

MISSION PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING
JUNE 16-17, 2023
SAN PEDRO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Introduction

The meeting of Mission Presbytery was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at San Pedro Presbyterian Church by Moderator Fred Gamble. He declared a quorum and asked Rev. David McCann to open the meeting with prayer.

Fred asked for a motion to approve the docket for today's meeting. It was so moved and seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion passed.

Fred asked first-time Commissioners to rise and introduce themselves and which churches they represent.

There were no corresponding members present.

Fred introduced Rev. Bryan Stamper, Pastor of San Pedro Presbyterian Church, the host church. He welcomed the presbytery.

Business

Fred called upon the Stated Clerk, Rev. Laurie Palmer, to give her a report.

Laurie brought two motions for the presbytery.

1. A motion to approve excused absences for the presbytery meeting. There was a second. The motion passed.
2. A motion to approve the request of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Pleasanton for a waiver on limitation of session terms. (G-2.0404) There was a second. The motion passed.

This is the communication from FPC, Pleasanton:

"The session of First Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton is making a request to Mission Presbytery to allow it to waive the limitation on terms of service of the current members of the Session and new Session members that might be elected to fill positions on the Session that are unfilled due to those elders moving out of the area and moving their membership, until such time as the church is able to have a large enough pool of congregants to fulfill the Book of Order's requirements (G-2.0404) for the session to have three-year terms (six if reelected) with a year off, before returning to service.

Rationale:

The current membership of the church is 22, and attendance at the worship services

this year has averaged eight to ten. There are currently four members on the session, who each has served at least six years already. We have had a new couple join the church by transfer from a Presbyterian church in San Antonio that closed, where they were active in the life of that church. We think one might serve as an elder, if elected.”

The Stated Clerk continued her report.

For information: The 2023 Terms of Calls and Contracts spreadsheet is in the packet for the Commission on Ministry (COM) report. If anyone has corrections to the spreadsheet, please email the Stated Clerk. This concluded the Stated Clerk’s report.

Learn Committee, Rev. Rachel Watson

New Pastor Orientation is being resurrected. The first event will happen November 6-7, 2023, at John Knox Ranch. Pastors who’ve transferred in since 2020 are encouraged to participate. A trip to the Rio Grande Valley and APTS are also in the works.

Rachel let the presbytery know that Christian Formation resources will be available from the Learn Committee.

Serve Committee, Rev. Gin Courtney

Gin spoke about the service projects that took place before today’s meeting, where we lived out Matthew 25 together.

An application is available for grants, formerly the Mission Outreach and Justice Committee grants. A task force has been formed to work with applicants. The application form will be available soon. More information:

Calling for Applications: Mission Presbytery SERVE Grants for Mission Projects!

We are thrilled to announce the opening of applications for our 2023 Mission Presbytery SERVE Grants initiative! This is an incredible opportunity for congregations and partnering organizations to secure funding for missional projects that have the potential to make a lasting impact in our region and beyond.

Because we believe that Christ calls the church to minister to those who are poor, hungry, despairing, oppressed, or suffering from injustice, and because we affirm that sharing in mission work with others is an appropriate witness to God’s grace and that the Spirit summons Christians to be involved in mission, not only with financial resources but also with love, mercy, compassion, and justice, these grant monies are aimed at equipping programs or projects worthy of the participation and support of our member congregations and their partners.

The Mission Presbytery SERVE Grants Initiative seeks to fund projects across a broad range of needs, including but not limited to:

- Housing and Food Insecurity
- Camp Ministry
- Sustainability and Environmental
- Mental Health Ministry
- Education and Life-Skills Development

- Social Justice and Equality
- Arts and Culture

If your project falls within the broad range of mission and aligns with the values of Mission Presbytery, we invite you to apply. The grants will be awarded based on various criteria, including the potential impact, feasibility, sustainability, and alignment with our mission and values.

To apply, please visit our website at <https://www.mission-presbytery.org/form-applications-reference> and download and complete the application form. Please email your application form to Rev. Chad Lawson at pastor@canyonlakepres.org

The application deadline is August 1, 2023, so be sure to submit your proposal before then. Our dedicated task force will review all applications carefully this summer and select the most promising projects to be submitted to General Council for final approval. Awards will be announced at the October Presbytery Meeting.

