

UPDATED DOCKET
Mission Presbytery Stated Meeting
Annual Meeting of the Corporation
October 20-21, 2023
Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly

***As Mission Presbytery, we connect diverse leaders and congregations
by providing opportunities for worship, learning, and service
so that we can flourish through God's grace.***

Pre-Presbytery Gatherings

- **What's going on in the life of the church? Dishman Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.**
Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery; Steve Shive, Synod of the Sun; and Laurie Kraus, Director, Humanitarian & Global Ecumenical Engagement PC (USA)
- **New Commissioner Training, 3:00 p.m., Manor House meeting room**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

4:00 p.m.	Meeting called to order and quorum declared Opening prayer Approve the docket Land Acknowledgement Introduction of first-time Commissioners Introduction of Corresponding Members	Moderator Fred Gamble
4:15 p.m.	Welcome and report from the President of Mo-Ranch	Tim Huchton
4:25 p.m.	Director, Humanitarian and Global Ecumenical Engagement, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Laurie Kraus
4:30 p.m.	Bridge Interim Leader and Stated Clerk for the Synod of the Sun	Steve Shive
4:35 p.m.	Report of the Stated Clerk (Report A, Packet 2)	Laurie Palmer
4:40 p.m.	Committee on Representation and Participation (Addendum)	Judy Ferguson
4:45 p.m.	Commission on Ministry (Report B, Packet 2, Addendum)	Gordon Ringler
5:15 p.m.	RGV Evangelist Report	Carlos Baladez
5:20 p.m.	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Report C, Packet 2)	Becca Longino

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Mission Presbytery reconvenes	Moderator Fred Gamble
9:05 a.m.	Mission Presbytery worship Sermon: Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus Communion: Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson and RE Fred Gamble Necrology: Rev. Brian Diebold Offering: Presbyterian Pan American School	
10:05 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.	Report of the General Presbyter Rev. Enala Chavula, APTS student from the Livingstone Synod, Church of Central Africa	Sallie Watson
10:25 a.m.	General Council Report (Report D, Packet 2)	Nancy McCranie
10:45 a.m.	Serve Committee Report	Gin Courtney
10:55 a.m.	Fiscal Oversight	Bryan Stamper
11:10 a.m.	Learn Committee	Alan Constant
11:15 a.m.	Puentes de Cristo (Report E, Packet 2)	Caly Fernandez
11:20 a.m.	Youth Connection Task Force (Report F, Packet 2)	Caitlin Supcoff
11:25 a.m.	John Knox Ranch (Report G, Packet 2)	Henry Owen
11:30 a.m.	Presbyterian Women (Report H, Packet 2)	Lori Black
11:35 a.m.	Installation of Sheri Dittman to Moderator	
	Motion to adjourn the meeting with prayer	

Friday Night ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 20 @ 7:30



Continued
Conversation
w/ Steve Shive &
Laurie Krause
in Nicklos Barn



Card & Board
Games
in Manor House
Classroom
(Bring your favorite game!)



Chat with
Friends
in
Winn/Flato



Mo-Ranch

***Updated* Stated Clerk's report and administrative information for churches**

Rev. Laurie Palmer

Mission Presbytery Meeting; October 20-21, 2023

www.mission-presbytery.org/clerks—where clerks of sessions can find what they need

Contact me: statedclerk@missionpby.org; 210-826-3296

UPDATED INFORMATION IN PURPLE ITALICS

FOR PRESBYTERY ACTION

- ❖ Motion: To approve excused absences for this meeting
- ❖ Motion: To grant FPC, Brownsville, a waiver on limitation of session terms, Book of Order, 2023-2025, G-2.0404
- ❖ ***Motion: To grant Grace, San Antonio, a waiver on limitation of session terms, Book of Order, 2023-2025, G-2.0404.***

FOR INFORMATION

- I. An accusation has been made against a minister member of Mission Presbytery. An Investigating Committee has been formed.

