

Mission Presbytery Stated Meeting  
March 1-2, 2024  
Grace Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi, Texas  
**Motions are in bold.**

Friday, March 1, 2024

The stated meeting of Mission Presbytery was called to order by Moderator Sheri Dittman at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024, at Grace Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi, Texas. A quorum was present. A Mission Presbytery quorum is 12 minister members and 12 ruling elders from 12 different churches.

Sheri read the Mission Presbytery mission statement:

*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.*

The Moderator opened the meeting with a prayer that included this land acknowledgment:

"We acknowledge that the land where we gather this weekend is the ancestral territory of the Karankawa Kadla, Lipan Apache, Mexica, Comanche, and Coahuiltecan peoples. We honor them and remember their legacy with gratitude for who they were and sadness for what became of them."

**A motion and a second were made to approve the docket for the stated meeting. The motion was approved.**

**A motion and a second were made to approve the omnibus motion for the stated meeting. The Moderator asked if anyone wanted to lift any item of business from it. Hearing none, she called for the vote. The motion was approved.**

**OMNIBUS MOTION FOR ACTION BY MISSION PRESBYTERY**

**Stated Clerk**

1. Approve excused absences from this Mission Presbytery meeting
2. Grant a waiver, per Book of Order, G-2.0404:  
*Election shall be to classes as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of only one class ending each year. The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms.*  
FPC, Palacios: On October 30, 2023, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Palacios met at its Stated Session meeting. At the meeting, Session voted unanimously to request a waiver of the limitation of terms from Mission Presbytery. During September and October, two elders on Session and loved leaders in our church passed away. Our congregation size is decreasing, making it difficult to find members who are willing to commit to becoming elders.

**General Council**

3. Changes to the bylaws in Mission Presbytery.

Updated bylaws are in the packet for this meeting. [Changes are in blue.](#)  
**Per Mission Presbytery's Bylaws in Section 1: *These By-Laws may be amended or revised by a majority vote at any two successive stated meetings. This is the second meeting for the following items.***

a. Mission Presbytery, at its October 20-21, 2023 meeting, voted unanimously to add *G-3.0106* to our bylaws under Article 5: Rules and Procedures, c:

*All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child and youth protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.*

This is a new addition to the Book of Order as of July 9, 2023, and the result of voting on the proposed amendments. Mission Presbytery approved them all. Churches are included in this policy.

b. Human Resources be moved from a task force to a committee at its own request.

Rationale: The Committee on Representation and Participation nominates all committee members. It nominates chairs for task forces, and task forces can enlist their own members. Human Resources prefers that Mission Presbytery nominate and elect the members of Human Resources.

c. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry, at its own request, increases its membership from nine to 12.

The Moderator asked that first-time commissioners stand and introduce themselves.

There were no corresponding members present at this meeting.

John Roberts welcomed the presbytery on behalf of Grace Presbyterian Church.

#### General Presbyter, Sallie Watson

Sallie spoke with the Presbyter for Palo Duro Presbytery about the fires in the Panhandle. The fire has grown to over a million acres. It's now the largest wildfire in Texas history. Three lives have been claimed. More than a thousand cattle were killed or had to be euthanized. Anxiety is high. When asked what they need right now, he said the main needs are "cash and hay."

If you would like to help, Palo Duro has set up a Paypal account to receive funds that will go immediately for food, water, and maybe even hay - whatever the need is. Go to [paloduropresbytery.org](http://paloduropresbytery.org), and click on "donate now." You can also give through Mission

Presbytery. Use the “Give Now” button on our website, [www.mission-presbytery.org](http://www.mission-presbytery.org). Mark your gift for Palo Duro fire relief. As with other designated donations like this, one hundred percent of what we receive will go to our friends in the Panhandle.

Sallie reported that there are a lot of good things going on in Mission Presbytery. Yesterday, she sat in on the first meeting of the Administrative Commission on Congregational Development and Vitality, or ACCDV. They are working on a vision statement for their work to revitalize our existing congregations and a strategy for starting new congregations.

