

**MISSION PRESBYTERY MEETING
OCTOBER 21-22, 2022**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:15 a.m.	Registration opens
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Mark Yaconelli workshop
3:00 p.m.	New Commissioner Training in classroom

Mission Presbytery will convene in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.	Welcome, declare quorum, and opening prayer	
		Moderator Rev. Nancy McCranie
	Approve the docket	
	Introduction of first-time commissioners	
	Introduce and seat Corresponding Members	
	Introduce Mark Yaconelli (Packet 1)	
4:10 p.m.	Welcome from the host church	Rev. Kurt Simon, FPC, Rockport
4:15 p.m.	Committee on Representation and Participation	
		Rev. Walt Lee
4:20 p.m.	Commission on Ministry Report (Packet 2, Report A)	Rev. Monica Smith
5:15 p.m.	Report of the General Assembly Commissioners	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22:

8:15 a.m.	Registration opens
	Continental breakfast and exhibits

Mission Presbytery reconvenes in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	Reconvene the meeting with prayer	Moderator Rev. Nancy McCranie
	Greetings from Rev. Dr. Jose Irizarry, President, APTS	
9:10 a.m.	Mission Presbytery Worship Service	
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Academic Dean, APTS	
	Offering: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Mission Presbytery	
	Preside the Communion Table: Margaret Aymer and Rachel Watson	
	2021 Necrology	
10:10 a.m.	Staff Reports	
	General Presbyter	Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson
	Stated Clerk (Packet 2, Report B)	Rev. Laurie Palmer

10:25 a.m. Break

10:35 a.m. Presbytery Business

A. General Council (Packet 2, Report D)

Dr. RE Carlos Baladez

❖ Mission Forward Report

Members of the Mission Forward Team:

Rev. Gin Courtney, Associate Pastor, Madison Square Presbyterian Church, San Antonio; Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert, Pastor, FPC, Georgetown; RE B. K Gamble, FPC, Kerrville; RE Liz Anzaldua, El Divino Salvador PC, Corpus Christi; RE Bill Wilkerson, FPC, Victoria; RE Lety Martinez, Primera Iglesia-Mexico; staff: Sallie Watson and Laurie Palmer

❖ Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight: 2023 Budget (Packet 2, Report D.1)

- RE Mike Day and Rev. Eric Dittman (Fiscal Oversight)
- Rev. Kevin Jones (Stewardship)

❖ 2023 Minimum Terms of Call (Packet 2, Report D.2)

❖ LGBTQ+ Statement of Inclusivity for Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch (Packet 2, Report D.3)

This is the first reading. Mission Presbytery will not vote on this today but at the March 2023 stated meeting.

B. John Knox Ranch (Packet 2, Report E)

RE Henry Owen, Director

C. Presbyterian Women (Packet 1)

RE Lori Black

D. Disaster Preparedness and Assistance Committee

RE Jen Rektorik

❖ Greetings from Kathy Lee Cornell, Synod of the Sun Director, Partnership for Disaster Response

E. Mission Outreach and Justice Committee

Rev. Doug Daglish
RE Caly Fernandez

11:45 a.m. Installation of RE Fred Gamble, 2023 Moderator for Mission Presbytery

12:00 p.m. Adjourn with prayer

RE Fred Gamble

After today's meeting at 1:00 p.m., you are invited to the installation service for the Rev. Kurt Simon, First Presbyterian Church, Rockport



MISSION PRESBYTERY: **BETTER TOGETHER**

October 5, 2022

Beloved Community of Mission Presbytery,

Our October 20th-21st Presbytery Meeting will be at First Presbyterian Church in Rockport, and we are so grateful to the good folks there for hosting us. The theme of this meeting will be: *Being the Beloved Community in Mission and Service*.

If at all possible, plan to be at this meeting. It is going to be ***so good***.

At our only pre-presbytery workshop on Friday, author, speaker, and storyteller Mark Yaconelli will be with us. If you aren't familiar with Mark, he is one of those rare people who sees into the heart of what matters most, building bridges made of stories to help us find our way to what is possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to listen to and learn from him. Youth leaders will have time with him on Thursday evening at the church. Contact Caitlin Supcoff to tell her you'll be there; youth@missionpby.org

During our presbytery meeting on Friday afternoon, we will hear from the Committee on Ministry (COM), Committee on Representation and Participation (CORP), and from our General Assembly Commissioners about their recent experiences at the 225th General Assembly meeting this summer.

On Saturday, our meeting will begin with worship. The new Dean of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer Oget, will preach. Also on Saturday, we will have the opportunity to meet the new president of APTS, the Rev. Dr. Jose Irizarry. We will hear an important report from our Mission Forward Task Force. With All Saints Day approaching, we'll remember and honor ruling elders, ministers, and deacons we lost in 2021. Finally, we'll install RE Fred Gamble as our 2023 Moderator.

Words cannot express the honor it has been to serve as your Moderator for 2022. In addition to the joy of participating in ordination and installation services, I have met wonderful new friends and reconnected with treasured old friends. Once in a long while, the church is given the opportunity to reorder, reimagine, and reshape itself. It seems that we are in such a moment. This kind of *reformation* is both profound and painful. It asks us to set aside old habits, perspectives, and all the ways we may have pushed one another away. It asks us, in the words of author, Mark Nepo, *to be fierce and tender in our call to love each other until justice and healing are the same thing*. I have watched us move towards this deepened way of being the beloved community and of embodying God's love in the world and it has renewed my hope and buoyed my faith. Recently I learned that the Hebrew word for *blessing* means *more life*. *More life* is what I pray and hope for Mission Presbytery so that we may continue to bring light and life into the world around us.

Let us each pray for one another and the work we share as we prepare to come together in Rockport later this month. I look forward to seeing your beautiful faces!

With love, Nancy Chester McCranie

Mission Presbytery Moderator, 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Hwy 35 N • Rockport, Texas 78382

Telephone: 361-729-6251

Fax: 361-729-6299

Website: www.rockportpresbyterian.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On behalf of the Session and the members of First Presbyterian Church of Rockport, we extend to you a warm welcome to our church and to our beautiful coastal community. We hope that your time here met with a sense of love and kinship that can only be found in the family of Christ.

FPC Rockport has been presented with some significant challenges in the past few years. When hurricane Harvey ripped through Rockport, the church building sustained significant damage from the wind and water. The second story took in a great deal of water resulting in all types of damage. Aside from the physical damage, the church suffered untold traumatic damage as there were very few who weren't displaced (some permanently) or affected by damage that took, sometimes months, to repair. Then, in June of 2021, the Rockport area was hit with a deluge of rain that completely overwhelmed the city's drainage system, flooding the church with several inches of water. This rendered the church building unusable for over 6 months. During this time, the congregation was also dealing with changes in pastoral leadership and, of course, the pandemic which affected us all.

Throughout all these events and challenges, this church never stopped being the Church. Worship continued albeit in a remote setting, committees continued their work, session continued its leadership and guidance, tithing continued supporting the ministry of the church, and most importantly, a deep and abiding faith in the power and presence of the Almighty, kept everyone looking forward with a joyful hope for the future. Much of this was made possible by the steady and abiding prayers and support of our brothers and sisters in the Presbytery.

So, as you wander about the campus of our church, spend time in meetings in the classrooms, and worship together in our sanctuary, let it serve as a reminder and testament to the power of hope in God and the sustaining nurture of a connected church.

It is in this spirit that we welcome you all with a physical or spiritual embrace.