- II. **The Annual Statistical Report opens on December 2, 2023, and will run through February 12, 2024.** I'll have more information as the time nears. Here's the link:
<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/churchwide-ministries/stats/statistical-reporting-faq/>
 - ❖ ***Remember:*** Per Capita is based on membership numbers from the last annual statistical report submitted. Some churches have had the same number for years because the report has not been submitted.
 - ❖ Approximately 85 of 119 churches in Mission Presbytery submit their reports each year. I'd like to see that number increase so we can have more accurate data about our presbytery.
 - ❖ If you need any help at all with this task, contact me. I'm glad to help. I also have all logins/passwords if you cannot find yours.
 - ❖ Information about the annual statistical report can be found on the Mission Presbytery website under the Clerks of Session tab, link above.

- III. **2022 Session Minutes Review**
 - ❖ 33 of 119 congregations have sent their 2022 minutes to be reviewed, and they were. Letters acknowledging review were sent to the 33 churches. You may still submit your 2022 minutes for review. Here are the guidelines:

- ❖ Submit a COPY of your 2022 session and congregational meeting minutes.
You may submit them as a PDF to statedclerk@missionpby.org, **which is preferred**, or mail copies to the stated clerk: 7201 Broadway, Suite 303, San Antonio, TX, 78209. Copies will not be returned. Do not send originals.
- ❖ **Do not submit minutes without the minutes checklist filled out. You can find the checklist on the Clerks of Sessions page on the website. A link to that is in the header above.**
- ❖ Keep the minutes checklist with your minutes and fill it out after each session meeting. This will keep the task from becoming a difficult job later. (I'm doing this for the presbytery minutes review for Synod. It helps).
- ❖ For Book of Order citations, refer to the 2023-25 edition.

★ *I've updated the minutes' checklist for 2023. I'll have it uploaded to the website near the end of the year. I hope it's a bit easier to fill out, and Book of Order changes are included. **We will make the 2023 form fillable.***

IV. **Changes to the Mission Presbytery Bylaws and Manual of Operations** will come under the General Council report. Both documents are in the packet, changes **are in blue** so you can easily find them. The documents are with the General Council report.

V. **Beginning-of-the-year correspondence**

In January 2024, a letter will sent to all churches with the following requests:

- ❖ New Clerk of Session information—Even if your clerk has not changed, let me know; it's helpful as I keep records updated. Let me know if your clerk changes during the year, too.
- ❖ Necrology: Names of Ruling Elders who died during 2023 so that we may honor and remember them at the October 2024 presbytery meeting.
- ❖ Updated contract or terms of call for the pastor. The 2023 Terms of Call and contracts spreadsheet in the June 2023 presbytery meeting packet had holes. All terms of calls and contracts are to be approved by the COM.
- ❖ 2023 Minutes Checklist

VI. **Do you know about re:RE? It's "Regarding Ruling Elders."** Here's the link:

<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/>

The PC(USA) offers ongoing think pieces for church officers. You could use them for session devotions and/or continuing session training. On the re:RE site, there is a link to sign up for the Ruling Elder Network at the bottom of the page.

- VII. **Subscribe to the Mission Presbytery weekly e-newsletter.** You'll be up-to-date on presbytery happenings and enjoy what your colleague churches are doing. Go to www.mission-presbytery.org, and a sign-up link is at the bottom right of the page. What's your congregation doing that you'd like to share? Send it to me—pictures are even better—and we'll get it in.

- VIII. Information on signing up for Realm, where the Mission Presbytery's directory lives, is on a flyer in the packet for this meeting. If you need help signing up, contact Melody Gonzalez in the presbytery office: missionpby@missionpyb.org; 210-826-3296.

Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) /Parliamentary Procedure

RRO/Parliamentary Procedure helps the presbytery unify and be heard. It ensures that minority and majority opinions are heard. It offers a framework for fair discussion on the issues before us.

As presbytery commissioners, you have rights: to know, to speak, to vote, to hold office.

Three Parliamentary Principles:

1. The rights and the unity of the body shall be preserved.
2. the will of the majority shall prevail.
3. The rights of the minority shall be protected.

Fairness is at the heart of discerning the will of the body: We work together with respectful regard for each other.