Sallie lifted up her Ponderings in the e-news from a couple of weeks ago about the visit to the Rio Grande Valley from a group from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. While there, they visited the Presbyterian Pan-American School and worshiped in, or preached for, several of our congregations across the RGV. They heard from several leaders of our congregations in the RGV. One day, they crossed over into Matamoros to meet some immigrants and hear their stories, and then came back to Brownsville to meet with Joel and Lety Martinez at Primera Iglesia. They left impressed with what they saw.

Recently, three of our pastors, Jasiel Hernandez, Monica Smith, Maria Vargas, were featured in an article in *Presbyterians Today* on loneliness and isolation in ministry. Yesterday, they were featured in a Zoom to talk further about their experiences. Sallie was glad that those who tuned in learned not only about the topic but also about the wisdom and resilience of our pastors. Did you know we have wonderful pastors and ruling elders in this presbytery? Sallie mentioned there’s plenty in her daily life around the presbytery that worries her, exhausts her, and sometimes just makes her mad. But getting to work with pastors like these and with faithful and dedicated volunteers who staff our Commission on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Fiscal Oversight, our Trustees, Disaster Prep, Human Resources, John Knox Ranch, Youth Connection, the brand-new ACCDV, Connect, Learn, and Serve - not to forget those who nominate all those folks, the Committee on Representation and Participation - all of these are the reason she loves what she does. She expressed her gratitude and thanked us for showing the world every day that the saints of Mission Presbytery are better together.

#### Stated Clerk, Laurie Palmer

For information

1. The Investigating Committee responding to an accusation against a minister in Mission Presbytery concluded that no charges would be filed. The Investigating Committee was dismissed.
2. Mission Presbytery maintains parity in the number of Ruling and Teaching Elders who attend presbytery meetings. No change to the following distribution is recommended:

## Commissioners for presbytery meetings

1-75 members	1
76-150	2
151-500	4
501-800	5
801-1000	6
1001-up	1 ruling elder for every additional 200 members

3. Annual Statistical Reports: As of Friday, February 16, 2024, 78 churches submitted all or portions of their Annual Statistical Report.

4. The following is a new policy in the Book of Order as of July 9, 2023.

### ***Churches are included in this requirement.***

*G-3.0106: All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child and youth protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.*

A proposed anti-harassment policy for Mission Presbytery is in the packet. This is a first reading, so we'll discuss and vote on it in June. As with every Mission Presbytery policy, churches may adapt it.

A video featuring Divine Redeemer and House of Neighborly Service, San Antonio, was shown.

## Conversations by regions, Caitlin Supcoff and Erica Knisely

What do you love about your region?

What gifts, wisdom, and experiences does your region have to share?

What makes you feel connected to presbytery?

What makes you feel isolated?

What kind of support would you like from the other regions in Presbytery?

After conversations by region, the Moderator asked if anyone had feedback from their time together.

### Austin #1:

- Austin has APTS to share.
- Austin is growing because of out-of-state transplants who have different perspectives.
- The Austin Region has had difficulty connecting with one another and would like to learn more from other regions that connect well. It was suggested that each region have \$500 to plan meaningful time together.

### Austin #2:

- Austin is the capital and is a tech hub.

- Austin has Manos de Cristo.
- The group would like congregations to share mission trip plans, resources in education, etc, on the Presbytery website.
- They were concerned that meetings (presbytery and committees) are on work days, and ruling elders must take off work, even taking vacation days, to participate.
- They are glad to be connected by Mid-Winters.
- Geography separates us.
- They wondered if there were grants to nurture ecumenical relationships.

#### Austin #3:

- We have love within our communities. Intergenerational connections are strong. Sallie Watson and the weekly e-newsletter make us feel connected.
- We could be more proactive in reaching out to smaller communities.