If you have any questions or need further information about the Mission Presbytery SERVE Grants program or the application process, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Chad Lawson or Caly Fernandez (RE) at calyflower2020@yahoo.com

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), Rev. Becca Longino

Becca brought three motions:

1. Becca made a motion on behalf of CPM to enroll Elizabeth (Libby) Janes, FPC, Austin, as an Inquirer. She is enrolled at APTS. The motion passed.
2. Becca made a motion on behalf of CPM to remove Sonja Miller, Central, Austin, from the roll of candidates at her request. The motion passed.
3. Becca made a motion to approve an alternative means/exegesis exam for Rick Carlson, Central, Austin. The report is in the packet. She invited Revs. Malcolm McQueen and David Meriwether give the rationale.

Alternate Means Examination Proposal

Re: Biblical Exegesis Examination for Rick Carlson

Pertinent Book of Order citations

G-2.0607d:

“...Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a minister of the Word and Sacrament shall include: ...

d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examinations approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.”

G-2.0610:

“When a presbytery concludes that there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodation to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by a three-fourths vote some alternate means by

which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.”

Proposal for Alternate Means Examination in Biblical Exegesis

To satisfy the requirements of competence in biblical exegesis, the candidate shall do the following:

1. Choose three passages from the Revised Common Lectionary for the period between Pentecost and the Reign of Christ Sunday (Trinity Sunday and Propers 5-28, inclusive). One passage shall be from the Old Testament, one from the Gospels, and one from the Epistles.
2. Prepare and submit a written exegesis/interpretation paper for each chosen passage. The paper shall do at least the following:
 - a. Identify and discuss any important words or phrases having significant impact on the interpretation, showing awareness of Greek or Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and/or syntax, as needed.
 - b. Identify and discuss the context of the passage, including (1) the scriptural setting of the passage, both its immediate context and its place in the book or epistle; and (2) the historical or social context out of which the passage arises.
 - c. Identify and discuss other passages elsewhere in scripture whose interpretation is significant for interpreting the chosen passage (e.g.: Acts 2 and Genesis 11, the Pentecost and Tower of Babel narratives).
 - d. Identify and discuss important theological themes and ideas arising from Christian and Reformed theology as they bear on the interpretation of the chosen passage (e.g.: Romans 8:28-39 and the Doctrine of Election).
 - e. Write a statement or statements distilling key themes and ideas from the passage, consistent with the exegesis in items a-d above, on which the sermon will be based.
3. Prepare and submit a written sermon on each chosen passage for preaching in the candidate's ministry setting; the sermon shall be consistent with the exegesis/interpretation arrived at in the paper.

Assessment of Papers and Sermons

Exegetical papers and sermons will be submitted to the Alternate Means Examination Team on the following schedule:

Paper and sermon #1: 7 July 2023

Paper and sermon #2: 28 July 2023

Paper and sermon #3: 25 August 2023

Two members of the Alternate Means Exam writing team and two other members of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, shall form an evaluation team to read and assess the candidate's overall performance. At least two of the three sermons and two of the three papers must be deemed passing to constitute an overall pass. In the event that the evaluation team is evenly split regarding the satisfaction of the examination requirements, the matter shall be referred to a fifth reader of the CPM's choice. The evaluation team shall certify to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry when the candidate has passed the exam.

Rationale Rick Carlson, the candidate concerning whom this proposal is being made, graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary on 24 May 2015, with a Master of Divinity

degree. He successfully completed the seminary's degree requirements for competence in both Hebrew and Greek and otherwise performed satisfactorily in all other coursework. Since his graduation, Rick has worked for the seminary in the accounting office. Rick began providing occasional supply preaching in September 2016 and was commissioned by the Committee on Ministry to serve and preach weekly at the Goliad Presbyterian Church in August 2019. Rick has taken and successfully completed four of the five standard ordination exams offered through the Office of Examination Services of the PC(USA) (Theology, Worship and Sacraments, Polity, and Bible Content). However, he has not yet satisfied the requirement to pass the Biblical Exegesis exam, despite having taken the exam eight times. Conversations with Rick have led the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to think that Rick is putting increasing pressure on himself with each new failure, trying to overcompensate for errors identified by exam readers in the previous exams and thus creating new errors and inadequacies each time he approaches the text.

