness, urging us to apologize, forgive, and reconcile with each other, and to be ambassadors of peace to others. At our anointment into service by Baptism, and by our incorporation of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, we say "Yes!" to the call of God's Spirit, and are privileged to be harnessed to Christ and His Church, for participation in the continuous in-breaking of God's Reign and Commonwealth. All glory be to God!

Bobby Daniel, Pastor, FPC, Orange

Brief Statement of Faith for a modified PIF done for First Presbyterian Church, Orange Texas:

Statement of Faith: I believe in a God who has manifested himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that the work of salvation was accomplished by Jesus on the cross and resurrection and our requirement is to come to God in faith. I believe the Holy Spirit equips us for service and unites us as the Church. I believe the local church is for the communion and equipping of the saints to share the gospel in word and deed, the local church is the hope of the world

Bowook Seo, Associate Pastor, Korean Central

I believe in the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. I trust in the One Triune God. I worship and serve only the One Triune God.

I believe in the Son of God. Jesus came to the world as a fully man. And He was a fully God. Jesus proclaimed the good news of God, healed the sick, and drove out the evil spirits. Jesus was crucified by people and resurrected in three days. He atoned for our sins by dying on the cross, and through His resurrection, He conquered the power of death. Jesus ascended to heaven, and He will return as He promised.

I believe in God the Father almighty. God created all things and still governs all things. God is a completely holy. God is love.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables us to confess Jesus and draws us closer to God. He leads us to the truth, reminds us of God's words, and convicts us. The Holy Spirit is with us forever.

I believe that humanity was created in the image of God. I believe that all people are sinners. Every person is destined to be punished for their sins. However, when a person believes in Jesus, they are saved by grace. People can grow in God's faith, knowing Christ, and carry out the mission of sharing Christ.

I believe that the church is a community of people called to be Christian who follows Jesus. The Church is the body of Jesus, a place of truth, and a pillar of God's truth.

I believe in the Bible. The Bible is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. The Bible is a complete truth that testifies to Jesus.

**2024 Pulpit Supply List - The Presbytery of New Covenant -
Revised for Presbytery Meeting March 16, 2024**

Minimum set by Presbytery for pulpit supply: \$150 for one service/\$200 for two services; Plus mileage @ IRS Standard Rate (Effective 1/1/24 - \$0.67 per mile)
**means Serving a church now