#### San Antonio #1:

- The region is not just SA but Pleasanton, Seguin, etc.
- We've had good support during times of transition—keep doing it.
- They asked of any ideas, “How will this help me follow Jesus?”

#### San Antonio #2:

- SA is a multi-cultural city, centrally located.
- SA has six universities.
- They are challenged in doing community outreach rather than expecting the community to walk in the door.
- They feel connected with each other and the presbytery through JKR, Mo Ranch, pulpit supply, PCHAS, and Holy Smoke (Habitat for Humanity event).
- They need support nurturing youth, perhaps combining efforts with area congregations.
- We don't know what's happening in Mission Presbytery churches.

#### San Antonio #3:

- It is critical to listen to each other because of our diverse cultures. We could create opportunities to listen.
- They'd like more collaborations for confirmation, World Communion Sunday, and mission projects. They'd like to see ministries emerge from these relationships, a creative nexus for creating something new.
- They want to learn what others are doing to connect people. They feel a disconnection with rural communities.
- They'd like to know more about mission engagement options and Better Together Grants.

#### Corpus Christi:

- “We have the beach (and margaritas)!” They have good weather, despite hurricanes. It's a good place to live.

- They work together well and have a thriving region with regular meetings—there are presbytery funds for regional meetings. CC is doing officer training on April 13, 2024. All this makes them feel connected.
- Many serve on presbytery committees.
- They are isolated geography.
- We need assistance to attract new members;

#### Rio Grande Valley:

- We are friendly, laid back, and have a slower pace, with a wide variety of wildlife.
- They know each other. The women's group is very active.
- *We embrace the immigration issue in the southernmost tip of Texas, and the presbytery could learn from us.* Travel there, and we'll show you.
- They are connected through the newsletter, Presbyterian Women, Facebook, and presbytery meetings like today's, where we can have conversations with each other.
- We want to welcome more youth to our churches, financial/logistical support for youth. They like the youth program director from the presbytery to visit.

#### Hill Country:

- We are friendly.
- We have Mo-Ranch and JKR—places to gather.
- Involvement is connection—they want to build relationships with each other.
- Geography is difficult, but the presbytery does a good job of keeping us connected.

#### Victoria:

- “We have cows and wildflowers!”
- We need our churches to feel more connected. Serving on presbytery committees makes us feel connected.
- We need support for Commissioned Pastors.
- We need pastors.

A PowerPoint featuring The Presbyterian Church of Gonzales was shown.

#### Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), Becca Longino

Becca referred to CPM's report: three people have reached out to start the process since submitting the report.

Mr. Roberts made a statement to the presbytery on this topic: does God tempt or test us, and why?

On behalf of CPM, Becca made a motion to approve that Inquirer Allen “AJ” Roberts be enrolled as a Candidate.

The Moderator opened the floor for questions in these areas: Mr. Roberts' Christian faith, the forms of Christian service he's undertaken, and his motives for seeking the ministry.

The Moderator called for the vote, and the motion was approved.

Sheri asked Mr. Roberts the constitutional questions for Candidacy.

David Evans made a charge to Mr. Roberts based on Acts 13. "Always and forever preach the fierce love God has for us."

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia prayed for Mr. Roberts.

David Meriwether commended Becca Longino on her work with CPM as she moves away to Colorado.

### Commission on Ministry (COM), Jack Barden

Jack lifted up the COM action taken since the last stated presbytery meeting. He made a statement regarding the examination of candidates for ordination:

Candidates are examined for ordination only on the floor of presbytery meetings. Commissioners must be present at a meeting to examine a candidate.

Candidates do not have to answer questions regarding their statements of faith should people contact them before the meeting. This puts candidates in an unfair and nerve-wracking situation. Candidates will be told they do not have to answer questions before their examinations at a presbytery meeting.

Jack called Chris Harrison forward to be honored for retirement. Bill Pederson spoke on Chris's behalf. The Moderator prayed for him.