Peace and all good,

Kurt Simon, Pastor

**Mission Presbytery
Commission on Ministry
Report to Presbytery
October 21-22, 2022**

For Information:

General Council approved new Minimum Terms of Call for 2023. They are in the General Council report, on the COM section of the Mission Presbytery website, and have been in the email newsletter.

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

Approved the following Contracts and Terms of Call:

CP Sheri Dittman and FPC, Brownsville; 30 hours/week

Salary	\$30,000
Contract runs through	12/31/2024

TE Naomi Ingram and FPC, Copperas Cove, Stated Supply, 30 hours/week

Salary	\$23,000
Housing	22,000
Cont Ed/Bks	1,000

TE Dana Pope and Northminster, SA; full-time installed

Salary	\$24,000
Housing	30,000
BOP	23,380
½ SECA	4,335
Auto Exp	1,200
Cont Ed/Bks	500
Prof Exp	1,000

TE Jon Watt and Northwood PC, SA; full-time installed

Salary	\$36,639
Housing	23,751
BOP	In full
½ SECA	4,696
Auto Exp	1,000
Prof Exp	2,400
Cont Ed	2,600
Other	2,350

Stan Larson (ELCA) and FPC, Cuero; interim pastor

Salary	\$50,000
Housing	25,000
½ SECA	5,738
Auto	12,000

Cont. Ed	1,800
Professional	1,000

Medical: Medicare Supplemental plan or through ELCA

TE Jack Haberer and FPC, Kerrville; interim pastor, six-month extension

Salary	\$55,000
Employer contribution	5,500
BOP	3,300
½ SECA	4,208
Auto	2,000
Cont Ed/Books	2,000
Professional Exps	1,500

Maria Vargas and FPC, Del Rio; stated supply

Salary	\$50,000
Housing	TBD
BOP	18,500
½ SECA	3,825
Auto	1,500
Cont Ed	1,000

FPC, Beeville and Don Taylor (ELCA), Transitional Pastor

Part-time, 15-20 hours per week

Salary	\$0
Housing	31,200
Per Worship Svc	160
½ SECA	2,386.80
Auto	2,500

Professional Expenses as approved by Session

Hyde Park PC and TE Emily Owen, Stated Supply

Part-time, 20 hours per week

Salary	\$28,800
Professional Exp	360

New Braunfels PC and TE Joan Watson, Interim Pastor, full time

Salary	\$30,000
Housing	48,223
Additional	8,664
BOP	8,760
½ SECA	6,646

FPC, New Braunfels and CP Jose Munoz, part time

Part-time

Salary per week	\$275
Cont Ed	400

The Presbyterian Church of Gonzales and TE Cheryl Homsher, Interim Pastor
Part-time, 30 hours per week

Salary	\$46,000
BOP	5,520
½ SECA	3,519
Auto	3,750
Cont. Ed/Books	1,750
Professional Exp	1,875

Ordination and Installation Commissions Approved and Dismissed

Rachel Diane Watson and University PC, Austin

Sunday, August 7, 2022, at 4:00 PM at UPC, Austin

Rev. Matthew Gaventa, UPC, Austin, to charge the pastor

Rev. Sarah Allen, APTS, to preach

Rev. Nancy McCranie, Moderator, to preside, propound constitutional questions

RE Alan Constant, FPC, Elgin, to lead ordination prayer

RE Debbie Russ, UPC, Austin, to charge the congregation

RE Rita Livingston, Central PC, Austin, to ask congregational questions

Guests of the AC: Rev. Alex Lee-Cornell, Westminster PC, Dallas; Rev. Lauren Suba, St Stephen PC, Houston, TX.

Jonathan Freeman and First Presbyterian Church, Austin

Sunday, July 3, 2022, 4:00 PM, at FPC, Austin

Rev. Elizabeth McLean, FPC, Austin, to charge the congregation

Rev. Nancy McCranie, Moderator, to preside and propound constitutional questions

TE Tina Broadway, Chaplain in Mission Presbytery,

RE Carlos Baladez, Chair, General Council, Holy Trinity & Crestholme PCs, SA

RE Howard Lindemann, FPC, Austin, to ask congregational questions

RE Karen Sprouse

Guests of the AC:

Rev. Jacob Naron, Journey Imperfect Faith Community, Austin, TX; to preach

Rev. Paul Hooker, New Covenant Presbytery, to charge the pastor

Ministerial Changes

Move TE Carolina Trevino to member-at-large, effective July 10, 2022

Move TE Becca Longino to member-at-large, effective September 25, 2022

Transfer Laurie Barker, Executive Presbyter for Pastoral Care and Education in Tres Rios Presbytery. She continues to serve at Junction First and Harper as parish associate.

Examinations

Katy Bedford, for ordination, Heart to Heart Hospice, Austin

Maria Vargas, for ordination, stated supply, Del Rio First

TE Diana Circelli, transfer from Miami Valley Presbytery as honorably retired

TE Rachael McConnell, transfer from Western North Carolina Presbytery, to serve Lago Vista Rolling Hills Community Church

TE Caryn Thurman, transfer from Sierra Blanca Presbytery, member-at-large

TE Cheryl Homsher, transfer from Tres Rios Presbytery, Gonzales Presbyterian, interim

Deaths

David Roach, May 31, 2022

George McDill, June 27, 2022

Van Vanderland, July 26, 2022

Retirements

Dan Fultz, effective January 1, 2023

Paula Sanders, effective July 15, 2022

Charlie Palmer (Treasure Hills, Harlingen) effective January 31, 2023

Katherine (Katy) Bedford, M.Div.
Statement of Faith

I believe in the triune God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. I believe in God as the Creator of the universe. I believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving. God is sovereign in our lives. I place my trust and hope in the Creator even though I will never fully be able to comprehend who God is. God is mysterious and powerful beyond our imagination. We, human beings, were created to be a reflection of God's love and God wants to be in communion with us, yet we continually fall short.

The greatest proof that God wants to be in relationship with us is Jesus. God sent Jesus, God's Son, to live among us and be fully human, fully God. Jesus showed us how to live and is God's gift to the world. Jesus came to bring grace and hope to all so that we may join God in eternal life. The saving grace of Jesus Christ is at the center of the Christian faith.

The Holy Spirit resides in us and around us as God's presence in our lives. The Holy Spirit helps us to be confident in our faith and know that we are not alone. The Spirit guides us, informs us, and is the power of the Trinity that works in our churches, in our communities and in our lives.

The foremost testimony we know about God and Jesus Christ is written in the Bible. The Bible is a humanly scribed, God-inspired revelation to those who choose to follow it. The declaration of the Word is the central part of a Reformed worship service. Scripture can be a powerful source of comfort and strength for those that embrace it.

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was the beginning of the church as we know it. I believe in the importance of the church as the body of Christ. It is important to have a church community to worship with and be in fellowship with. I believe the church has a responsibility to minister to those living and working in communities around it. It should be a safe space of hope for each person who walks in the doors. As this quote from Teresa of Avila perfectly states, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours."

Prayer and ritual are powerful ways for us to communicate with God. For me, prayer is of the utmost importance in practicing my faith to stay grounded and centered and to remember that I am not alone. Baptism is the communal celebration of the dedication of our lives to Christ. It is a time for the church to pledge to support and guide the baptismal candidate. It is a beautiful commitment between the church, God, and the individual (or their representatives). The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is one of the most meaningful moments in which we are invited to share in the practice of thanksgiving to remember the Last Supper and the price Christ paid on our behalf. We honor the body that was broken for us and the blood that was poured out for our sins. During the Invitation to the Table, we are reminded that our presence is desired in earnest. God wants us there. Together, we join to break bread and drink at God's table. What an amazing gift.