| NAME | MINISTRY | RESIDENCE | CELL | EMAIL |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Williams, Todd | HR | Dickinson | 713-922-6599 | gtoddwms@gmail.com |
| Thomey, Steve | Member at Large | Missouri City | 713/563-3988 | stnchorn@earthlink.net |
| Tompkins, Carol | Baytown, Faith Interim | SE Houston | 409-790-3384 | cidancingwaters@protonmail.com |
| **Rivero-Yelez, Isabel | Member at Large | League City S | 281/639-2283 | isrvk@hottmail.com |
| Retzlaff, Barbara | HR Interim at Gulf Prairie | Houston, W | 713/962-3458 | barbret10@gmail.com |
| **Pierce, David | Member at Large | Missouri City | 904/772-4726 | drdpence@att.net |
| Phillips, Tim | Member at Large | Houston SW | 713/540-7272 | the60sism@gmail.com |
| Moore, Helen Rose | Houston, SE | Clear Lake | 832/712-3231 | revtexarose@gmail.com |
| Mood, Cindy | Minister at Large | Houston W, | 620-727-0454 | cindyraewood@gmail.com |
| Mitchell, Carolyn | HR | Comroe, Spring | 281-367-9868 | carolymitchell05@yahoo.com |
| Marquez, Tim | Member at Large | Sugar Land | 713-261-2260 | pastorisd110@gmail.com |
| **Mason, David | Interim at Tomball | Houston SW | 832/988-1609 | davidmason@yahoo.com |
| McGee, Michael | HR | Houston SW | 615-232-4900 | mageemichaelj@aol.com |
| Mba, Ego | Member at Large | Richmond | 832/366-7282 | egomba2004@yahoo.com |
| Magby, Gwendolyn "Gwen" | HR | Houston SE | 346/253-7110 | revmagby@bellsouth.net |
| Lee, Peter | Member at Large | College Station | 979/ 204-9481 | psklee59@gmail.com |
| **Hirling, John | HR /Livingston Interim | Houston NW | 713/906-2051 | jhirling@gmail.com |
| Hinds, Munn | HR | Rosenberg | 504/458-7100 | mphinds@bellsouth.net |
| **Hill, Stephen | HR, FPC Galveston Interim | Houston/Galveston | 217/433-4804 | revhill@hotmail.com |
| **Hill, Laurie | St Stephen & Westminster, Galveston | Houston/Galveston | 217-521-7747 | laurenh58@aol.com |
| Harris, Wilma | HR | Fulshear W | 609/216-0544 | rewsharris@aol.com |
| **Hamon, Jacqueline | HR, PA Northwoods | Porter N | 281/799-6693 | jackiehamon@gmail.com |
| **Han, Greg | Member at Large | Houston | 713/502-9448 | greg@revaregoryhan.com |
| Gulick, Suzanne | Hospital Chaplain | Spring | 432/230-6868 | ps520.suzanne.gulick@gmail.com |
| Grubbs, Gayle | HR | Kingwood | 832/453-4455 | gaylegrubbs3@gmail.com |
| **Gill, Jim | HR/PA at St Andrews, Hou | Houston NW | 713-823-7671 | revjmg@yahoo.com |
| **George, Jacob | Member at Large | Pearland | 713-823-7671 | jes7@yahoo.com |
| ^{pe} Sundays only | | | | |
| Garcia, Adan | HR | Houston, N | (832) 813-9065 | garciaadan1940@gmail.com |
| Gans, Cheryl | Member at Large | Houston SW | 352/789-1824 | cherylgans@hotmail.com |
| **Fitch, Nora | Interim at Needville | Houston SW | 713/494-1623 | fitch.nora@comcast.net |
| DeLeon, Helen | HR | Houston Heights | 281/415-5855 | hndelton@gmail.com |
| Coop Tom | HR | Woodlands | 408-234-8553 | stovrt2@aol.com |
| Cardee, Calite | Hospital Chaplain | Montgomery | 979/219-2434 | calitecardee@yahoo.com |
| Bryant-Sanyka, Nina | Chaplain | Houston SW | 281/796-2935 | doctorsanyka@gmail.com |
| Blackwell-Eagleson, Guinn | HR | Houston SW | 713/743-5940 | guinn_b@hotmail.com |
| NON ORDAINED | | | | |
| **Templeman, Sharon | CRE, Trawick | Nacogdoches | 936/585-2847 | stempleman@sfasu.edu |
| **Stagley, Carl | CRE/Galveston, Emmanuel, | Pearland | 281-772-1687 | clstaglew@hotmail.com |
| Mayer, Jim | Commissioned Ruling Elder | Houston SW | 210/849-6864 | texasmayers@yahoo.com |

COM: Committee on Preparation for Ministry

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has met twice (January and February 2024) since the November Presbytery meeting and has no motions to bring to the March 16, 2024 Presbytery meeting.

COM (and its subcommittees) plus CPM now form one committee: This will allow some adjustments in size and functions of the work of both Committees as well as streamline communications in the processes of ordination.

2024 leadership: TE Thomas (Tom) Coop, HR will serve as Chair of CPM and

TE Greg Davis, Houston, San Pablo + Trinity will serve as vice-chair

The January meeting of COM + COM Examinations and CPM was January 12, 2024: COM and CPM became a joint committee beginning January 2024. For the rest of 2024, CPM will meet at 10:00 on the 4th Saturday of the months when a meeting is needed. The Chair of CPM--TE Tom Coop--will attend the COM Plenary each month (as does the Chair of the COM Exams Committee).

At the February meeting of CPM, time was taken to review the Inquirer/Candidate list and to make sure each person under care of presbytery has a liaison both in their home church and on CPM. The list of current Candidates and Inquirers along with their liaisons follows this report. Churches are asked to contact Mary Currie at mcurrie@pbyofnewcovenant.org if the church's liaison has changed. (Thank you!)

For 2024, New Covenant has 5 Inquirers and 1 Candidate in the ordination process. (2024 list follows this report.

Mary Currie for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

CPM 2024 CANDIDATES AND INQUIRERS IN PROCESS (updated: January, 2024)