Jack introduced three new ministers in Mission Presbytery and invited them to speak briefly:

- Emily Beghin, Pastor, Round Rock, Round Rock (not present)
- Jeannie Corbitt Cardona, serving a church in another denomination (not present)
- Jacob Lee, transferred from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, Stated Supply, First Korean, McAllen (present)

### **The Commission on Ministry, in its capacity as a commission of Mission Presbytery, has taken the following actions since the last presbytery meeting:**

#### **Evote**

To approve Emily Beghin's examination. She is called to serve as pastor to Round Rock, Round Rock. The examination was sustained.

#### **Retirements**

William Karlson from Hill Country Memorial Hospice as of 7/31/2023

Richard Knott from Alamo Heights, San Antonio

#### **Transfer to another presbytery**

Erin McGee to Whitewater Valley

Mary Rogers-Ellsworth to Coastal Carolina

Andrew Lemlyn to Yukon

Joseph Kim to St. Augustine Presbytery

**Examinations and transfers from other presbyteries**

Jeanne Corbitt Cardona from Grace, PCUSA pastor serving another denomination

Emily Beghin, from St. Augustine, to serve Round Rock, Round Rock

Joseph Kim will be reinstated in the PC(USA) from ECO and transferred to St. Augustine Presbytery.

**Labor outside the bounds of Mission Presbytery**

Ann Hoch, Grace Presbytery, Interim Pastor for St. Stephens, Ft. Worth

**Labor within the bounds of Mission Presbytery**

Rebecca Whitaker, member of Tres Rios, to preach, administer communion, and ordain/install ruling elders at Burnet, Burnet on January 7, 2024.

**Change within Mission Presbytery**

Paul Gaedke, Member-at-Large, 10/31/2023 (moved to CA)

**Permission to form PNC**

FPC, Giddings

The Presbyterian Church of Gonzales, Gonzales

UPC, San Antonio

Grace, Victoria

**Authorize a ruling elder to serve Communion after training**

Estela Sifuentes, for Emmanuel, San Antonio

**Session moderators**

Cameron Allen, FPC, Lockhart

Dan Fultz, FPC, Victoria

**Administrative Commissions to Ordain and/or Install a Pastor**

Install Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, FPC, Kerrville

November 5, 2023, at FPC, Kerrville, 3:00 p.m.

RE Mary Ellen Summerlin; RE Barbara Whitworth; RE Becky Graham; Rev. Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson; Rev. James Baker; Rev. Doug Dalglisch;

To preside: RE Fred Gamble, Former Moderator

To preach: Rev. Dr. Cindy Rigby

Propound Constitutional questions to the congregation: RE Ed Wallace

To charge the pastor: Rev. Andrew Frazier

To charge the congregation: Rev. Doug Dalglisch

To lead installation prayer: Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson.

Ordain and install Carter Grant, Associate Pastor, at UPC, Austin

November 12, 2023, at UPC, Austin, 2:00 p.m.

To moderate and propound constitutional questions to the pastor: Rev. Fred Morgan

To propound constitutional questions to the congregation: RE Dr. Lorraine Haricombe

To charge the pastor: Rev. Gin Courtney

To charge the congregation: Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

RE Lex Gallion, FPC



Guests: Rev. David Evans, Rev. Gini Norris-Lane, to preach; Rev. Dr. Stacy Ikard, to lead the ordination and installation prayer

Ordain Alan Constant at Hyde Park, Austin, December 10, 2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Rev. Emily Owen, preside/constitutional questions/charge the pastor  
Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, preach (guest of the AC)  
RE Henry Owen, charge the congregation  
Revs. Elizabeth McLean and Matt Gaventa, ordination prayer  
RE Judy Matetzschk-Campbell; Rev. Amy Meyer; Juan Manuel Senties (guest)