Katherine (Katy) Bedford, M.Div.
Journey of Faith

It is hard to believe it has been nine years since I started the ordination process with the PC(USA). When I decided to go to seminary and pursue ordination, I could never have anticipated the journey I was embarking on.

I was baptized as a baby at a Presbyterian church in San Antonio, TX but the journey truly begins at First Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, TX (FPC-GT). I began attending church there at the age of 4 and still do. It is a comforting and supportive place, and I know it always will be. I have had wonderful mentors there. My mother is one of them and is my rock. She has always loved talking about her faith with me even when I did not want to listen. Her twenty years of dedication as the Director of Christian Education made FPC-GT stronger and God has worked through her to bless so many people. Another early influencer of my faith journey was my mom's oldest sister, Cora (I called her Grandma Sis). Grandma Sis was an ordained Methodist minister who identified as Unitarian/Universalist most of my life. She was always full of wise words that clarified the most impossible situations. The depth of her love for creation and the Creator saturated the space around her and everyone she encountered. I hope always to emulate her appreciation and reverence for God.

After graduating from college in 2011 and trying on many different career ideas, I co-led a group of around 15 senior high youth and a couple adults from FPC-GT on a mission trip to Belize in the summer of 2012. As I led the youth from my church to design a worship service and put on Vacation Bible School for the community, I felt as though I was doing something I had always done. It felt natural to guide and encourage. I instantly knew something in me had shifted and began looking at next steps to become a minister.

In my first year of seminary, I was greatly challenged by all the knowledge I was gaining. I waded through classes, internships, sermons, and exams, and found that no matter what knowledge I gained, my faith would remain based on my experience of God—my experience of grace, guidance, and love. A major influence in my seminary adventure was my mentor, Rev. Debbie Davis. She started out as my Field Education Supervisor and quickly became a spiritual guide. She helped me ponder what it meant to be called to ministry and helped me see that for God to use me, I needed to change my lifestyle and my priorities. She was a hospital chaplain for 30 years and introduced me to the vocation of chaplaincy.

After earning my Master of Divinity in 2016, I moved back to Texas in February 2017. I was blessed to be offered a part-time position as an Education Director for Children and Youth with Central Presbyterian Church (CPC) in downtown Austin. I worked for CPC for a couple of years and treasure the relationships and experiences. I loved that job but at the end of the day, I knew it was not what I was called to do. In early 2019, I applied for the Clinical Pastoral Education Residency with Seton and was accepted to begin in Fall 2019. I have been working in hospice since graduating from the residency in August of 2020.

Although there have been many changes in these past nine years, I still believe God has called me to ministry and to chaplaincy. My mentor once told me she became a chaplain because she loves asking the hard questions; this is one of my favorite parts as well. I love that I am given the privilege to journey with patients into a space of vulnerability and help them struggle with questions about life. I love that patients and families honor me by inviting me into difficult times in their lives. I love being blessed with the opportunity to speak the language of the soul with a variety of people with many beliefs.

Maria Vargas
Statement of Faith

I BELIEVE in God who created humanity in his own image to be a reflection of God's care and goodness in the world. God has revealed himself through Christ and through scripture as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Great is this mystery of the Holy Trinity, God in three persons who share in God's work of creation, salvation and sanctification, a relationship which is our most supreme and perfect example of unity amidst diversity.

I BELIEVE in the church, the community of the redeemed in all its magnificent diversity of language, culture and people called by Christ to be one, just as the Holy Trinity is one. During his ministry, Christ prayed for his disciples "that they may be one, as God is one and achieve complete unity".¹ The church serves to promote the Gospel in the world, promote righteousness, preserve truth and worship, and nourish the faith of all believers. The faith of believers is nourished through fellowship, the study of scripture and the church sacraments. Sacraments serve to unite us with Christ as outward signs of God's internal grace in the life of the believer. The sacraments serve as a sign and seal of God's covenant with his people. The sacrament of baptism is a sign of our union with Christ; Christ adopts us, renews us and receives us as a new creation into his church. Baptism marks our initiation into the faith. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper serves to nourish the life of the believer. Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament and instructed his disciples to "do this in remembrance of me." As we gather united as Christ's Body to celebrate the Supper; we remember the benefits that Christ secured for us through his life, death and resurrection.

The Bible is God's self-revelation. The scriptures reveal who God is, God's work, God's love for his people and how we should respond to that love as God's people. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith and illuminates us in our need to understand scripture. The Holy Spirit guides us to perseverance and growth in our faith.

I BELIEVE in Christ who humbled himself by coming into the world as God with us, to reconcile us to God. Christ who lived among humanity modeling and teaching the way to true life. Christ who is our ransom, having paid the penalty for our sinful disobedience on the cross. Christ who suffered and died and was resurrected so that those who believe in him will enjoy eternal life. Christ who will return again to establish his reign on earth forever!

Maria Torres Vargas
Pastoral Candidate

¹ John 17:22-23

Journey of Faith**Pastoral Candidate Maria Torres Vargas**

I was baptized in infancy by the Catholic Church, as was the custom in my Hispanic culture among those not affiliated with any church. Although my parents were not active in any church, my experience growing up was that the language was used, people talked the talk. I grew up knowing of God and believing in the existence of God but having a relationship with God was not something I heard people speak of. God and his ways were shrouded in mystery. One example of the language being used was that children were taught to ask for a blessing from their elders, parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles. The blessing was requested upon arriving or leaving their presence or house, the elder family member would respond by saying "may God bless you." As a child the idea of church appealed to me, and I was interested so when I was about ten years old, I decided to attend a Catholic mass on a Sunday, on my own. It felt nice just being there, but it was more like a romantic experience where you experience the nice feelings, but you have little understanding of what's really going on. I didn't understand what the preaching was about because this was the early 1970's and the priest didn't preach in English, he preached in Latin. I didn't attend mass again, but the need for language interpretation became evident early on in my life and as a child I would assist Spanish speakers who needed language assistance.

In my late 20's, I received a bible as a gift and as I read it, I felt a hunger for more. I remember that I started with the Gospels. It was at this time that I felt God's irresistible call to know and serve him. I was reading the bible every day and I started praying, I asked God to lead me to the church where he wanted me to attend and as I passed by the Presbyterian Church at the town plaza (San Sebastian, Puerto Rico), I noticed their sign, they had bible studies on Sunday mornings and that was my first indication that I was at the right place.

One day, while I was reading my bible, John 16:24 really caught my attention: "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." As I read this verse, I said, "God, what can I ask for...you know this thing you have done with me, I would like for you to do this with my family also." God answered my prayer, and soon, not only was I active in church, but my family was participating also. I soon came to realize that this was the church that my husband had been baptized in as a child, God touched his heart and within a week after praying over Jn 16:24, he was sitting in the pew next to me. When his mother realized we were active in church, she also started attending again, after many years of not having done so. My joy was truly complete and I thank God for his grace.

Within a year I would be ordained a deacon and I began visiting the sick and housebound on a regular basis, I enjoyed the ministry and I learned from other experienced deacons on the board. We would visit and share devotionals and prayer for the needs. We would visit anyone in the community who was open to a visit, as well as church members or people related to members.