| 2024 STATUS CANDIDATES & INQUIRERS IN PROCESS NEW COVENANT – (6) Total 6: Inquirers (5); candidate (1); (r) assessed ready to receive a call (0) | CPM Liaison | CHURCH Advisor | ORDS /P/F/DATE | SEM |
|---|---|---|--|------------|
| Diaz, Nancy 832-382-5928 INQUIRER 8218 Garden Park Dr Houston, TX 77075 diaz_nancy74@yahoo.com | Jan 2024 TE Daniel Vanek Houston, St Thomas | Houston, San Pablo+Trinity TE Greg Davis | | |
| Kim, Sungtaek 832-420-0758 INQUIRER 14457 Still Meadow Dr Houston TX 77079 sungtaek98@gmail.com actively in seminary | TE Dan Walker Webster PC | Houston, Korean Central John Jo 281-974-8930 3507 Avignon Court Houston TX 77082 john.jo@partners.mcd.com | | Regent |
| Lee, Arrick 409-338-0373 INQUIRER 435 Friar Tuck Dr N Woodville TX 75979 airricklee@yahoo.com actively in seminary | TE John Hirling Livingston, FPC | Silsbee, First Eileen Williams 409-673-0593 8982 Bussey Rd Silsbee TX 77656 ehaywire@yahoo.com | | Dubuque |
| Park, Juseung (Chris) INQUIRER 832-552-8744 11002 Hammerly Blvd Houston TX 77043 chrispark@kcpch.org | TE Dan Walker | Houston, Korean Central John Jo 281-974-8930 3507 Avignon Court Houston TX 77082 john.jo@partners.mcd.com | | |
| Peterson, Ruth 281-750-5405 INQUIRER 4814 Taylor Lake Court Richmond TX 77407 texas2ruth@yahoo.com | TE Tom Coop HR | Sugar Land, First Jessica Herbers 281-889-0660 13906 Skyview Drive Sugar Land TX 77498 herbersjessica@yahoo.com | | Dubuque |
| Potts Well, Rachel CANDIDATE 817/917-2590 1044 Alta Vista Rd Louisville KY 40205 rachel.wells@mv.lpts.edu rachelismuhname@gmail.com finished seminary, working on PhD | TE Matt Beach | Atascocita Claudia Nelson 713/876-1204 13614 Lake Michigan Avenue Houston TX 77044 grenouille10@htomail.com | Bible S 8/31/19 Polity S 4/27/19 W & S S 4/27/19 Theology S 4/27/19 Exegesis S 4/27/19 | Louisville |
| Seay, Aaron WITHDRAWN 2024 withdrawn March 5, 2024 | | Sugar Land, First Mike Windmeyer 281-498-8551 | | Duke |

Rachel Potts Well has asked to be “on hold” as she finishes a doctorate in counseling and discerns whether the future leads to a call in the church as a pastor or a call in counseling

From the Board of Pensions Directors Meeting (March 11, 2024)

Directors approve redesigned Benefits Plan

The Board of Directors approved a redesigned Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), effective Jan. 1, 2025, that supports congregations and provides parity regardless of ordination status. The redesign is the outcome of the [season of rebuilding initiative](#) the agency launched in 2023 to restructure the plan to meet the needs of the changing Church.

During the last year, the Board of Pensions gathered input from over 1,000 leaders throughout the Church, in face-to-face meetings with mid council leaders and in Virtual Town Halls. Through these conversations, and with Board of Directors guidance, the agency developed plan changes to enable more congregations to support pastoral leadership through membership in the Church's plan. The redesigned plan introduces two new dues packages — the Covenant Package and the Congregational Pastors Package. Dues for the new packages are paid entirely by the congregation or employer.

The Covenant Package provides income protection for any eligible employee working at least 20 hours a week, regardless of ordination status. Pension and death and disability benefits, including temporary disability, and the Employee Assistance Plan are part of the package, along with access to the agency's assistance and education programs.

The Congregational Pastors Package is designed to support congregational leadership. It is required for installed pastors and may be offered to any minister of the Word and Sacrament or commissioned pastor scheduled to work 20 or more hours a week.

The redesigned plan also offers Transitional Pastor's Participation, which may be provided to any minister who is enrolled in Pastor's Participation as of Dec. 31, 2024. This option will sunset Dec. 31, 2027.

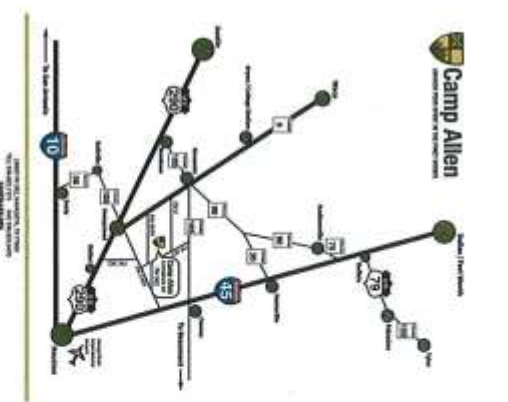
Additional details on the 2025 Benefits Plan, including dues and the costs of medical coverage for family members, will be available on seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org on or before April 5, 2024.

The current Benefits Plan was designed 40 years ago for a different type of pastoral leadership and a different family structure. As a result, fewer and fewer churches can afford to enroll their pastors for coverage — and the most likely to be excluded are women and those who serve communities of color and small congregations. The redesigned Benefits Plan will allow congregations the flexibility and choice to structure benefits packages that best serve their context of ministry. Congregations are encouraged to have conversations with congregational pastoral leaders and their presbyteries about their benefits needs.