Ask, “what is best for the whole presbytery?” and not, “What is best for me?”

You can read about parliamentary procedure in more depth here:

<https://bit.ly/3Ri3rjh>

Some Parliamentary Basics for Mission Presbytery:

The Moderator: The Moderator of Mission Presbytery (addressed as “Moderator,” whether elder or minister, male or female) is elected to preside over our meetings and, under our Constitution, “possesses the authority necessary for preserving order and for conducting efficiently the business of the body” (G-3.0104).

As needed, the Moderator rules on points of order.

Making a motion: A motion is made and brought to a vote through these steps:

1. Rise and walk to the mic so that the Moderator can give you a turn to have the floor as the recognized speaker. If unable to move to a mic, you may raise your hand to be recognized.
2. When the Moderator recognizes you, say your name, whether you’re a minister or a ruling elder, and the congregation you represent.
3. State your motion, e.g., “Moderator, I move that Mission Presbytery serve homemade cinnamon rolls at every stated meeting.”
4. The motion requires a second (the person offering the second does not need to be recognized), and the Moderator will restate your motion to be sure everyone hears it. You then speak to the motion, addressing the Moderator.
5. The Moderator will call for a discussion of the motion and will recognize members who wish to speak for or against it.
6. After restating the motion to be sure we’re all clear about what we’re voting on, the Moderator will call for all those in favor of the motion to say “aye” or “yes,” and all those opposed to it to say “no,” and will announce whether the motion has passed.

Give the Stated Clerk your written motion before you give it.

Amending a motion

1. During a debate on a motion, the Moderator may recognize a speaker who moves that the original motion be revised. For example, "Moderator, I move to amend the motion to include 'and coffee to go with the cinnamon rolls.'"
2. The motion to amend needs a second. Once done, the Moderator will recognize speakers who wish to debate the amendment.
3. Following the debate and restatement of the motion to amend, the Moderator will call for a vote on the amendment (**not on the original motion**).
4. Rarely someone will amend the amended motion. That's fine. See 1-3.
5. The newly amended main motion must be voted on if the amendment passes.
6. The original motion will be voted on if the amendment does not pass.

Again, give the Stated Clerk your written motion as amended.

Common Actions:

- **Division of the house** -- a request for a re-vote using a show of hands or by standing ("standing division") to get a clear count of the votes on either side.
- **Ballot vote:** A presbytery may request a ballot vote, and the Stated Clerk will be ready with ballots to hand out.
- **Move to postpone (to a particular time)** -- a debatable motion considered when one does not want to "table the motion" indefinitely.
- **Call for the order of the day** -- a request that the meeting hold to its own docket, moving directly to the item of business scheduled for that time by the earlier vote to approve the docket
- **Point of order** -- a request from a presbyter for clarification by the Moderator
- **Move the previous question, or "call the question"** -- This is to end the discussion and move to vote. Requires a second. Must vote on calling the question, and requires $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. If the motion passes, move to the vote on the motion at hand. If it doesn't, the discussion on the motion may continue. **Do not yell, "Call the question," from the floor. Go to a mic and address the Moderator.**
- **Move to adjourn** -- We need a motion/second to adjourn at the end of the meeting, after which we will close with prayer.

Committee on Representation and Participation (CORP)

Report to Mission Presbytery

October 20-21, 2023 Presbytery Meeting

TE Walt Lee and RE Judy Ferguson, co-chairs

For reference:

CC: Corpus Christi; A: Austin; SA: San Antonio; HC: Hill Country; RGV: Rio Grande Valley; V: Victoria

From Mission Presbytery's Manual of Operations:

The Committee on Representation and Participation (CORP) nominates leadership for Mission Presbytery's committees, commissions, and task groups.

It ensures the reflection of the rich diversity of its members as per the Book of Order. (G-3.0301)

It ensures representation of the constituency of Mission Presbytery for leadership in the Presbytery, Synod of the Sun, and General Assembly.

It places nominations before the Presbytery persons whose interests, skills, and experiences qualify them for the leadership they are being nominated for.