I also became active in other church ministries, Preaching, Vacation Bible School for the children and Presbyterian Women, to name a few. I loved serving the church and the people and after prayerful consideration I had a conversation with my pastor, Rev. Carlos H. Velazquez about preparation for ministry. He informed me that first, I would need a college education. Following the pastor's suggestion, I enrolled at the university, I wrote the session about becoming an inquirer and I began my journey towards preparation for ministry.

Diana Circelli, HR
Statement of Faith

I believe in a sovereign, triune God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all that is. We were chosen as God's elect in Christ before the foundation of the world, in covenant that we betray by our sinful behavior. But through God's all-encompassing love, that divine grace has provided the way for our reconciliation through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was God's revelation, Emmanuel, God With Us. Something stirs in my soul each time I remember what that Name means; what Jesus gave up for us, the donning of human flesh, the humiliation, torture and death to be truly *with* humanity all testify to a compassion beyond measure.

We learn of God's intentions for us as divinely adopted children through Christ's life, love and teachings. Jesus' simple command, "Follow Me," is not only a personal invitation into the long-awaited promise of salvation, but a command to reflect the divine attributes for effective discipleship while we walk this earth. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Comforter given after Christ's Ascension, proceeds from the Father and Son to redeem and recreate us in the image of Christ. The living faith that the Holy Spirit is pleased to bestow moves us toward active reconciliation with each other and calls us to bring God's love and justice to the world. As we seek to discern God's will through prayer, worship and study of Scripture, we rejoice in our Heavenly Father's love, entering into the promise to be good stewards for all of God's awesome creation.

I believe that Christ empowers His church in the community of believers. As a witness to the Good News, the church is an instrument for God's justice, peace, and grace. We are integral parts of the Body of Christ, each empowered with gifts of the Spirit for the edification of the church. I believe these gifts are alive and working today. The community also experiences God's grace in the sacraments—signs of the Holy Spirit's acts to mark us for God's service in baptism and to reconcile us to himself and others in participation of the Lord's Supper.

I believe that the Bible is the original, authentic and infallible witness to the revelation of God in Christ. It is, in fact, more than a witness; it is revelation for today and for all time, a living Word with the power to comfort, heal and transform.

I believe in only holy, catholic, apostolic church of which Jesus Christ is the head. The church lives by the Word of God, and it exists to nurture God's people, maintain divine worship, preserve truth and social righteousness, model the kingdom of heaven to the world and proclaim the gospel of salvation to the ends of the earth.

I believe that we are saved by grace through faith, and faith grows by the hearing of the Word preached. I am honored to serve my Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the truth of Scripture, loving and caring for God's people and leading everyone within earshot to the gospel. I believe in praying daily for every member of my church, for Christians in ministry here and around the world, for our leaders in government, and for all who have not yet received Christ as their Savior. Jesus commissioned the disciples—and He *expects* us—to use the time that we've been given on this earth to go and teach and baptize others with the love of Jesus Christ and for the love of Jesus Christ, so that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord of all!

Diana Circelli, HR
Journey of Faith

God has been working throughout my life, preparing me for pastoral ministry in many ways. I have been richly blessed with church and community service, family and friends, and interesting jobs and hobbies, all of which have shaped who I am as a pastor. I believe the Lord guides his covenant people throughout their lives, inspiring “magic” moments of insight through ordinary experiences, and I credit him for the constant molding of my faith.

Abusive childhood: My parents raised their family in a small town in southwestern Nebraska. I was the youngest, with one brother and two sisters. My mother was the town librarian, and she continuously fed our dreams with books and periodicals. My father steadfastly worked in carpentry and manufacturing jobs. However, he struggled during his entire life with manic depression (and probably bipolar disorder); treatments at that time were not well-developed or effective. His violent outbursts were usually aimed at the children, and as a result, I channeled my energies into athletics and school competitions where I brought home many trophies and awards. I now realize that these were ways I had vainly tried to earn my father’s love as well as spend my free time away from the turmoil at home. As awful as it was, the Lord brought me through it and gave me valuable insight for future pastoral care and counseling.

International Relationships: At the end of my senior year, I was chosen to represent our area as a foreign exchange student to Turkey. During my stay not far from the Mediterranean Sea, Turkey and the island of Cyprus went to war, and I experienced the fear of war in ground-shaking convoys of tanks, nighttime blackouts and the sight of anti-aircraft guns dug in at the edge of town. But more importantly, I was able to build lifelong relationships in the priceless love of a Turkish family, even though they spoke little English and their religion greatly conflicted with mine.

Pursuit of Success: I graduated from Adams State College in Colorado and promptly moved to San Diego, CA to experience “The Land of Opportunity.” Oddly enough, doors slammed shut, offering very little opportunity for my success. Within six months, I moved back to Nebraska, where I immediately received four job offers in one week (in radio, television and secretarial positions), and I met my future husband. We married and were blessed with a boy and a girl, and we moved around the U.S. as my husband’s career as an executive with Cox Newspapers took off. At the same time however, our marriage began to crumble. After 21 years, he divorced me just after I graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1999. I saw God’s providence in every area of this time of my life. The Lord widened my horizons in recognizing others who had also struggled in their marriages, strengthening my counseling even more.

God’s Call: After spending a year healing and caring for my elderly mother in Oklahoma, God called me to Ohio to serve as pastor of Mount Perry Presbyterian Church (10 years), and First Presbyterian Church in Sidney (7 ½ years). My new husband (who I had met in Ohio) and I retired in 2021 and relocated to Kenedy, TX to be near grandchildren. Wherever I served, my ministry focus revolved around who God’s children are in Christ. These days, many people feel downtrodden and hopeless; society has a way of rejecting and devaluing us in our “disposable” world. My passion for ministry is to point the way to Jesus, making people aware of the riches of God’s grace, to encourage them and enlighten them to the Life and Light of Jesus Christ. I am driven to dig deep into every person God puts in my path and expose that image of God in them, revealing how much our Lord loves them! I rejoice, knowing that this will continue throughout my retirement and, with my life firmly in God’s hands, to my last breath.

Statement of Faith-Rev. Rachael McConnell

I believe in God; Powerful, Wonderful Creator. God's design has given us the wonders and beauty of the universe we inhabit, and of the heavens we have yet to see. God's wisdom brings forth all good things, for whom all the honor and glory are given. From God, all good things are birthed. God Creator, God the Father, desires to bring forth good things and to be in relationship with creation. God is the God who hears, bears us up on eagle's wings, goes ahead of us in battle, who is making us like the number of stars. God is love. I believe in Christ, the redeemer, who brought forth grace. Both fully human and fully God. He was there at the beginning and sits at the right hand of God. Because God is love, Christ was sent to be love that dwelled among humanity. Born of the virgin Mary and baptized by his cousin John, Jesus lived a life of obedience to God. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, raised the dead, spoke to the educated, wealthy, those in power, and those who had none, who were outcasts, in pain, and unclean. He cared for the desperate with nowhere else to turn; foreigner and centurion, man and woman. In triumph over death and sin, he rose again. Tearing the veil, our brother Christ healed that which had been broken between Creator and us. In the resurrection of Christ, there is redemption. An act of forgiveness and healing, which is available to all who proclaim it. When sin and evil hurt and seek to destroy, through Christ, goodness, and mercy will prevail. Christ will come again; with the fullness of the kingdom of God brought through Christ, the new earth will have no death, darkness, injustice, tears, and sin. I believe in one baptism in recognition of the forgiveness of sins, which welcomes us into the family of God. As Christ was presented as the beloved Son in baptism, God's love is poured out on us in our own. In the breaking of bread and pouring of wine, we remember and welcome Christ to the table and into our lives. We gather at the table as he instructed, to remember in community his great sacrifice, triumph over death, and life everlasting. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who was with the other two members of the Trinity at the beginning. The Holy Spirit is dynamic and active. Quiet when needed. Fire when needed. The Spirit is our advocate, interpreter, and counselor. The Spirit is the unifier that binds together Christ's Church. The Holy Spirit is a catalyst, who came upon Mary, descended upon Jesus, giving us power to continue the repairing work of Christ in the world. The Spirit is present in the proclamation of God's Word and active all over the world. The Scriptures are the Word of God, Gospel proclaimed. I believe the Scriptures are God-breathed, worthy of being taught, in equipping and redirecting the saints in righteousness for their service to God's mission in the world. I believe in the Trinity, in the oneness and divinity of God, Christ, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the source of creation, grace, and love. Amen.