CAMP ALLEN

Established in 1921 by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, Camp Allen is a year-round facility located one hour northwest of Houston near Navasota, Texas. Camp Allen accommodates a variety of spiritual, social, corporate, and educational events for all ages in addition to our founding summer camp program.

Our 1,100 beautiful acres features a hotel and conference center, dormitory campsites, lakeside log cabins, two lakes, miles of trails, and much more. We invite you to explore, retreat, and awaken your spirit in our piney woods!



**PLEASE BRING
YOUR
FAVORITE
SNACKS AND
BEVERAGES
TO SHARE!**

*Rest and Renew
Clergy Retreat 2024
Presbytery of New Covenant*



*Let's get away for a couple of days
of fun and fellowship!*

Tuesday, April 30 – Thursday, May 2
Camp Allen
Navasota, Texas

Registration

Name
Email
City/Church

Costs

Registration Fee \$100

Meals are included in room fees.

Single Occupancy (2 nights) \$290

Double Occupancy (\$220/person) \$440

Roommate:

Total Fees

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 20!

Pay by check made out to:
Presbytery of New Covenant
4803 San Felipe
Houston, 77056



Rest and Renew!

Let's get away for a couple of nights to Camp Allen, located near Navasota, TX. Room check in begins at 3:00. Feel free to come early and wander around the beautiful grounds.

Schedule

Tuesday evening

Dinner @ 6:00

Program @ 7:00

Worship @ 8:00

"After Dark" Activities after Worship

Wednesday

Breakfast @ 8:00

Getting to Know You @ 9:00

Program @ 10:00

Lunch @ noon

Free time until Dinner (massages, games, naps)

Dinner @ 6:00

Program @ 7:00

Games/Movie Night @ 8:00

Thursday

Breakfast @ 8:00

Program @ 9:00

Closing Worship @ 10:00

Speaker -- Deacon Peggy Hahn (ELCA)

Executive Director of LEAD
(Living Every Day as Disciples)



Peggy Hahn (she/her/ella) serves as the Executive Director for LEAD, aligning passionate leaders, resources, and practices to grow inclusive Christian leaders who grow faith communities in our world. LEAD is a 10 year-old faith-based nonprofit, that connects leaders to each other and congregations to their neighbors.

Peggy is a frequent speaker and author who is never without a pile of books to read and seeks coaches and mentors for herself in an ongoing quest to learn and grow. Peggy is committed to listening to pastors and leaders of all ages for insight into the ways they are growing in their own faith and what LEAD can do to support them in their development as leaders. Her life is committed to building a multi-cultural church, in all the diversities that may include.

General Council

On the front cover of the meeting materials, you will find the new design for our presbytery committees. This was born out of the request by the Evangelism and Church Growth Committee to work with our existing congregations on trying new things (innovation) which will lead to a new vitality. That request offered a chance to look at how our committees were functioning, and how they might work better. We are living into that new reality now.

These words are found on the presbytery's website in the Filing Cabinet under Committee Descriptions:

“The General Council is at the center of the work of the Presbytery of New Covenant – setting mission and vision priorities. The Administration Team manages the finances and personnel, and also administers grants. The Committee on Ministry works with ministers and congregations and their lives together including the preparation process to ordination in the PC(USA). Innovation and Vitality helps congregations explore new opportunities to serve their communities. Service to the Larger Church includes those who serve as Commissioners to the Synod of the Sun and to the biennial General Assembly. The Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee (EAC) plans the stated three meetings of the presbytery each year. The Permanent Judicial Commission handles Disciplinary or Remedial complaints. The Nominating Committee supports the whole structure by recruiting people to serve where their gifts and talents would be most helpful.”

A priority for the Council is writing a new policy on Anti-Harassment and Anti-Racism which is now required of all councils after a decision made at the General Assembly in 2022 which is now included in the Book of Order. The first draft of the new policy is being reviewed for corrections or clarifications, and was not ready to be presented at this presbytery meeting.

Members of the General Council are:

2024 – Ron Everett; Michael Gable; Tyler Henderson

2025 – Kallie Pitcock; Ken Telg; TBD

2026 – Dave Coles, Gary Long; Michael McCracken

By virtue of office:

Council Moderator – Becky Downs; Presbytery Moderator – Bonnie Keith; Administration Chair – Charlie Bradbury; COM Moderator – Karen Estes; Innovation and Vitality Chair – Lynne Parsons; Presbytery Moderator Elect – To be elected

Innovation and Vitality Committee

In November of 2023 our committee was formed after a resounding vote of support at the Presbytery meeting. Merging the Evangelism and Church Growth Committee with the Resource Committee, we eagerly met in December of 2023 for an informal, first meeting and have met monthly since then. Newly named 'Innovation and Vitality', our committee hopes to connect congregations with one another so that they can share what is working for them. We also are striving to assist each other in reaching out to our immediate communities to help the world see Jesus Christ in action as reflected in our missional efforts.

