



# Mission Presbytery

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

*Mission Presbytery serves God as a unique expression of the body of Christ in South Texas. As faithful stewards of God's gifts, we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by*

- Fulfilling the mandates of the Book of Order
- Encouraging and supporting congregations in mission and ministry
- Doing together what we cannot do alone.

June 18, 2009

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

What an absolutely wonderful, incredible, Spirit-filled, peaceful, prayerful, powerful presbytery meeting! Love filled the room, and Harry and I were filled to overflowing with the warmth and welcome we received from you!

God's call for me to join you as your new exec in Mission Presbytery holds so much promise; and we know that all God's promises are "Yes!" in Christ Jesus (2Cor1:19-20). Thank you, again, for electing the EP Search Committee. I thank God for their dedication, commitment, and faithfulness.

I am "wow-ed" with the work in ministry and mission and for the opportunities for service and witness to the presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in Mission Presbytery. I was especially moved when called upon, as my first act, to pray with and for the newly chartered congregation, the First Korean Presbyterian Church in McAllen, TX.

Within the first few hours of the presbytery meeting, we had chartered a new congregation, authorized a New Church Development, recognized a new certified church educator, examined a candidate for ordination, moved 5 inquirers to candidacy and heard stories of the work of 16 Certified Lay pastors. Before worship we had engaged in Bible study about the waters of baptism and new life in Christ; and the Acts 16:5 Initiative was "off and running." Mission is blessed with a great presbytery staff: they perform their remarkable service in so many different ways. I will be privileged to lead them and work with them. Also, I was so impressed with the leadership of Mission Presbytery, all of whom presented their reports and moved actions effectively with grace and humility.

Again, I am so thankful to God and "bowled over" with the love, warmth, hospitality and welcome from y'all. I am excited about our beginning, our working in mission and ministry together, and to meeting the challenges and opportunities that have been set before us with joy, laughter, and a deep sense of peace, confident God is leading us through Jesus Christ.

I will arrive in the office of Mission Presbytery July 21, 2009 and look forward to the time ahead as we get to know each other better and seek to follow our Lord. I pray that God will continue blessing each and every one of you and our journey together.

Peace,

*Hilary*

Hilary N. Shuford  
Executive Presbyter of Mission Presbytery

Elder Hilary Shuford  
Executive Presbyter

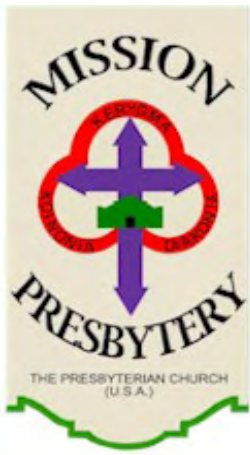
Rev. Dr. Miles H. White  
Stated Clerk

Elder Susan Penrod  
Associate Presbyter, Christian Education

Elder Ruben P. Armendariz  
Church Development Consultant

Elder Lita Simpson  
Youth Ministries

Rev. Sam Riccobene  
Camp Director



**MISSION STATEMENT**

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*Hilary N. Shuford*

- \* A long-time Elder with faith commitment and spiritual energy,
- \* “the shepherd within the flock” who will lead as one among us,
- \* an inviting, warm listener,
- \* an experienced Executive Presbyter (EP) with personal maturity,
- \* one who recognizes and fosters the gifts of others,
- \* a life-long learner who’s journey has now led her to become a candidate for ordination as minister of the Word & Sacrament as an extension of her call as EP.

**Search Committee**

**MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**

- Janell Blair.....Co-Pastor, First PC, Palacios and Collegeport
- Ilene Dunn.....Pastor, Madison Square PC, San Antonio
- Charles Palmer.....Pastor, Treasure Hills PC, Harlingen

**ELDERS**

- Clemente “Andy” Anzaldua.....Corpus Christi, El Divino Salvador
- Esperanza “Hope” Guajardo....San Antonio, Beacon Hill PC
- Martha Richardson.....Austin, Westminster
- Richard “Rick” Schultze.....First, La Grange

# Hilary N. Shuford

She was born in Orinda, California and baptized in the Orinda Community Church in 1957. Eleven years later Hilary's family moved to Athens, Georgia and joined the First Presbyterian Church, where she met her husband Harry.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at Duke University in 1979 and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1983. She engaged in the practice of law in Athens from 1983 to 2001, which included general litigation, and estate planning and probate work.

Hilary served First Presbyterian Church in Athens, Georgia as a Deacon and as an Elder. In the Northeast Georgia Presbytery she served as Chair of Council and Chair of the Executive Presbyter Search Committee, and served on other committees and task forces including Bills and Overtures and the task force that wrote policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct.

Hilary was called in June, 2001 to serve as General Presbyter of Maumee Valley Presbytery in northwest Ohio and southern Michigan (73 Churches & 1 NCD). During her 8 years there, Maumee Valley experienced a visioning and goal-setting process and worked to become more intentionally connectional through a streamlined "permission-giving" structure, trained and successfully deployed a Reconciliation Consultation Team, developed an Hispanic Lay Leadership Program, and established a Long Range Recovery Planning Team, working in conjunction with PDA to support local churches in efforts to serve survivors of natural disasters.

Additionally Hilary has served the denomination on the Interviewing Team for the General Counsel of the General Assembly Council, and recently Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow appointed her to the Restricted Fund Resolution Committee.

Hilary is a candidate under care of Maumee Valley Presbytery and is a "middler" at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Hilary's husband, Harry, is a retired banker who plays golf and does volunteer work in the church and Presbytery. Hilary exercises regularly and enjoys walking their dog.