Journey of Faith-Rev. Rachael McConnell

Upon looking back on my life, I see God's fingerprints, presence, providence, and guidance even when I did not even have a reason to believe in God. I was raised outside organized religion due to my parent's experience with hypocrisy and racism in their respective faith traditions, their distrust heightened by the Civil Rights and Anti-War movements. I was a bit of an outlier being agnostic in Georgetown in the 1990's, my graduating high school class would have five pastor's kids in it. When one of my best friends in high school invited me to her PC(USA) new worshiping community's church choir, I could not say no. My heart longed to understand a community of faith, what it was about, why so many participated, and I also wanted other people to hear me sing. Building a church every Sunday in an elementary cafetorium demonstrated both the actions of the faithful and the humility that we should posture ourselves in preparation for worship. Rev. Dr. Jeanie Stanley had all of the caring patience a seeker and new believer needs to feel nurtured and not alienated. Because Christ was so present in the hearts of our beautiful little community, I could truly develop a relationship with him without so many cultural expectations and trappings. I was baptized on my 17th birthday and ordained as a Ruling Elder, it was an extraordinary day, my parents even attended in support, as we all took the big step forward in what would be the revelation of my calling. Pastor Jeanie saw the call in me, she truly encouraged me to engage with the sparks of worship leadership and church administration.

My only experience with the Christian faith was in the Reformed tradition, so when my husband and I began to date, and I was introduced to the Evangelical church, I felt lost all over again. What was I supposed to do? Everyone seemed to know exactly what to do and what to say. However, I learned from Josh that he felt the same way in more ordered ways of worship. The search for a faith community for our family turned into a search for true community when we moved to Patagonia Argentina, just a few months after I graduated from college, six months pregnant, and with our oldest, Isaac, who was 2.5 years old at the time. We were immigrants, on an earnest search for a place where our family could call home. Within our community of fellow immigrants, from Brazil, Haiti, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic, we experienced a place where everyone shared what they had. We all experienced seasons of plenty and seasons of drought. Together, we could all stay afloat. This truly early church experience that was created by people who had varying degrees of faith or even no faith, changed us forever. God was truly caring for us, guiding us, opening our hearts to the goodness of our Creator and Savior. We returned to the U.S. over two years later, hungry to be a part of a Christ-centered community to raise our children in, so that they would always know of the true goodness and love of God. We tried many different denominations and worship styles, which as a pastor I am grateful for having experienced. Worshipping our Lord has so many beautiful and diverse ways of expression, my tradition became that of variation rather than repetition.

I entered seminary because I found myself at church four days a week, enjoying it so much more than my beautiful job at the Montessori school I attended as a child. My pastor at the time, told me that is what you do, when you find yourself so taken by the life of the church. One year at Truett Seminary, introduced me to people that had experienced the same exact feeling. Theological discussions filled their soul, Church history fascinated us. My family led me to Austin Seminary. So that we could spend more time with one another, I transferred to APTS where we could live on campus. The greatest lesson I learned from my three years there was how to love and live gracefully with other "church folk."

Covenant Presbyterian Church, where I served after graduating seminary showed me how a healthy and well led church staff could be a family of faith, not just co-workers. God continued to equip and form me through those with whom I shared the business of life and faith with. COVID hit and I found myself in another state far from the faith family I had cultivated for over three years, but God did not leave my family in languish and despair, rather, the Holy Spirit urged me to use my gifts of improvisation training, imagination, and excitement to urge innovation in worship, Christian Education, and Community. In my first pastoral call, I learned that a leader can be the catalyst in such seasons of

change, but that the lay leadership are essential allies to equip, support, and depend upon for prayer and support. Even those these times are challenging for the church, challenging for our society and world, I am so grateful for the life that our Creator has given me, in times of trial and in times of growth, all has led to a call to share the Gospel for such a time as this.

Statement of Faith
Rev. Caryn Thurman

I believe in God,
the creator of all that is.

I believe that God is love,
and God's love cannot be diminished.

I believe that God loves all of creation,
including each of us, just as we are.

I believe in Jesus the Christ,
God's only Son.

I believe that Jesus of Nazareth
was a man who walked the earth.

I believe that Jesus was also God
who came to live among us
and to show us God's intentions for creation.

I believe that Jesus' death on the cross
was for us and for our forgiveness,
and that his rising demonstrates God's power over death
and is the hope of our eternal salvation.

I believe that God's Holy Spirit is present
and alive in the world.

I believe it is through God's Spirit
that we live as God's people.

I believe there is no greater power than God,
no love but God's love,
and no life without of God.

I believe that Scripture is God's word to us
and that both the Old and New Testaments reveal the character of God,
God's love and God's plan for creation.

I believe the truth of the Scriptures
is confirmed in the world
as all of creation portrays the wonder of God
through the continual movement of the Holy Spirit
in the rhythm of creation and re-creation.

I believe that we are claimed by God in baptism
and reminded of Christ's sacrifice
by participation in the sacrament of holy communion,
which unites us with God's people everywhere.

I believe that the church, local and universal, is the body of Christ,
sharing the love of God
and working for the reconciliation of the world.

Rev. Caryn Thurman
Faith Journey

In the spring of 2003 my pastor David Barker suggested that I seriously consider becoming a minister of Word and Sacrament. It was a total surprise to me, and I laughed at the thought of myself in that role because I had never once considered it. Neither had I ever considered the possibility that I might have gifts useful in ministry. He seriously acknowledged my many gifts for ministry and asked that I remain open to the possibility, which I promised to do. David had become well acquainted with my gifts in the three years I had been a member at First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos and had served as church treasurer, Children and Youth leader, Sunday School teacher, children's choir director and a frequent worship leader. I started the children's choir, began a Couples Date Night, started a Secret Saint program matching adults with children, wrote the children's curriculum for a fall session, sang in a trio and duet, played the oboe at Easter, and organized a rummage sale.

At the same time, I was working as a financial controller in Austin, commuting an hour each way, and in the spring I took on another job as a tax preparer for a San Marcos firm in the evenings and on Saturdays. I felt driven to work and to keep myself busy *doing*. At the time I didn't realize it, but as I look back, I think I was looking for fulfillment in my life and thought I could achieve it by *doing*. Depression consumed my mind and I became unable to do anything. I entered counseling that summer and I began to learn about myself and reclaim who I am as a person and a child of God. I remained open to God's leading and couldn't help but think that this period of turmoil had meaning. I felt very afraid but bravely began to explore the possibility of a connecting with the seminary.