Sharing hope and an eagerness to engage with our communities in God's work, we have begun the task of informing our congregations within the Presbytery of small ways each congregation is reflecting relevance, love and support within and outside of our campuses. Each Tuesday in Tuesday Connect a short story of an innovative method of interacting with our congregations and with our missional objectives has appeared. We are inviting each congregation to submit a short summary of some way in which this outreach occurs within their community. You can do this by emailing Lynn Hargrove with your contribution.

We also decided to offer a workshop at the March 16 Presbytery Meeting. It will focus on a model pointing out how being innovative can revitalize energy and ideas within a group. Aptly entitled "Rapid Change Model", this plan emphasizes small steps in change and embraces a 'plan, do, study, act' approach. We hope to offer similar workshops at each of our Presbytery meetings to assist us in thinking outside the box. Additionally, we have voted to support a pilot Ambassador Program within the Presbytery aimed at assisting congregations in their visioning process.

All of this is an exciting opportunity to see where God is at work and the direction in which he leads. Our world needs us! May God be glorified in all that we do.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Parsons
Moderator
Innovation and Vitality Committee

Committee Members are:

Class of 2024: Rev. Steve Hill, Rev. Ego Mba, RE Robin Moore, Rev. Tracy Williams, RE Eileen Williams, RE Barbara Yantis

Class of 2025: Rev. Laura Grice, Rev. David Northcutt

Class of 2026: Rev. Wayne Eberly, RE Lynne Parsons

Report on Conclaves 2024

Conclaves this February was a success. It was held in a new location, Trinity Pines Conference Center. Though people were unsure about the change, many commented on how well it suited our needs. We had a total of 73 participants, which is an increase from the attendance last year. Small group leaders reported high engagement in their small group sessions. Youth leaders showed significant growth in their leadership abilities compared to Youth Rally in November. Despite technical difficulties, worship services went rather smoothly. Our General Presbyter, Lynn Hargrove, did a beautiful job of leading communion on Sunday Morning. She managed to tie in this year's Conclaves theme and explained the elements to the youth in a meaningful way. Youth elders on PYCC distributed the elements. Overall, both youth and adult participants reported mostly positive experiences.

--Rosy Murphy, Coordinator for Youth Ministries

Nominating Committee

March 16, 2024

The following people are nominated to serve in these roles in the presbytery:

2024 Moderator Elect – Rev. Hector Rivera-Velez (At Large)

Please note: Hector has served on the Nominating Committee since January, 2024. He will be resigning that position in order to serve as Moderator Elect in 2024, Moderator in 2025, and Moderator of General Council in 2026.

Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee

2026 – Rev. Andy Gans (Houston, Pines)

General Council

2025 – RE Sue Edrozo (Texas City, Mem1)

The members of the Nominating Committee are:

Class of 2024: RE Melissa Nelson, Rev. David Pierce

Class of 2025: Rev. Ted Foote, RE Julie Wells

Class of 2026: RE George James, Rev. Hector Rivera Velez, RE Jeanette Wenneneser

Stated Clerk for Administrative Process

For information:

1. All but two congregations completed their Annual Statistical Reports. Those two are First Lao and Thien An. Repeated attempts were made to contact their clerks of session and pastors through email, phone calls and texts. No response was received.

What did the presbytery data show? 26 congregations increased in membership. 13 held steady. 44 of our congregations lost members with 4 appearing to have “cleaned their rolls.” We have 83 congregations in the presbytery now with the dissolution of Pathways in 2023, and the merger of Bethel and First in Angleton. Our largest congregation is Korean Central with 2105 members, followed by Clear Lake with 1073, and Northwoods with 923. Our smallest congregation is in Vidor with 6 members, followed by Shiro with 8, Olive Branch with 9, Calvert with 10, and Caldwell with 12.

--Lynn R Hargrove

Stated Clerk for Judicial Process

1. Investigating Committee 2023-01 has completed its D-7.11 Preliminary Review, and commenced its investigation in accordance with Book of Order D-7.1103.
2. Investigating Committee PNC 2023-02 has completed its D-7.11 Preliminary Review, and has commenced its investigation in accordance with Book of Order D-7.1103.