The committee believes that Rick is a capable servant of God and, except in this area, has demonstrated his readiness for ministry. It believes that a less pressurized, more normative setting for exegetical preparation—one aimed at proclamation in his local congregation—will enable Rick to demonstrate readiness in this last area, as well. We, therefore, commend this alternate means examination proposal to the presbytery for adoption.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. This concluded CPM's report.

RE Gordon Ringler, Commission on Ministry Report.

On behalf of the Commission on Ministry, Gordon presented Alexis Templeton, a Certified Ruling Elder, for examination to serve First Presbyterian Church, Mission, as a Commissioned Pastor.

Alexis was examined by COM's examinations team, and COM sustained her exam. The Book of Order requires (G-2.1002) that we, the Presbytery, examine her in the areas of personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by the presbytery. Gordon asked the first question—How does corporate prayer contribute to the life of the faith community?

Fred opened the floor for questions.

The question was called. The presbytery voted to cease the examination.

Fred asked Gordon for a motion from COM. Gordon moved that Alexis Templeton's examination be sustained and that she be commissioned to serve First Presbyterian Church, Mission. The motion passed.

Fred asked if anyone from FPC, Mission was present, then offered a prayer for Alexis Templeton and FPC, Mission.

Gordon continued his report. Because things are going so well at First Presbyterian Church, Del Rio, COM moves that Maria Vargas, Stated Supply at First Presbyterian Church, Del Rio, be installed as pastor there. Fred told the presbytery that this motion requires a 2/3 majority vote. He asked if there was any discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gordon presented three retiring pastors.

Rev. Dr. David Johnson was not at the meeting. His vitae was in the addendum packet.

Rev. Moises Flores was not present at the meeting.

Rev. Dan Fultz: Rev. Jim Rigby spoke on Dan's behalf, then Dan addressed the presbytery.

The Moderator prayed for all three retirees to end the COM report.

At 4:55 p.m., the Moderator recessed the presbytery meeting until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

Moderator Fred Gamble called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. Mission Presbytery moved into a time of worship.

Revs. Bryan Stamper and Paul Gaedke co-preached the sermon, and they officiated the Lord's Supper. The offering went to the Thrive Youth Center in San Antonio, Texas. The offering total at the meeting was \$1771.76.

The presbytery took a short break after worship.

The Moderator called the meeting back to order and thanked all the worship leaders.

Staff Reports

Fred called Rev. Monica Smith forward to give a report as the just-finished Temporary Presbyter. Fred gave her gifts on behalf of the presbytery.

Fred called Rev. Sallie Watson forward to give her report. She finished her sabbatical on May 31, 2023, and was back in the office beginning June 1, 2023. She thanked all who supported the work of Mission Presbytery while she was away. Fred gave her gifts on behalf of the presbytery.

Rev. Ezequiel Herrera, Rio Grande Valley Evangelist

Ezequiel caught the presbytery up with the thriving ministry of the New Life Community. It celebrated its one-year anniversary in March.

Business

The Connect, Learn, and Serve Committees were represented by Revs. Patrick Dennis, Erica Knisely, and Rachel Watson. The presbytery took time to discern and fill out a survey these new committees brought.

General Council Report: Rev. Nancy McCranie

For Information

General Council approved the following dates for the 2024 presbytery meetings:

March 1-2, 2024, at Grace Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi

June 14-15, 2024, at Hope Presbyterian Church, Austin

October 18-19, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church, Brownsville

On behalf of Mission Presbytery General Council dissolved the Administrative Commission which was working with Betania Presbyterian Church, McAllen, at its request.

For Action by Mission Presbytery

University Presbyterian Church, Austin, sent an overture for General Council to place on the Mission Presbytery meeting docket. The motion is to send the overture to General Assembly for consideration at the 2024 General Assembly meeting.

Rev. Matt Gaventa, pastor of UPC, Austin, spoke to the overture. After discussion, the motion passed.

The overture:

PROPOSED OVERTURE TO THE 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2024) as commended by the Session of University Presbyterian Church, April 19, 2023
On Amending the Book of Order to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Among the Categories Against Which This Church Does Not Discriminate

Recommendation

Mission Presbytery overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

(Text to be added is [in brackets and italics].)