When I visited the campus, I knew that I was home, especially in the chapel. It made me realize that I have always felt at home in nearly every sanctuary I've been in. A special feeling envelops my soul upon entering God's house and it feels like a home where I belong. It seems to be one of those thin places where I am most aware of the power and love of God's presence. I have experienced God's presence in my life through the Holy Spirit many other times, and it is this type of spiritual connection that continues to confirm my calling.

I responded to the call to seminary by leaving behind my accounting career of 23 years and launching into life as a student, still not knowing where it would lead. I stumbled through the first year with many doubts about my adequacy as a student, and many more about my ability to be effective in ministry. There is a world of difference between the business environment and seminary life, and my adjustment from one to the other took some time. Rather than dealing in the concrete facts and definite answers I was accustomed to, I swam in abstract theologies and biblical interpretations. My fellow

students and I supported each other that first year and I held tight to God and the support of my family, friends and my home church.

The second year was much different than the first. I came to realize that the experience was more about me and my inner being than about learning languages, theologies, history, and missionary paradigms. It was my own interaction in conversation with academic material that counted, and sharing my thoughts with others helped me identify the direction and shape of my ministry. I realized that I have many gifts and abilities, and that they were a part of me before I arrived on campus. The seminary experience sharpened my focus on my gifts and added new tools with which to express them in service to God and others.

As I look back, I realize that God has always been calling me. As a child, I attended the Methodist church with my family. I remember the day my two brothers and my sister and I were baptized and the very special moment when the minister's hand was on my head and the water was trickling down the side of my face. I also remember the hymns which were the basis of my theology before I knew that word. We moved when I was in the 5th grade and the family never went back to church. I had taught myself to play the piano, mostly using a hymnal, and I realize now that playing hymns at home was my mode of worship. I returned to the church with friends in high school and learned in a powerful way that God answers prayer.

So many experiences since then have confirmed God's presence in my life and the lives of others. I find that my faith life as an individual is vitally important, but so is participation in the community of faith. I have learned that God speaks often through other people.

My faith continues to grow as I continue to trust God. I trust God to lead me wherever I am needed to further God's purposes in the world. I am honored to serve God, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to learn and grow in new situations.

Statement of Faith
August 2022
Cheryl Homsher

By grace, I trust in the Living God who, in love and goodness, created all that is - from the vast cosmos to the spirit-infused dust that is us. This God is a covenanting God, who is ever seeking us out, desiring to be in loving, joyful relationship with us.

By grace, I am a follower of Jesus the Christ, who is fully human, fully divine – the incarnation of the Living God among us. He came to show us what God is like and what human life is meant to be. Living among us he showed extraordinary mercy, lifted up the downtrodden, welcomed the outcast and stranger, healed the sick, and challenged injustice, abuse, hatred, and greed. He was crucified because of human sinfulness, because of human propensity to turn away from God, because of human refusal to accept and live by the boundless grace and love that is at the core of his being. In offering up his own life Jesus took unto himself the worst that human life has to offer. But death could not hold him. God raised him from the grave, showing us that resurrection power is greater than the power of death, not just for him but for all whom God loves. In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus reconciled us to God, so we might live lives of loving service in this world God so loves.

By grace, I trust the Holy Spirit, ever moving among us and within us in mysterious, powerful, and surprising ways to encourage us and empower us as we seek to follow Jesus, live his kingdom here and now, and be the body of Christ for the world. By the Holy Spirit, scripture comes alive for us today as the authoritative witness to Jesus Christ.

By grace, Jesus Christ formed the church to be his body in the world: his heart, his hands, his feet, his voice, his ears. Believers are engrafted into Christ's body at baptism, the sacrament in which God names us and claims us as beloved children. As such, we are sustained and nurtured by the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the joyful feast of the people of God, as we remember Jesus and his deep and abiding love us and for all people. Central to our identity as Church is the reformed idea that the church is reformed, and always being reformed according to the word of God.

By grace, the Church has nurtured me, guided me, drawn me into new avenues of service, and is ever re-shaping me. God speaks and works on me through worship, through scripture, and through the words and actions of my sisters and brothers in the family of faith, as we continually remind ourselves that we live – by grace.

Faith Journey (as of August 2022)
Cheryl Homsher

My primary ancestral religious heritage is Mennonite, but in 1895 Pennsylvania adopted the “Garb Act” which prohibited public school teachers from wearing religious garb in the classroom. My spirited great aunt Edith wanted to keep teaching so instead of being baptized into the Mennonite church she began attending the Presbyterian church and took her younger sister, my grandmother, with her. So I am a third generation Presbyterian, being baptized, nurtured, confirmed, and ordained as a deacon in the Leacock Presbyterian Church, in Paradise, PA. The people of that church were very faithful in nurturing my faith through Sunday School, youth group, summer camp, youth retreats and conferences. The church was central to our family life. I don’t recall a particular moment when I became a believer, but I do recall moments of understanding from a young age that God loved me, and how important it was to know that. And I came to know that because of God’s extravagant love I was saved, and empowered to follow Jesus in my daily life.

After college I worked for a government funded social service agency. In 1981, I attended General Assembly (Houston), and there my spirit was opened to consider if I was being called to ministry. A variety of circumstances, including the de-funding of my social services position due to Reagan-omics, becoming a PCUSA Volunteer-in-Mission (inner city Indianapolis) for a year, and the affirmation of my home congregation, helped me discern a call to ministry, which led me to Princeton Theological Seminary. This was a challenging season of transformation; the VIM position was very healing as I found great joy in giving of myself to serve and bring healing to others. I was ordained to the “Ministry of the Word” December 7, 1986, by Donegal Presbytery, in my home church.

After seminary, my call to pastor took this Pennsylvanian to a foreign country: Texas. My first call was to Central Presbyterian, Houston, as an associate pastor. There I experienced Church that wasn’t afraid to take on difficult discussions and avenues of service, most specifically caring for AIDS patients during the AIDS epidemic that was rampant in Houston in the 1980s. In 1992, I was called to Los Angeles Heights Presbyterian Church, in San Antonio. There I experienced Church which engaged in urban neighborhood ministry, and collegiality with the “Inner Loop Group” of pastors and congregations who were all discerning how to be Church in changed urban neighborhoods and in smaller, older congregations. While living in San Antonio I met my husband, B.J. Craft (at a funeral!), and our life together has truly been a precious gift.

We left San Antonio, following B.J.’s career, and settled in west Texas. Being geographically tethered to the area, I learned more deeply what it means to be open to the leading of the Spirit. I served First, Seminole, as an interim, and experienced the unique and precious treasure that is small town life. After that I was called to serve Westminster, Odessa, as an associate pastor, then as temporary head of staff, and then as an associate pastor again. Through that experience I learned about surrendering - to God, to the congregation, and to the Church. As my call there was winding down, an opportunity arose to serve as the designated pastor at Grace, Midland, where I stayed until retirement (16 years!). Through them I experienced Church as generosity, prayerfulness, creativity, hospitality, relational, and out-reaching.

Retirement has brought a different kind of calling - a calling to be nearer to family in order to share in more of day-to-day life, and a calling to trust in new ways that God will provide opportunities for service.

Stated Clerk's Report
Mission Presbytery
October 21-22, 2022

For Action by Mission Presbytery

1. Approve excused absences for this meeting
2. Approve waiver for St. Mark PC, Boerne, letter attached to this report.

An excerpt:

Motion: "Authorize the Clerk of Session to request a one-time waiver from Mission Presbytery for the rule that states "no elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years" (Book of Order G-2.0204 Terms of Services), applicable to officers who began their initial term on May 1, 2019, and allowing them to serve through December 31, 2025."