--John Lemen

2023 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery New Covenant
Address 4803 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056
Phone 713-526-2585 **Fax** 713-526-8814
Email lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org
Web Site www.pbyofnewcovenant.org



| Membership | | | |
|---|------------|--|-----------|
| Prior Active Members | 13882 | Adjusted membership | 13851 |
| Gains | | Losses | |
| Certificate | 149 | Certificate | 81 |
| Youth Professions | 67 | Deaths | 244 |
| Professions & Reaffirmations | 254 | Deleted for any Other Reason | 617 |
| Total Gains | 470 | Total Losses | 942 |
| Total Ending Active Members | 13379 | | |
| Baptisms | | | |
| Presented by Others | 85 | Average Weekly Worship Attendance | 6164 |
| At Confirmation | 21 | Friends of the Congregation | 943 |
| All Other | 19 | Ruling Elders on Session | 606 |
| | | Do you have Deacons? Yes / No | 19 / 49 |
| Age Distribution of Active Members | | | |
| 17 & Under | 496 | People with Disabilities | |
| 18 - 25 | 745 | Hearing impairment | 400 |
| 26 - 40 | 1280 | Sight impairment | 70 |
| 41 - 55 | 1327 | Mobility impairment | 296 |
| 56 - 70 | 2251 | Other impairment | 394 |
| Over 70 | 2867 | Gender Distribution | |
| Total Age Distribution | 8966 | Women | 5853 |
| | | Men | 4046 |
| | | Non-Binary | 11 |
| Youth in Congregation | | | |
| Age 4 and under | 235 | Middle School (6th – 8th grade) | 216 |
| Elementary School (K-5th grade) | 451 | High School (9th – 12th grade) | 260 |
| | | Total Youth | 1162 |
| Racial Ethnic | | | |
| Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian | 2584 | Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous | 105 |
| Black/African American/African | 595 | White | 8270 |
| Middle Eastern/North African | 24 | Multiracial | 124 |
| Hispanic/Latino-a | 389 | Total Racial Ethnic | 12091 |
| Budgeted Income | 20,114,289 | | |
| Budgeted Expense | 21,592,447 | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| Regular Contributions | 17,521,922 | Bequests | 228,106 |
| Capital Building Fund | 1,473,674 | Other Income | 4,623,962 |
| Investment Income | 1,424,227 | Subsidy or Aid | 103,845 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Local Program | 17,262,896 | Investment Expenditures | 967,608 |
| Local Mission | 865,248 | Per Capital Apprt | 211,862 |
| Capital Expenditures | 3,935,663 | Other Mission | 1,120,290 |

From the Synod of the Sun

Synod Assembly Selects Rev. Mitchell Miller as New Synod Leader/Stated Clerk



At the 2024 Synod of the Sun Spring Assembly, the Commissioners unanimously voted to take the recommendation of the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Committee and selected Rev. Mitchell Miller as the new Synod Leader/Stated Clerk. Mitch has previously served the Synod as Moderator in 2020 and Coordinating Team Chair in 2021 and 2022.

Mitch was born in Norman, OK, but grew up on a dairy farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Growing up in the church, his earliest memories revolve around the church leading to his role as Donegal Presbytery Youth Observer to Synod of the Trinity's annual meeting in 1984 and YAD to the PCUSA General Assembly in 1985.

At this time, Mitch became involved in Presbytery and Synod committee work. He earned his BS in Education/History from Millersville University in 1987, and His MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1995. Ordained as a Ruling Elder for Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church, Quarryville, PA in 1987, he later served as the Youth Director of First PC, Strasburg, PA. Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in June, 1995, Mitch served as pastor to Falling Waters PC, Hedgesville, WV and Fallston PC, Fallston, MD before answering his latest call to Santa Fe PC in Edmond, OK in 2009.

Mitch has served on a number of synod and presbytery committees since his ordination in 1987, including areas of Christian Education, Youth Ministry, New Church Development, Congregational Support, and most recently, COM. He has served on both the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation and the Indian Nations Presbytery Foundation boards. In addition to serving as Synod Moderator and CT Chair, Mitch served as the INP Commissioner to the Synod of the Sun (2017-2022).

Mitch is an experienced small group, workshop, worship, and retreat leader, and is a certified Spiritual Director. Mitch and his wife Leigh have been married since 1995 and have two grown children, Nathan and Emma. He enjoys history, story-telling, folklore, whittling, balloon twisting and the majesty of the great outdoors.

Giving thanks to God for the work of the Search Team and for calling Mitch to this ministry, the Synod of the Sun looks forward to new and continuing ministry and mission.

Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training Returns

Three New Opportunities in 2024 for Boundaries Training for Pastors Offered by Synod of the Sun and Leaderwise

May 7-8, 2024
1:00-4:00pm CT

November 18-19, 2024
5:00pm-8:00pm

August 27-28, 2024
9:00am-Noon CT

It's our experience that pastors, church staff, and other leaders who transgress boundaries by-and-large are not predators. In fact, not even close. Most people in ministry who violate boundaries are individuals who know and follow the rules most of the time but whose judgment may be impaired due to an unusually stressful time in their lives.

With that in mind, Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training, offered by Synod of the Sun and Leaderwise, is tailored to focus on strategies to foster mental health, emotional resiliency, and well-being. While this training still covers the requirements—"Don't sleep with a parishioner unless you're married to them" and the like—the best prevention is to encourage clergy to take steps to manage their stress in order to maintain balance and perspective when temptation arises. The program teaches a 3-step strategy to help stop the participant in their tracks before they commit a boundary violation; and participants leave with their own personal prevention plan.

This training is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation—and even laughter. Attendees have given us feedback that our boundaries training was a great experience, AND caused them to re-evaluate some of their own practices.

Participants **MUST** take part in ALL six hours of training in order to receive the certificate of completion.

Click here for more information: <https://www.synodsun.org/boundaries-training>

Transforming Donations to Disaster Recovery & Resiliency

By Kathy Lee-Cornell

As we are currently witnessing [Texas battling the largest wildfire in their state's history](#), do you ever wonder how the gifts of your dollars and cents placed in offering plates or donated through an online submission form actually makes a difference in the lives of people and communities impacted by disasters?



In less than a week after fires began to blaze across parts of Texas and Oklahoma, destroying homes, livestock, and livelihoods, each of the impacted counties have reported being overwhelmed by the influx of donated goods – pallets of water bottles, trailers full of clothing and household items – intended to support survivors and first responders.

I hope this month's SPDR blog and corresponding **Disaster Partnership Conversation Podcast** episodes highlight the connectional and healing power of being Presbyterian and provide more insight into how your gifts through denominational offerings, such as the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) (OGHS), and special appeals like the collection for [Palo Duro Presbytery's](#) response to the ongoing wildfires, actually bolsters our local congregations and the relationships shared between members and neighbors, churches and ministry partners, who are sifting through the aftermath of devastating events.



A car sits in front of the burned Rose Trailer Sales business on Texas Highway 136 on Thursday. Residents have been working to recover from the wildfires devastating parts of the Texas Panhandle. Photo by Mark Rogers for the Texas Tribune

READ MORE HERE: <https://www.synodsun.org/post/transforming-donations-to-disaster-recovery-resiliency>

The Latest Episodes of Sunspots

Do you subscribe to *Sunspots*, the podcast of Synod of the Sun? We bring content from the Synod, SPDR, Liminal Conversations and more! With two new episodes this week and recent content posted, we hope to inspire and inform you. Follow *Sunspots* wherever you get podcast content or find us at <https://www.synodsun.org/sunspots>

Coming March 14th - *Disaster Partnership Conversations: Transforming Donations to Disaster Recovery & Resiliency, part 2* with Jim Kirk and Michelle Muñiz, hosted by Kathy Lee-Cornell

March 7th - *Disaster Partnership Conversations: Transforming Donations to Disaster Recovery & Resiliency, part 1* with Jim Kirk and Michelle Muñiz, hosted by Kathy Lee-Cornell.

February 29th - *Liminal Space Conversations* with Nikki Collins, hosted by Steve Shive.

February 22nd - *White Privilege Conference Conversation - part 2* with Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., hosted by Natarsha Sanders, Kristy Rodgers, and Molly Casteel.

February 15th - *White Privilege Conference Conversation - part 1* with Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., hosted by Natarsha Sanders, Kristy Rodgers, and Molly Casteel.

Are you a leader?

Join PYCC!

Meet other Presbyterian youth!

Plan and lead fun events!

Celebrate the Glory of God!



Deadline: July 1st, 2024

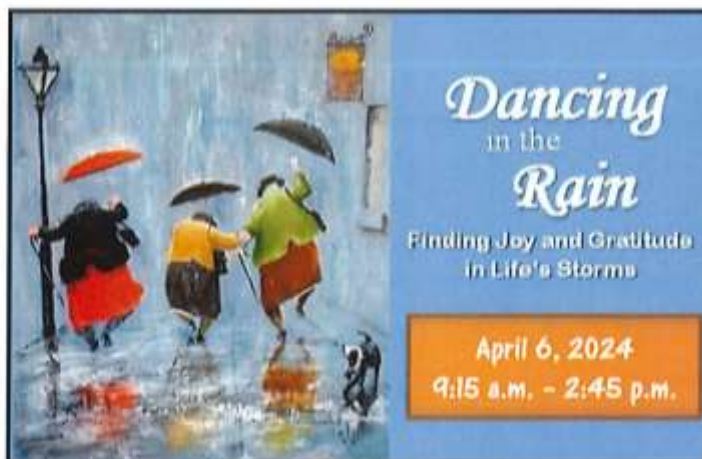
**Incoming High Schoolers and Adult Leaders are
invited to APPLY NOW!**