Motion

The Committee on Representation and Participation puts the following names into nomination:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE 2024 GA MEETING (#226)

June 25-July 4, 2024; Salt Lake City, Utah

- ❖ Austin: RE Teresa Ward
- ❖ Hill Country: RE John Mallory
- ❖ Rio Grande Valley: TE Ezequiel Herrera
- ❖ San Antonio: RE Carlos Baladez
- ❖ Corpus Christi: TE John Roberts
- ❖ Victoria: TE Kathy Anderson
- ❖ Alternate: TE Kevin Jones

OTHER NOMINATIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ❖ Moderator-Elect: | TE Dan Milford, SA |
| ❖ Synod Commissioner | RE Lisa Almon, A |
| ❖ Treasurer | TE Leslie Ellison |
| ❖ Assistant Treasurer | RE Sandy Nicholson |

COMMISSIONS OF MISSION PRESBYTERY

*A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a council. Book of Order, G-3.0109
CORP nominates all commission members.*

❖ **Commission on Ministry (COM)**

Class of 2024	RE Becky Graham, SA
Class of 2025	TE Gini Norris-Lane, HC
Class of 2026	TE Kathy Escandell, RGV
	TE Regina Maas, SA
	RE Mary Ellen Summerlin, HC
	RE Rita Livingston, A
	RE Norman Wilcox, CC

❖ **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)**

Class of 2025	TE Chris Harrison, HC
Class of 2029	TE Monica Smith, A
	TE Dan Fultz, V

❖ **Trustees of Mission Presbytery**

Class of 2028	CP Kris Bair, CC
	TE David Evans, A

COMMITTEES OF MISSION PRESBYTERY

CORP nominates all committee members.

❖ **Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

Class of 2025	TE Britta Dukes, A
Class of 2026	TE Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, HC
	TE Sarah Dixon, A

❖ **Connect Committee**

Class of 2026	TE Emily Owen, A
	TE Erica Knisely, A

❖ **Fiscal Oversight (FO)**

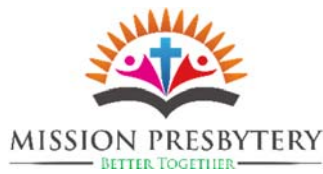
Class of 2026	RE Sandy Nicholson, SA
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- ❖ John Knox Ranch (JKR)
Class of 2026 TE Ellen Hensle, A
RE Meredith Weatherby, A
- ❖ Learn Committee
Class of 2026 RE Kate Carey, SA
TE Tom Tickner, HC
- ❖ Serve Committee
Class of 2026 TE Gin Courtney, SA
RE Lety Martinez, RGV

TASK FORCES

CORP nominates chairs only. Task Forces recruit their own members.

- ❖ Disaster Preparedness and Assistance (DPATF)
RE Ben Henderson, SA
- ❖ Human Resources (HR)
**NOTE: Human Resources has requested to move back as a committee.
Mission Presbytery will vote on this at this presbytery meeting under the
General Council Report.**
TE Nancy Reeves, A
- ❖ Presbytery Women Coordinating Team (PWCT)
Lori Black, A
- ❖ Youth Connection Task Force (YCTF)
TE Ellen Hensle, A
RE Neil McKown, A

**MISSION PRESBYTERY NOMINATION FORM**

Date: _____

Name of Person Recommended _____

DOB _____

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Preferred Phone Number _____

Preferred Email Address _____

Name of Church _____

City _____

Age Group: ☐ 0-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ Over 65Category: ☐ Teaching Elder ☐ Ruling Elder ☐ Deacon ☐ Christian Educator ☐ Active Member

Ethnicity: _____

Recommended for Committees: *(Please prioritize if you make more than one recommendation. Select 1 for first choice, 2 for second, etc.)*

_____ Commission on Ministry (COM)

_____ Learn (LC)

_____ Connect (CC)

_____ Mission Presbytery Trustees (MPT)

_____ Fiscal Oversight (FO)

_____ Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)

_____ John Knox Ranch (JKR)

_____ Serve (SC)

Recommended for Task Force Chair:

_____ Disaster Preparedness & Assistance (DPATF)

_____ Human Resources (HRTF)

_____ Youth Connections (YCTF)

Brief Description of Skills/Experience *(Use back of form if more space needed):*

Submitted By _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Name of Church _____

City _____

Please return to: Mission Presbytery, 7201 Broadway, Ste. 303, San Antonio, TX 78209

Or email to: statedclerk@missionpby.org

**Commission on Ministry Report
Mission Presbytery Meeting
October 20-21, 2023**

- ❖ The Rev. Mary Gaines died on September 12, 2023. Her memorial service will be held at San Gabriel, Georgetown, at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

Introduction of pastors who've transferred to Mission Presbytery

- ❖ Tom Tickner (retired) from Grace Presbytery
- ❖ Chuck Robison (retired) from Western Colorado Presbytery
- ❖ Ken Ritchie, Pastor, Island, CC, from Grace Presbytery
- ❖ Kevin Boyd Pastor, FPC, Cuero, from New Covenant Presbytery
- ❖ Debbie Parsons (retired), from National Capital Presbytery
- ❖ Margaret Yochum, Chaplain, University Health, SA, from Scioto Presbytery
- ❖ Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, FPC, Kerrville, from Great Atlanta Presbytery

Faith Journey

The beginning of my faith journey can be traced back to when I was a young child spending several days a week within the church and its various programs due to my family's energetic involvement in the National Presbyterian Church in Mexico. I was born in Orizaba, Veracruz, Mexico, a beautiful colonial city located in the eastern mountain corridor where summers are rainy and the gifts of spring seem to last forever. Most importantly, I was born into the legacy and faithful work established by my mother's parents. My grandfather served as a Presbyterian pastor for over forty years, and my grandmother served as a teaching missionary on the Texas-Mexico border for many years. This particular background provided me with powerful insights regarding faith and God – watching my grandfather preach and participating in my grandmother's thoughtful and kind teachings undoubtedly influenced my sense of vocation. I ultimately became captivated by sharing “good news” with a broken world.

When I was eleven, I learned that my parents were getting divorced. This event undeniably shook my faith and trust. I spent many days seeking answers to questions too big to understand. However, a few months later, one of my friends invited me to join the choir at his church. Through music, singing, and proclamation of the Word at this new church, I found “good news” for myself. I found healing a new path.

God showed up powerfully through this ministry, inviting me to be part of something bigger than myself. At that point, I committed my life to proclaim good news to the world, especially to those who need to hear a word of hope.

I came to the United States when I was fifteen to attend Presbyterian Pan-American School in Kingsville, TX. This demanding transitional time in my life led me to become more independent and to rely more on God's embrace and providence. Therefore, I decided to serve and participate in various campus ministry events, including launching the annual storytelling and faith-sharing event called “Celebration.” God took me to Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX, to continue my studies. Of course, I was eager to be part of campus ministry again and plug in several mission opportunities. I spent most of my summers serving as a mission translator and teacher for several medical and community mission trips from the United States in the south region of rural Mexico. During these experiences, I realized the importance of being a bridge-builder and a community leader eager to connect stories so that we may find similarities.

During my senior year in college, I began to think about seminary. It had always been in the back of my mind. My campus minister inspired me to apply to Austin Seminary. And by the grace of God, I was accepted and received a generous scholarship. Many joys and challenges filled my seminary experience. I learned from outstanding professors and church leaders. God affirmed my vocation through service at the Seminary chapel, Montreat Conference Center, and University Presbyterian Church. Upon graduating from seminary, I had the opportunity to serve as a Lake Fellow at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. During those two years of ministry, I learned from exceptional pastors who taught meaningful lessons about ministry and life. This ministry setting allowed me to focus on my particular gifts. After this ministry, I came to Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA, where I had the unique opportunity to serve in a church going through a difficult transition. I worked on my preaching and leadership, taking classes, attending various seminars, and being part of multiple cohorts. These last three years of ministry have been very challenging, but I have seen the power of God in beautiful ways - how God changes hearts and minds. I am now looking forward to what is next, anticipating tremendous and challenging opportunities, but I am always trusting how God will lead the way. May we continue to trust the one who guides our feet and continue to call us by name.