For Mission Presbytery's information

1. At its September 17, 2022 meeting, General Council approved the minutes of the June 10-11, 2022 Mission Presbytery meeting.
2. Administrative Commissions (AC), Updates
 - a. First Korean, McAllen
The AC has taken original jurisdiction of the session.
 - b. Community PC, Port Aransas
The AC and the session are entering mediation, after which the church will be dismissed to ECO.
 - c. FPC, Menard
The AC declared this an abandoned ("extinct") property. The Trustees are working through issues in order to put the property on the market.
 - d. FPC, Del Rio is calling a stated supply pastor!
 - e. FPC, Adamsville:
The AC has tried to engage the congregation. No response to the AC.
3. Clerks of Session training happened on October 1, 2022, at El Divino Salvador PC, Corpus Christi, and October 8, 2022, at FPC, Kerrville.

Clerk of Session resources are available at my table at this weekend's meeting.

4. An end-of-the-year communication will go out to Clerks of Session regarding Annual Statistical Reports, 2022 Necrology, updated terms of call/contracts, and updated information for Clerks of Session.

The dates that churches can submit their annual statistical reports online are December 2, 2022-February 14, 2023.

I have received necrology for 2022 from some clerks, which will be included in next year's memorial.

5. We will vote on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution at the March 3-4, 2023 Mission Presbytery meeting. The link for them is <https://bit.ly/3dejuRd>. We understand that there are more amendments than usual. The General Assembly meeting in 2020 didn't address them (because of Covid, and it was a Zoom meeting), so we are catching up.

The other Mission Presbytery stated meetings will be on June 16-17, 2023 (location TBD), and October 20-21, 2023, at Mo-Ranch.

6. If you haven't already, send your 2021 to me electronically (preferred) or a hard copy. Do not send originals to me. The link for the minutes' checklist is here: <https://www.mission-presbytery.org/clerks>

Report submitted by Laurie Palmer, Stated Clerk.

August 19, 2022

Rev. Laurie Palmer

Stated Clerk

Mission Presbytery

7201 Broadway Suite 303

San Antonio, Texas 78209

Subject: Request of a One-Time Waiver From Book of Order Requirements

Dear Laurie,

Prior to 2020, St. Mark elected its officers to terms which began on May 1st of each calendar year and ended on April 30th three years later. In 2020, at Mission Presbytery's suggestion, St. Mark revised its practice to have terms of officers begin on January 1st and end on December 31st three years later. To manage this transition, officers' terms, which originally began on May 1, 2019 and ended on April 30, 2022, were extended, and those terms are currently set to expire on December 31, 2022.

St. Mark would like the option of electing individuals from this class who are completing their first full term in office to a second full three-year term, but this would mean that such individuals will have served a total of approximately six years and eight months before retiring from Session, which is inconsistent with Section G-2.0404 of the Book of Order, which states that no ruling elder or deacon may serve more than six consecutive years. This section of the Book of Order also provides that the Presbytery, upon written request, may grant a congregation a waiver on this term limitation.

With the above as background, the St. Mark Session approved the following motion at its Stated Session Meeting on August 15, 2022, and respectfully requests that Mission Presbytery grant the desired waiver:

Motion: "Authorize the Clerk of Session to request a one-time waiver from Mission Presbytery for the rule that states "no elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years" (Book of Order G-2.0204 Terms of Services), applicable to officers who began their initial term on May 1, 2019, and allowing them to serve through December 31, 2025."

Our Congregational Nominating Committee is already working on nominations for officer terms that begin on January 1, 2023, with a goal of finalizing nominations around the end of September to support a Special Congregational Meeting on October 23, 2022 at which time the congregation will vote on the nominations. Consequently, we respectfully request a response to this letter no later than September 15, 2022. As always, your consideration and support of St Mark and its congregation is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Julie McCarty

Clerk of Session, St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Boerne, TX



September 17th, 2022.

May the Grace of our Triune God be with you and your loved ones!

We share with you part of the work that on behalf of Mission Presbytery, we are developing in the RGV region.

- New Life Faith Community, the newest worshipping community of Mission Presbytery, continues its growth and expanding presence in the community.
- As part of our growth is our ***“Birthday of the Month Celebration.”*** This consists in celebrating the birthday of the month with a special meal (luncheon, birthday cake and refreshments), as well as recognizing and highlighting them. Gift-cards are raffled among the people whose birthday is celebrated. ***THE GIFT-CARDS ARE DONATED BY AN ANONYMOUS FAMILY!***
- Few months ago, we launched an initiative “Mission Partners of New Life Faith Community.”

We identified three areas of ministry in which we need partner:

- **a) Children and Faith Formation Ministry.**
- **b) Praise and Music Ministry.**
- **c) Fellowship/Coffee Hour.**

As of today, we have been able to welcome several mission partners and supporters whose support (financial and otherwise) is bearing fruits and help us to offset the cost of various activities, such as

Sunday morning coffee hour and Bible Study light meal. Among our mission partners are:

- Westlake Hills PC (Austin).
 - St. Mark's PC (Boerne).
 - Crossroads PC (San Antonio).
 - University PC (San Antonio)
 - First Presbyterian Church (McAllen)
 - Northwoods PC (Houston).
 - Rye PC (Rye, New York).
-
- We have shared with this governing body (GC) as well as with Mission Presbytery as a whole, our ongoing efforts to raise \$25,000 by the end of 2022. Thus far, we have raised \$19,626.50. Our gratitude to many members of this GC who have donated towards our goal.
 - We are reconstituting the current RGV Evangelist Administrative Commission with people who have expressed and demonstrated their support to our new worshiping community. Our Stated of Clerk will provide this body with the names of such sister and brothers who will be the new members of our Adm Commission.
 - Our ministry work continues to expand and take roots in the community...and for that we are blessed by our Good Lord and grateful to all of you (*I prefer y'all*).

Planting a new church is always difficult, even more so embarking in this endeavor in this time and age, however, as the German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer would say, “Our work as Christians is not to be successful, but to remain faith to our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In Christ,

Ezequiel Herrera

General Council Report
Mission Presbytery
October 21-22, 2022

For presbytery action

I. Mission Forward Report

Members of the Mission Forward Team:

Rev. Gin Courtney, Associate Pastor, Madison Square Presbyterian Church, San Antonio; Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert, Pastor, FPC, Georgetown; RE B. K Gamble, FPC, Kerrville; RE Liz Anzaldua, El Divino Salvador PC, Corpus Christi; RE Bill Wilkerson, FPC, Victoria; RE Lety Martinez, Primera Iglesia-Mexico; staff: Sallie Watson and Laurie Palmer

Mission Presbytery will vote on the proposed new structure. Information will be distributed at the meeting.

II. Nominations for the ongoing Administrative Commission partnering with

Rev. Ezequiel Herrera, RGV Evangelist:

Dr. RE Carlos Baladez, San Antonio

Rev. Jeff Saddington, Austin

Ms. Susan Shaw-Meadows, San Antonio

These are to fill vacancies on the Administrative Commission.

Rev. Kathy Escandell is the chair.

For information

III. Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight

RE Mike Day and Rev. Eric Dittman (Fiscal Oversight)

Presentation of the 2023 Mission Presbytery Budget

Rev. Kevin Jones (Stewardship)

IV. 2023 Minimum Terms of Call, see separate report in the packet

At its September 17, 2022, meeting, General Council approved new minimum terms of call for 2023. Mission Presbytery has not proposed a raise in the minimum terms of call since 2019.