Install Ken Ritchie, Island, CC, January 28, 2024, 4:00 p.m.  
Moderator Sheri Dittman, preside/constitutional questions/installation prayer  
Rev. Dan Fultz, preach  
RE Marily Cook: congregational questions (guest of the AC)  
Rev. Kurt Simon, charge the pastor  
RE Liz Anzaldua: charge the congregation  
RE Wendy Keach, Jackson Woods, CC  
RE Debbie Loven, Island, CC

**Dismiss Administrative Commissions to ordain/install**

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, FPC, Kerrville, 5/5/2023, 3:00 p.m.  
Carter Grant, UPC, Austin, 11/12/2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Alan Constant, Hyde Park, Austin, 12/10/2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Ken Ritchie, Island, CC, 1/28/2024, 4:00 p.m.

**Parish Associates**

Alan Constant, Hyde Park, Austin

**APPROVED CONTRACTS AND TERMS OF CALL**

**Commissioned Pastors' (Certified REs) Contracts, numbers rounded**

Grace, SA, and Larry Sears

Salary	16,065
Housing	4,000

Pipe Creek, PC, and CP Duane Manning

Salary	20,800
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Sinai, Laredo, and CP Rafael Dominguez

Salary	29,256
Auto	350
Prof Exp	540
Cont Ed	400

Port Lavaca, FPC, and Bruce Goodlock

Salary	1,375 (11 weeks/year)
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Mileage as needed  
Port Lavaca, Six Mile, and Bruce Goodlock  
Preaches two Sundays a month, \$150 for each worship service

Palacios, FPC, and Colleen Claybourn  
Salary 7,200

Corpus Christi, Jackson Woods, and Kris Bair  
Salary 20,000  
½ SECA 1,530  
Continuing Ed 1,000  
Professional Exp 500

**Other contracts, numbers rounded**

Harlingen, Treasure Hills, and Bill Reagan  
Continuing contract beginning 2/1/2024  
Salary \$54,000

Austin, FPC, and Sarah Dixon, stated supply  
Salary 17,874  
Housing 29,394  
½ SECA 3,616  
PPO Employer Plan 6,477  
Auto 350  
Continuing Education 1,200

Copperas Cove, FPC, and Naomi Ingram  
Salary 24,750  
Housing 23,000  
Cont Ed 1,000

Luling, FPC, and Monica Smith  
Salary 18,125  
Contributions 18,360  
Other 1,000  
Auto 300  
Cont Ed/Bks 700

Lockhart, FPC, and Cameron Allen  
January through April 2024: first and third Sundays  
\$200 per worship service  
\$50 to moderate the session; mileage as needed  
Georgetown, FPC, and Calvin Reynolds, interim  
Salary and housing 90,000

BOP	11,626, post-retirement dues
½ SECA	6,885
Professional Exp	3,000

El Campo, FPC, and Jim Dement, interim

Salary	60,000
Housing	30,000
½ SECA	6,885
One-time relocation allowance	2,000

San Antonio, University, and David Meriwether

Salary	40,000
Housing	34,512
BOP	9,001 post-retirement dues
½ SECA	5,739
Auto	4,435
Continuing Ed/Books	2,000
Professional Exp	4,000

San Antonio, Madison Square, and Gin Courtney, stated supply associate

Salary	48,410
Housing	19,055
BOP	26,311
Continuing Ed	2,000
Professional Exp	2,000

San Antonio, Madison Square, and Peter Haas, interim

Salary	55,725
Housing	27,725
BOP	33,326
½ SECA	6,537
Continuing Ed	2,000
Professional Exp	2,000

**Terms of Call, numbers rounded**

Austin, Taiwanese, and Man-Jung (Abraham) Tsai

Salary	72,500
½ SECA	5,546
Professional Exp	4,500

Round Rock, Round Rock, and Emily Beghin

Salary	34,000
Housing	48,000
½ SECA	6,270

BOP	31,160
Professional Exp	2,000
Continuing Education	2,000

Austin, Covenant, and Thomas Daniel

Salary	130,950
Housing	48,000
403(b)	23,000
Other	3,050
½ SECA	13,426
BOP	56,500
Professional Exp	7,000
Continuing Education	2,000