Statement of Faith

I believe in the living triune God, God the Creator, God the Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. The three in one, relational within God's-self; drawing each one of us to be in relationship with God's very self.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the sustainer of all that exists, binding life and death. Provider of wisdom and comfort to every corner of the human experience. The Holy Spirit advocates for an inclusive communal experience in which we all come as one body.

I believe in God, Creator of every living and nonliving subject in the universe – the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow who resides with authority beyond time and space. The one who transforms void into beauty, and who manifests God's self in the things seen and unseen. I believe in God's only son, begotten from eternity, our Lord Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit in accord with God through the Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ walked among us, fully human and fully God. He performed miracles defying the impossible. He proclaimed a universal abounding love at the expense of his own life. He did not follow "proper" religious practices. Rather, he re-established what it means to serve others in ministry – being with people and for the people. For our sake, Jesus Christ was rejected, beaten, and crucified by those who did not believe him. Upon crucifixion, he died and descended into hell to set the captive free from the dominion of sin. After three days, he resurrected, bringing forth life eternal to whoever believes that he is the truth, the way, and the life. I believe in a God that does not abandon God's own child, but a Parent who suffers with their very child. Therefore, I believe in a God of justice whose ultimate verdict for us is compassion and restoration.

I believe in the power of Baptism as a symbol of belonging and as an introduction to a life that can never be too far from God's grace. I believe in water that heals our wounds and restores our pains; water that sets the captive free; water that nurtures the earth with blessings. I believe in the power of the Lord's Table, the place where the Lord Jesus Christ had his last meal with his friends. This Table represents the most sublime sacrifice of love, thus teaching us how to love. This is the table where we encounter the other with honesty, truth, and reconciliation.

I believe in the holy imperfect institution that is the Church. The place where all are welcomed and treated with respect despite color, race, gender, legal status, or economic situation.

I believe in the Word of God, which comes to us through the Scriptures; through preaching and story-telling; and through Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are inspired by God and remain relevant throughout time and space as they provide us with revelations about God and about what God requires of us. The Word of God brings hope – it reminds me that as far the east is from the west, God's love for each one of us remains unmoved, unchanged, but always finding us where we are in every time and in every place.



***As Mission Presbytery, we connect diverse leaders and congregations
by providing opportunities for worship, learning, and service
so that we can flourish through God's grace.***

October 21, 2023

Greetings, Fellow Elder of Mission Presbytery.

Salutations and commendations come to you from your fellow elders of the presbytery. Whether you are a Ruling Elder or Teaching Elder of your particular congregation, you also wear that same title for the whole Mission Presbytery. As such, you share equal responsibility with each of the other thousand or so active elders of the presbytery to see to it that the mission entrusted by God to us South Central Texan Presbyterians is carried forward to the highest level possible. Thank you for doing your part.

We write you today, requesting that you assess and dream ahead with your fellow congregational elders about how well you are carrying out your part in partnering with the rest of us.

Some of us elders writing this letter came here from other presbyteries. We were floored to hear Mission Presbytery asks every church to give a “per capita” contribution of only \$9.80 per member per year.” We came from presbyteries that would send us an annual bill – an assessment – of \$25.00 or more per capita. We’ve since heard that other presbyteries solicit much higher amounts. For example, the Presbytery of Nevada bills \$60.20 per member, our neighbor South Louisiana Presbytery assesses \$66.25, Plains & Peaks (CO.) requests \$66.98, and San Gabriel (CA.) charges \$73.98. Are we so independently wealthy that \$9.80 is all we need? We sure wish we were!

When you consider the:

- hundreds of youth who spent a week or longer encountering God and one another at our John Knox Ranch this past summer;

- the neighbors to our south living on the margins who are being loved by our presbytery's border ministry under the leadership of Caly Fernandez;
 - the New Life Community Church being pioneered by Ezequiel Herrera in the Rio Grande Valley, funded solely by Mission Presbytery funds;
 - the small church loans that 14 of our churches are utilizing to revitalize their work (\$416,000 currently carrying them); and
 - the many occasions when needy congregations and/or needy fellow elders are sustained and helped through personal or congregational crises by the pastoral care of our presbytery staff;
- ...you can do the math: this all takes significant funding.