1. Shall F-1.0403 be amended as follows:

“The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, [gender identity, sexual orientation,] disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.”

2. Shall G-2.0104b be amended as follows:

“b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered

ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003) [and in the principles of participation, representation and non-discrimination found in F-1.0403]. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”

Rationale

The 223rd General Assembly approved the following resolution, “On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church”:

1. Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LBGTQIA+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world.
2. The assembly celebrates that over the years, LBGTQIA+ people have faithfully, lovingly, and courageously served in every kind of service to which Christian disciples are called— notwithstanding the church’s efforts to exclude them from particular types of service.
3. The assembly laments the ways that the policies and actions of the PC(USA) have caused gifted, faithful, LBGTQIA+ Christians to leave the Presbyterian church so that they could find a more welcoming place to serve, as they have been gifted and called by the Spirit.
4. At the same time, the assembly gives thanks for the LBGTQIA+ pioneers of the faith who have persisted in relationship with the Presbyterian church, at great personal cost and sacrifice, together with the whole of the LBGTQIA+ community, moving the church toward a more generous, loving, and just understanding of God’s grace.
5. The assembly also gives thanks for those who continue to seek deeper understanding, and more authentic welcome, even amid discomfort or uncertainty about how best to show hospitality, in the spirit of continuing Reformation.
6. Today, openly LBGTQIA+ people are leading churches, preaching the gospel, serving those in need, and otherwise using their gifts for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
7. With an eye toward the future, the assembly affirms God’s presence and call in the lives of all God’s people and commits to seeking justice, equality, and inclusion for all in church and society.
8. The assembly calls on the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency (through its Office of Public Witness), and all who represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to actively work for the protection of human and civil rights, both in the United States and around the world, especially the rights of marginalized and oppressed groups, including people facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
9. The assembly calls upon mission co-workers and ecumenical representatives to advocate for justice and equality for all God’s people in ways appropriate to their

cultural and ecclesiastical context.

10. The assembly encourages all congregations and councils of the PCUSA continually to seek to expand their welcome so that all might know the Good News of Jesus Christ and encourages all other communions to do the same.

Even as the General Assembly called on the church to lament the ways in which PC(USA) policies have caused prior harm to LBGTQIA+ people, categories of sexual orientation and gender identity nonetheless remain omitted from the list of protected classes against which the church will not tolerate discrimination.

Even as the General Assembly called on the church Stated Clerk and other representatives of the PC(USA) to work for the general protection of the rights of LBGTQIA+ people, the Spirit has called the church into a moment in which such discrimination has taken on increasingly vivid form in our laws and in our society.

Therefore it is incumbent upon the PC(USA) in this moment to bear cohesive, unified witness to the fully-inclusive nature of God's creation. As the activity of any one council represents the activity of the whole church, it is incumbent upon the whole to make a determinative standard for full inclusion in the elemental language of its constitutional foundations. While we affirm and value the freedom of local councils to examine candidates for ordination, we also recognize that such freedom exists within historic limits, and that so-called "local option" should not be construed to allow for discriminatory practice in one corner of the church which necessarily infringes on the inclusive witness of the whole church.

Furthermore, while we affirm and value the full inclusion of diverse theological convictions, we also recognize that sexual orientation and gender identity are matters of core identity, akin to other identity categories already present in F-1.0403, and that people of diverse theological convictions may nonetheless affirm their commitment to nondiscriminatory practice.

Finally, we pray with thanksgiving for the work of the Spirit in this time and place, and for the possibility that by our hands the Spirit might transform us into a church where all are truly welcome and valued.

Nancy brought a second motion to approve the formation of an Administrative Commission to walk with First Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, as it transfers to ECO.

This is the body of the letter sent to Sallie Watson and Laurie Palmer, which will serve as the church's rationale:

June 9, 2023 This letter is to inform you that we believe the Lord is calling First Presbyterian Church Yorktown to seek dismissal from PCUSA. We feel that we are being called to align FPCY with ECO, (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians). After many hours of prayerful study and reflection, we acknowledge that the heart of FPCY is more aligned not only with ECO's mission, but its Biblical interpretations. We believe that FPCY's, and PCUSA's interpretation and adherence to the "Authority of Scripture" no longer align. FPCY and PCUSA have significant differences in Biblical interpretations.