Austin, Covenant, and Jill Williams

Salary	62,500
Housing	37,000
403(b)	15,000
½ SECA	8,759
BOP	44,655
Professional Exp	3,000
Continuing Education	3,000

Canyon Lake, Canyon Lake, and Chad Lawson

Salary	24,415
Housing	33,000
½ SECA	4392
BOP	22,392
Auto	1,650
Continuing Education	1,500
Other	980

Corpus Christi, Island, and Ken Ritchie

Salary	33,000
Housing	44,000
BOP	30,225
½ SECA	5,929
Auto	2,000
Continuing Education	2,000
Other	6,000

Weslaco, FPC, and David McCann

Salary	20,618
Housing	35,990

EOC	4,236
BOP	23,106
½ SECA	2,251
Professional Exp	5,665

Lampasas, FPC, and Kevin Jones

Salary	24,650
Housing	21,600
BOP	18,038
½ SECA	3,538
Auto	1,200
Continuing Ed/Books	750
Professional	1,000

Boerne, St. Mark, and Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson

Salary	62,130
Housing	22,880
BOP	33,154
½ SECA	6,503
Auto	1,500
Continuing Education	1,500
Professional	2,000
Other	1,174

Wimberley, Wimberley, and Clint Regen

Salary	55,000
Housing	34,680
EOC	350
BOP	35,112
½ SECA	6,887
Auto	1,800
Continuing Ed	2,900
Professional	1,200
Other	3,050

Austin, Shepherd of the Hills, and Leon Bloder

Salary	51,688
Housing	66,131
BOP	45,949
½ SECA	9,760
Other	6,450
Professional Exp	15,900

A video featuring Solar Under the Sun was shown.

### Solar Under the Sun, Carlos Baladez

Solar Under the Sun isn't just about bringing light to the poor; the greater vision is connecting people who don't know each other to be partners. Pray for Solar Under the Sun. A display is available at this meeting, where you can sign up for its newsletter. Sign up for Solar Under the Sun School. Invest financially. Believe.

At 6:21 p.m. Moderator Dittman declared the meeting recessed until Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. She ended this part of the meeting in prayer.

### Saturday, March 2, 2024

Moderator Sheri Dittman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with worship.

Mission Presbytery worship:

- Preacher: Sallie Watson
- Communion: Sallie Watson and John Roberts
- Offering: John Knox Ranch camp scholarships. \$1,500 was collected.

After worship, the presbytery enjoyed a short break.

### Conversations by roles, Caitlin Supcoff and Erica Knisley

What is a current vocational challenge specific to your role?

Fill in the blank: I would feel encouraged/supported by:

In what ways would you like to collaborate with your colleagues?

What do you have to share with others?

What would you like to learn from others?

Feedback from conversations:

#### Clerks of Session:

- Everyone does not want to be a clerk of session. Hard to recruit?
- They asked general questions about their work and connected with each other. It was good to see how others do their jobs.

#### Ruling Elders:

- Ruling elders have vocational challenges, often working full-time jobs.
- Only the people on session want to do the work; older members cannot physically do it; they have done it in the past.
- Ruling elders experience burnout.
- Too many responsibilities fall on the same people, esp in smaller churches. They'd like encouragement and support, working together with other churches.
- Leasing space in church buildings—how to write contracts.
- Attracting and keeping youth is a challenge, as are connections post-covid.
- They'd like to collaborate with other churches
- Food insecurity and food pantries are a common thread.

- A youth elder made the following comment: A lot of the same people do the same things for years on end. How do we get youth to church? Let's gather outside of church meetings.