**Contact Rosy Murphy for details:
rmurphy@pbyofnewcovenant.org**



2024 SPRING Gathering

First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena
4647 Preston Avenue
Pasadena TX 77505



Rev. Dr. Fran Shelton, a founder of Faith & Grief Ministries

SPEAKERS:

Rev. Joseph Moore, Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation, including an enlightening segment about the teachings on the "Gospel" messages from the Apple TV Series Ted Lasso

WORSHIP LEADER:

Rev. Laura Grice, Associate Pastor of Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

Register by March 30th

Prior Attendee - \$18

First-Time Attendee - \$15

Walk-In Registration - \$20

Includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch

SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 9:15 am | Registration and Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall |
| 10:00 am | PW Business Meeting in Sanctuary |
| 10:40 am | Rev. Dr. Fran Shelton – "Joy is a Blessing" |
| 11:40 am | BREAK |
| 11:50 am | Rev. Joseph Moore – "The Cycle Continues: from Curiosity to Belief" |
| 12:50 pm | LUNCH/Benefit Drawing |
| 2:00 pm | Rev. Laura Grice --Worship Service |
| <i>Benefit Drawing</i> | |

Tickets 3 for \$10 or \$5 each

Mission Opportunity: Pasadena Community Ministries, a nonprofit providing food and clothing to those in need in Pasadena and Deer Park. Please consider bringing: all types of shoes (gently used or new), men's clothes, empty prescription bottles (labels removed), canned goods and peanut butter, plastic shopping bags, adult diapers, toiletries, laundry soap, and dish soap.

Partial funding for the Spring Gathering has been generously provided by the



Presbytery of New Covenant
Stated Meeting on Zoom
November 18, 2023

Moderator Becky Downs called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. She introduced the concept of worshipful work since we don't have a formal worship service since we are on Zoom. Rev. Satoe Soga offered an opening prayer focusing on the work of chaplains in various settings. A quorum was declared. The Acknowledgement of Native Lands and Peoples was shared by Becky. The Proposed Docket was approved. The Omnibus Motion was approved.

Appointments – John Lemen – parliamentarian; Teller is Zoom; Nominating Committee: David Pierce, Julie Wells, Jeannette Wenenwaser, George James, Hector Rivera-Velez.

General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process Lynn Hargrove offered a “State of the Presbytery” address, and invited Shawn Kang to talk about Church Innovation and Vitality. Rev. Cheryl Gans offered a prayer for our ministers and congregations.

Becky asked for “shout outs” about good things going on in the presbytery – work on climate control, church anniversaries and other programs were mentioned.

Committee on Ministry: Rev. Karen Estes presented the motions. The first motion was amended to include the word “honorable” for Rev. Dr. David Green.

The second was the motion to approve the Minimum Terms of Call for 2024 which included a 3% cost of living raise at all levels of experience passed.

The third was the motion to allow Rev. Bobby Daniel to have an alternative form of examination for the theology section of the standard ordination exams was approved with passed with 88% voting in favor. This required a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote.

Celebration of Ministry – Rev. John Nelsen with the Tres Rios Border Foundation shared about the crisis at the border around El Paso and Juarez with a video and a power point presentation. He invited commissioners to come to El Paso for the immersive border experience.

Ecclesiastical Affairs: Rev. Andy Gans offered the motion to approve the parity plan. The motion passed unanimously.

General Council: RE George James offered an explanation of the proposed committee restructure of the presbytery as well as the motion to approve. The motion passed.

Offering: Jim Keith shared the work of the Seafarers Ministry at PortHouston. He offered a prayer for the generous giving of the presbytery.

Personnel Committee: Rev. David Jones offered the motion to elect Rev. Lynn Hargrove to a three-year term as General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process. The motion was approved. He also shared the work of Rosy Murphy as the new Coordinator for Youth Ministries.

Nominating Committee: Rev. Helen DeLeon offered the report and asked for the nominees to be elected. There were no nominations from the floor.

Lynn Hargrove and Bonnie Keith were installed into their positions. Bonnie is serving as the Moderator for 2024. Lynn was elected to a three-year term as General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process ending in December 31, 2026.

Mark Downs offered a prayer for leadership prior to our adjournment. Rev. David Leard offered our closing prayer.

The next stated meeting will be on March 16, 2024 at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Lynn R. Hargrove

General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process