Your \$9.80 from the per capita simply flows through our offices into the national church to support our national and international mission programs.

In fact, the presbytery's operating budget is partly covered by additional mission giving from churches above the assessed per capita, for which we extend our commendations (as stated above) and mutual appreciation. The remaining shortfall is being covered by drawing down our operating reserve funds, just over \$200,000, which are shrinking at a too-rapid rate.

And it is in that light that we are writing to speak to you about your congregation's ministry and budgeting.

Out of a presbytery of 119 congregations, ten do not support the presbytery's mission at all. If your congregation is one of those, will you prevail upon each other to step up to that \$9.80 level by the end of this calendar year, or at the very least, in your budget of 2024, so that we can truly say that we have 100 percent partnership in providing the per capita for the whole presbytery?

Thirty churches are paying their \$9.80 per capita, but not anything above that. If your church is in that category, will you prevail upon your fellow elders to make a commitment in your 2024 budget to move from mere obligation giving to mission giving so that you end up giving something like those \$25 per member levels or \$50 per member level, or even the South Louisiana Presbytery level of \$66.25 per member?

The remaining 79 congregations are giving to the per capita and additional mission giving. Yay! But would you talk with your fellow elders there about going above and beyond to sponsor the mission efforts we outlined above? We prefer that you give to the general fund, but you may choose to specifically designate your giving to one or two of the ministries listed.

One other request for the immediate future. If your congregation's giving meets and exceeds the level that you projected and budgeted for 2023, would your session commit to giving the overage, the surplus to the Mission Presbytery's shared mission outreach so we can generate a surge of support to the

ministries beyond our own particular congregations? Yes, that would mean sending a check to the presbytery office right around New Year's Day of 2024.

The final request is that you bring this letter with you to your next Session meeting, engage your partner elders in this discussion, and agree to take some positive action as we have proposed above.

We reiterate our salutations and commendations to you for your partnership – our partnership – together in carrying out God's mission in the south-central region of Texas known as Mission Presbytery.

In Christ's service,

The Special Task Force on
Mission Presbytery Stewardship

RE Sandy Nicholson
Rev. Bryan Stamper
RE Pam Power
Rev. Jack Haberer



Convención 2023

Faith/Fe

Presbyterian Church

900 Aransas, Lockhart, TX 78644
November 12, 2023

Schedule for the day

8:30-9:30 a.m. Registration & Pastries

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday school

Adult English/Adult Spanish

Youth Jr. & Sr. High

Elementary 1st - 5th

Pre-k & Kinder

Nursery

10:30-11:00 a.m. Praise Songs

11:00- 12:00 p.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Lunch & Business Meeting

1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gathering with the ancestors and those who have gone before.

Convención is a yearly event in which the Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian Congregations from Central Texas gather to worship and celebrate their Hispanic heritage as members of the PCUSA. Churches that gathered at Convención are Everlasting Hope Presbyterian, Taylor, El Buen Pastor Presbyterian, Austin, First Presbyterian Church of New Braunfels, and Memorial Presbyterian, San Marcos, hosting this year is Faith/Fe Presbyterian in Lockhart.

2024 Mission Presbytery Meetings

March 1-2, Grace PC, Corpus Christi

6301 Yorktown Blvd, Corpus Christi, 78414

June 14-15, Hope PC, Austin

11512 Olson Dr, Austin, 78750

October 18-19, FPC, Brownsville

435 Palm Blvd, Brownsville, 78520

Friday Night ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 20 @ 7:30



**Continued
Conversation**
w/ Steve Shive &
Laurie Krause
in Winn/Flato



**Card & Board
Games**
in Manor House
Classroom
(Bring your favorite game!)



**Chat with
Friends**
in Nicklos Barn



Mo-Ranch