#### Commissioned Pastors:

- There is a sense of isolation
- Challenges: Many have secular jobs, technology, time, priorities, resources for worship,
- They'd like to see another CP gathering at a presbytery meeting, like at the June 2023 meeting. Do it every time
- They encouraged to be active in regions

#### Teaching Elders, at large/validated:

- How do we fit in? How do we connect? We could form groups to meet the needs of those not in parish ministry. We would like to collaborate with presbytery.

#### Teaching Elders, mid-size congregations:

- They mostly told stories
- Challenges: navigating transitions of all kinds—pastoral, sharing the campus with other groups, staffing, coming out of Covid.
- They appreciate congregational leaders who take ownership.

#### Teaching Elders, small congregations:

- A challenge is building maintenance in an old church building. We could get church grants, but who will do the work?
- Youth don't stay.
- New leadership is difficult because of small numbers.

#### Presbyterian Women, Nikki Yarnall

Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering is at Mo-Ranch on March 15-17, 2024. Registration information is in the packet. The Hill Country Cluster is the host, and Jeannie Stanley will be the keynoter.

#### Youth Connection Task Force, Caitlin Supcoff

There were 170 participants at Mid-Winters in January at Mo-Ranch.

We would like to find ways for churches to partner together for their youth activities in their regions.

YCTF is reconfiguring, and Caitlin encouraged youth to join the leadership team.

Two Better Together Grants: A sexuality retreat in the fall at JKR; and a confirmation retreat in the spring at JKR.

The presbytery-wide youth service project is on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Super Bowl Smack Down: A new winner! FPC, Brownsville!! This is decided on a per capita basis. The numbers grow every year.

### John Knox Ranch, Henry Owen

Summer Camp Registration is Live! We all need time outside, building relationships in a loving community. We plan an amazing summer of outdoor adventures, fresh air, faith development, and friendships. All the info is at [johnknoxranch.org](http://johnknoxranch.org). We encourage folks to register early as we expect most sessions to be at capacity this summer.

736 campers are already registered for this summer, which is 77% full.

Designated Scholarship Funding for Campers. Financial challenges should never be why a kid misses a summer camp experience. Please encourage people to apply for scholarships if needed.

NEW Cabins! We are building three new small cottages near the windmill across from the office. Each will have a queen bed, bunk bed, kitchen, and bathroom. During summer, they will house our volunteer chaplains and be used as rentals during retreat season. They will be ready by summer 2024!

NEW Summer Program: Adventure Camp. Campers will camp out each night at JKR, sleeping in hammocks and simple covered shelters. Our classic resident camp program will be the foundation of the experience while adding camping experiences like outdoor cooking, hiking, fire building, etc. For rising 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders.

<https://johnknoxranch.org/adventurecamp>

Weekend Family Camps! Camp fun for the whole family! Please help us promote our upcoming family camp dates: March 15-17 and August 23-25. Details on our website.

Summer Staff. It is time to recruit an amazing group of young leaders to serve the camp ministry this summer. We need Junior Counselors (unpaid, rising juniors and seniors), counselors (paid, graduating seniors and college age), and upper leadership staff. All the info is on the JKR website. Please forward it to a young person/college-age adult who you know would be excellent.

Conservation Easement Update. The funding for our conservation easement to preserve the land is almost complete. All the funding partners are currently reviewing the governing document. Once complete, the document will be reviewed by a Mission Presbytery team with representation from the JKR Committee, Trustees, and Fiscal Oversight. Once all reviews are complete, we will close, and the easement will be in place, thereby protecting the natural land of JKR for generations and, at the same time, allowing us to create an endowment for camp ministry in Mission Presbytery at John Knox Ranch. A lumpsum endowment will be made primarily for scholarships.

### Fiscal Oversight, Sandy Nicholson

Sandy stressed that Mission Presbytery depends upon giving from the congregations. She asked churches to consider their giving. She reminded the presbytery that Per Capita goes directly to the PC(USA); we do not keep any of that. We count on giving from churches to help with our work.