Serving Him, The Session of First Presbyterian Church Yorktown

Fred asked if there was any discussion. He called for the vote, and the motion passed.

Connect Committee, Rev. John Roberts

John gave checks out to the recipients of the Better Together Grants:

Austin area churches for Austin Mega Youth Gatherings

San Antonio and Hill Country churches for SA and HC youth

Central and Covenant churches, Austin, for a homelessness partnership

Shepherd of the Hills, Faith, and Presbyterian Children's Homes and

Services, all in Austin, for a Book Buddy Project

Gethsemane, San Benito and Second, Harlingen for spiritual formation in the lower Rio Grande Valley

St. Andrew, San Antonio and Guatemala Partnership for solar power in Guatemalan communities

Primera, Brownsville, and Rio Grande Valley churches for Young Christian Latina Leaders

Youth Connection Task Force, Rev. Ellen Hensle

"Youth at Presbytery" happened at this meeting. Youth participated in the meeting and in worship. They spent the night at San Pedro PC, SA.

In May of 2023, the Youth Connection Task Force met twice, once in person at John Knox Ranch and once over Zoom, to welcome new members and set goals for the year ahead. Much has changed in our individual congregations and in our presbytery in the last few years, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic began. We have also moved from a committee of the presbytery to a task force. As we live into our new structure and all the changes we see around us, we want to be sure that we are meeting the spiritual, emotional and social needs of youth, as well as giving them the opportunity to be true leaders within Mission Presbytery.

Takeaways from our visioning conversation:

- We all have reduced capacity post-pandemic. Youth, parents, church and camp staff, and volunteer leaders are all feeling worn out from the stress of the past few years. We may not be able to gather as frequently or do as much as we used to. We offer grace to ourselves and others and balance flexibility with accountability.
- Sustainability is key. No ministry operates well on a hero model, with one person doing all the work and all the cheerleading. Opportunities to lead are opportunities to grow and should be shared equitably.
- After the COVID pandemic and with the epidemic of gun violence in our nation, safety is a top priority for youth and families – not only physical safety, but also emotional and spiritual safety. We are confident we provide safe spaces, but we need to be intentional in communicating that to youth and parents.

Goals and action items:

- Youth leaders in the Austin and San Antonio/Hill Country areas have both applied for Better Together grants to hold regular regional gatherings, which will help youth get to know and feel connected to one another. In a time when youth are busier than ever and less able to travel for Presbytery-wide planning

meetings, we would like to use regional gatherings as a way for youth to be involved in planning events such as Main Event and Midwinters.

- If regional gatherings are going to replace a centralized Presbytery Youth Leadership Team (formerly the Midwinter Planning Team), we need to ensure that all areas within the presbytery are represented. The members of the Youth Connection Task Force plan to reach out to and build relationships with potential partners in the other areas of our presbytery, especially the Rio Grande Valley and the coast. We hope to encourage other areas within the presbytery to host regional youth gatherings.

- We will not host a Presbytery Youth Leadership Team meeting in August. Instead, we will find specific ways for youth to be involved in the planning and leadership of Main Event, our annual September gathering at John Knox Ranch. At Main Event, we will offer youth an opportunity to give input for Midwinters, our annual January conferences at Mo-Ranch. We hope to encourage regional youth leadership in planning and executing Midwinters. We are working on ways to honor the commitment of the three youth who did sign up to be on the Presbytery Youth Leadership Team this year.

- We are prepared to cover Caitlin Supcoff's maternity leave.

Upcoming Events:

- September 22-24, 2023 – Main Event for Youth at John Knox Ranch, on the theme “Called by Name.” Registration information coming soon.
- October 9-11, 2023 – Retreat for Youth Leaders at John Knox Ranch
- January 12-14 and 19-21, 2024 – Midwinter Youth Conferences at Mo-Ranch, featuring keynotes by Natarsha Sanders

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Rev. Sarah Allen

Sarah announced that she oversees the Doctor of Ministry program, and she welcomes conversation with pastors who are interested in this course of study.

Sarah and Erica Knisely met with Certified Ruling Elders (CRE) and Commissioned Pastors (CP) Friday morning, June 16, 2023. APTS offers a course of study to educate hopeful CREs and CPs as they respond to God's call.