### General Council, Fred Gamble



**Fred made a motion to add Ruling Elder Steve Myers, Westlake Hills, Austin, to the Administrative Commission for the New Life Faith Community, McAllen, which Ezequiel Herrera serves. The motion was approved.**

**Fred made a motion on behalf of the Committee on Representation and Participation to nominate:**

- **Rev. Leon Bloder to the Commission on Ministry, class of 2026;**
- **Emily McAllister to co-chair the Youth Connection Task Force;**
- **Mort McPhail RE from St. Mark, Boerne, to serve on the Committee on Preparation (CPM), class of 2027.**

**The motion was approved.**

#### Rio Grande Valley Evangelist, Ezequiel Herrera

Ezequiel expressed appreciation for the Administrative Commission for this ministry. Because the presbytery raised \$30,000, they could apply for a matching grant from the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities. This year's goal is \$50,000 by October 2024. They already have a commitment from WLPC (8,000) and someone from New Life Faith Community (5,000).

New Life Faith Community partners with St. Mark, Boerne; Rev. Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson is pastor. St. Mark will be in the RGV during spring break. The two congregations have had and will have a pulpit exchange. Ann Marie and Ezequiel signed a covenant in front of the presbytery.

Ezequiel showed a video about the New Life Faith Community. Sheri prayed for this partnership between these two congregations.

After his report, a video featuring the New Life Faith Community and St. Mark, Boerne, was shown.

#### Connect Committee, Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson, Erica Knisely

Connect's priority has been the new Administrative Commission for Church Development and Vitality.

Erica lifted up information about the Better Together Grants. Information about applying was in the packet. To apply, two Mission Presbytery congregations must collaborate on new initiatives.

A video from St. Andrew's, Austin, was shown.

#### Learn Committee, Alan Constant

Linda Bourianoff and Alan Constant are the committee's co-chairs.

They are developing a webpage. Ruler Elder training information will be one of the first things uploaded to the site. New pastor gatherings continue.

The committee members will continue contributing an article to the monthly Mission Presbytery e-newsletter. The committee plans to conduct two pre-presbytery events at the June meeting. One of these workshops will be Ruling Elder training. We will survey congregations to determine their needs concerning educators and other officers. The survey results will guide the committee's activities around broad themes, including providing resources and information, education and training, and spiritual formation.

A video featuring FPC, Brownsville, was shown.

### Serve, Gin Courtney

The Serve Committee is excited about the opportunities to serve Mission Presbytery this year! We wish to celebrate the ways you already are serving, encourage every member of Mission Presbytery to serve their neighbors, provide opportunities to share best practices for mission work with other churches, and create opportunities for commissioners to serve at the October meeting in Brownsville.

Last year we gleaned enormous amounts of information through the survey we partnered with the Connect and Learn Committees to distribute. We learned that we care about many issues facing our communities, but the one that received the most energy and effort is food insecurity. So many churches have food pantries. So many churches hold food drives. We just completed the Souper Bowl of Caring competition, and so many of you volunteer at local food banks or other non-profits. The Serve Committee wants to help you be more effective and efficient in your efforts, so we have decided to focus our efforts in 2024 on fighting food insecurity.

On Tuesday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m., Serve will host a symposium on Zoom to discuss what Mission Presbytery is doing and share ideas with one another. If you have an on-site food pantry or are involved in food insecurity in another way, we highly encourage you to find a church representative to participate in our discussion.

At the June Presbytery meeting, we will have a workshop before the meeting on Friday and invite local food insecurity specialists to help us with our efforts. We'll share names and contact information for regional non-profits that need Presbyterian volunteers and serve our neighbors as if we're serving Christ himself.

The floor was opened for congregations to share their good news, which they did enthusiastically.

**There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting with prayer at noon, which John Roberts did.**

Minutes submitted by the Stated Clerk, Laurie Palmer.