John Knox Ranch, RE Meredith Weatherby and JKR Intern Katherine Juhl

Summer Camp has started! We all need time outside, building relationships in a loving community. We are excited for an amazing summer of outdoor adventures, fresh air, faith development, and friendships.

Weekend Family Camps! Camp fun for the whole family! Please help us promote our upcoming family camp dates: August 25-27. Details on our website.

New Roof! The Showerhouse got a new pitched metal roof that matches our other facilities and enables us to collect rainwater for flushing toilets. A big thank you to all the donors who supported this project including Hope Pres Austin and First Pres Cuero.

Now Booking Church Retreats for the Fall! Contact us about hosting your church retreat this Fall/Winter. We want all churches in Mission Presbytery to have a retreat at JKR and have specific scholarship funds to help make it affordable if that is a barrier for your church.

Conservation Easement Update.

This project was approved by General Council and Presbytery in 2020 and since then we have made significant progress! A conservation easement will protect the ranch from being subdivided or developed, forever, through the sale of development rights on a portion of the property. The funds generated from the sale of development rights will be used to benefit camp ministry in Mission Presbytery including setting up an endowment for John Knox Ranch. Together with our land trust partner, Hill Country Conservancy, we have received funding commitments from Hays County Conservation Bond, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Hershey Foundation. The final hurdle is to raise the remaining \$447,000 to secure the easement.

Katherine Juhl spoke of her experience growing up going to JKR summer camp and how she eventually became a camp counselor. She is an intern at the camp this year.

927 campers are enjoying JKR this summer! 25% receive scholarships.

Puentes de Cristo and Borderlands Ministry report, Rev. Dave Dierksen

Aurora Valley Colonia: Puentes de Cristo and Texas A&M University met with Precinct 1 Commissioner to discuss the revitalization of the Aurora Valley Colonia Park. Commissioner Fuentes has agreed to install solar lighting, repair the perimeter fence, install a security tower, and install walking trails. Puentes de Cristo will coordinate meetings with the Colonia residents and the Sheriff's Department to address the ongoing vandalism at the park.

Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force: Puentes de Cristo has been meeting with city and county leaders weekly to address poverty in Hidalgo County. Caly Fernandez is serving on two committees, Services to Residents and Transportation. There are 12 subcommittees, and they will report to the public in a forum at South Texas College on July 13th . The mission statement of the task force is: "To provide a strong safety net for our residents most in need and to move a percentage of our low-income residents out of poverty." Judge Cortez reported that 40% of the population in Hidalgo County lives in poverty. Hidalgo County has a population of one million residents.

Presbyterian Border Ministry Meeting:

1. Caly attended a planning meeting that was held at Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Mexico with the Presbyterian Borderlands Ministry (PBM) partners, June 7th – 9th.

2. Centro Jubileo de Chiapas, Huixtla, Mexico under the leadership of Rev. Edman López is a new PBM partner.

3. Café Justo from our partnership in Chiapas is a fair trade plus coffee

cooperative, established with the goal of creating an alternative to migration for coffee farmers in southern Mexico by selling freshly roasted coffee to individuals, churches, and organizations across the US at a fair and just price is for sale at our table.

Bread for the World Advocacy Summit in Washington DC:

Caly was invited to attend the Bread for the World Advocacy Summit by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, June 12th – 14th to advocate for policies that address hunger and give struggling families in the U.S. and around the world a chance at a healthy and prosperous life.

Latinx Convening group on June 12th

Letters to Congress Advocacy event scheduled for June 25th at First Presbyterian Church – McAllen.

Upcoming Events at Puentes:

1. Food distribution in the Colonias twice a month coordinated with Texas A&M Colonias Program and Border Missions to address food insecurity.
2. Health Fair at Colonia Pueblo de Palmas in Edinburg partnering with Texas A&M Colonias Program and community partners.
3. Baylor School of Social Work Intern will be working with Puentes de Cristo visiting Colonias in Hidalgo County to provide Case Management Services.
4. Day Camp activities for the months of July and August in two Colonias in Donna.

The presbytery engaged in “Minute for Sharing” for people to tell the good news in their congregations.

Moderator Fred Gamble asked for a motion to adjourn, and the motion was made and seconded. Rev. Maria Vargas closed the meeting with prayer at 11:50 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rev. Laurie Palmer, Stated Clerk.