Monica Smith, chair, Commission on Ministry (COM)

- V. LBGQTQ+ Inclusion Policy for Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch
This is the first reading. Mission Presbytery will not vote on this today. We will vote at the March 2023 stated meeting.
Caitlin Supcoff, Youth and Young Adult Advocate
Henry Owen, Director, John Knox Ranch
- VI. The minutes of the Stated Meeting of Mission Presbytery, June 10-11, 2022, were approved by General Council on September 17, 2022.
- VII. 2023 Mission Presbytery Meetings:
 - March 3-4
 - June 16-17
 - October 20-21

MISSION PRESBYTERY 2023 Budget

REPORT D.1

Accounts	FY 2022	2023 Proposed Budget			Accounts	Notes
		Total Budget; Various	Shared Mission	Other Funds Source		
INCOME						
Shared Mission Support - Mission Presbytery	2001-00 & 2015-00	385,000.00	385,000.00		2001-00 & 2015-00	Estimated based on current trending
Needed from Reserves		-	-			If all spending is used, will need unrestricted funds to balance 2022
Broadway Building Leases	R&E by Committee	160,000.00		160,000.00		Solid leases, expect no increase or vacancies to materialize
JKR Revenue		785,000.00		785,000.00		JKR detail included in workbook
Better Together Fund; Interest earned (SFO)	2102-00	56,000.00		56,000.00	2102-00	Available grant level for 2022
Korean Congregation Payments (Admin)		-		-		No remaining Incoming funds
Odom Tech Designated trsfr (Admin)	2170-01	5,000.00		5,000.00	2170-01	Funds available from set aside funds
Designated funds trsfr; Settlement Funds (COM)		3,750.00		3,750.00		Request for scholarships from ECN. ECN still has \$27K in Settlement funds
Oil & Gas Revenues (TR)	4315-95	3,000.00		3,000.00	4315-95	Trending from prior years
Background Checks Reimbursements		-		-		Due to Covid, fewer programs to use service
Designated Funds trsfr; CDE Availble funds (CDE)		2,000.00		2,000.00		If CDE needs funds shown in expense will come from available funds
Designated Funds trsfr, (TR)		20,000.00		20,000.00		Funds as needed for closed churches or selling expenses. Funded from prior sales
Designated Funds CDE trsfr; Evangelist (Psnl)	2123-50	91,000.00	91,000.00		2123-50	E. Herrera operation funded by CDE and BOP funds
Interest income undesignated funds		44,000.00		44,000.00		spend rate on undesignated funds at TPF
Notes receivable interest	2321-95	10,000.00		10,000.00	2321-95	60% undesignated portion of interest on mortgages held
Notes Receivable principal payments		65,000.00		65,000.00		60% undesignated portion of principal on mortgages held
Mid-Winters Income		11,000.00		11,000.00		conservative estimate based on participants contribution to Mid-Winters
Total Income		1,640,750.00	476,000.00	1,164,750.00		
EXPENSES						
Administrative	2106-10 & 4950-01	70,000.00	70,000.00		2106-10 & 4950-01	Financial review procedures costs included in overhead
Broadway Building	R&E by Committee	106,000.00		106,000.00		Expenses for operating 7201 Broadway. Adequate funds in reserve for emergencies
Church Development & Evangelism	2106-10 & 4315-10	-	-	-	2106-10 & 4315-10	E. Herrera program funded by CDE and partially reimbursed by Synod
Committee on Ministry	8160-20	2,500.00	2,500.00		8160-20	add Preferred Path
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	8160-25	-	-		8160-25	unchanged
Committee on Representation & Nominations	8160-30	-	-		8160-30	unchanged
Faith Formation (ECN)	8160-40	3,750.00		3,750.00	8160-40	Scholarships for church educators
General Council	8160-50	3,000.00	3,000.00		8160-50	unchanged
H. M. King Trustees	4000-60	200.00		200.00	4000-60	unchanged
Human Resources Team	4000-52 & 4966-52	526,075.00	526,075.00	-	4000-52 & 4966-52	detailed budget attached plus funding for E. Herrera program
John Knox Ranch	4000-03	782,450.00		782,450.00	4000-03	detailed budget to be attached
Mission Outreach & Justice	4000-65 & 8160-65	42,000.00	42,000.00		4000-65 & 8160-65	unchanged
Trustees	2172-95 & 6175-95	-		-	2172-95 & 6175-95	selling and operating expenses for closed churches funded through property sales
Pastoral Care Committee	8160-75	-	-		8160-75	increased due to anticipated increased need posr-COVID
Presbyterian Women	8160-80	1,800.00	1,800.00		8160-80	unchanged
Regional Representatives		-	-			unchanged
Stewardship & Fiscal Oversight	4000-90 & 8160-90	-	-		4000-90 & 8160-90	unchanged
Disaster PreparedAssistance C		8,000.00	8,000.00			expected expenses not covered by Synod position
Better Together Fund Grants (SFO)	2102-00	56,000.00		56,000.00	2102-00	Funds available from return on investments
Youth Ministry	4000-98	29,000.00	18,000.00	11,000.00	4000-98	Mid-Winters, Main Event & Triennium
Better Together growth		-		-		
Total Expenses		1,630,775.00	671,375.00	959,400.00		
Net		9,975.00	(195,375.00)	205,350.00		

John Knox Ranch
2023 Budget

Headings and Account

Revenues

Gifts

430-01 - Gifts - Individuals	\$ 40,000
431-01 - Gifts - Churches\Organizations	\$ 60,000
432-01 - Gifts - Foundations	\$ 30,000
433-01 - Gifts- Scholarships\individuals	\$ 10,000
434-01 - Gifts-Scholarship Churches/Organiza	\$ 12,000
436-01 - Gifts- Scholarships\Foundation	\$ 25,000

Total Gifts

\$ 177,000

Summer Camp Income

424-02 - Summer Camp Income-Day Camp	\$ 70,000
426-02 - Summer Camp Inc-Resident Camp	\$ 320,000

Total Summer Camp Income

\$ 390,000

Retreat Season Income

412-03 - Retreat Season Income - Programming	\$ 8,000
437-01 - Retreat Season Income - Catering	\$ 10,000
451-03 - Retreat Season Income - JKR Rentals	\$ 50,000
467-03 - Retreat Season Income - Rentals	\$ 90,000
468-03 - School Programs	\$ 40,000

Total Retreat Season Income

\$ 198,000

Other Income

408-01 - Interest Income	\$ 12,000
419-01 - Camp Store Income	\$ 8,000
475-00 - Misc. Income	\$ -

Total Other Income

\$ 20,000

Total Revenues

\$ 785,000

Expenses

555-01 - Site Maintenace: Decor	\$ 200
580-02 - Supplies - Paper Products	\$ 1,000

Administrative Expenses

507-01 - Business Expense-Bank Fee/Ser. Chgs	\$ 12,000
518-01 - Leased Equipment	\$ 3,500
519-01 - Camp Store Exp	\$ 5,000
522-01 - Information Technology	\$ 5,000
522-02 - General Liability Insurance	\$ 25,000
526-01 - Membership Dues & Fees	\$ 3,000
531-01 - Payroll Taxes & Paychex Fees	\$ 18,000
532-01 - Printing & Copying	\$ 500
536-01 - Marketing	\$ 6,000
579-01 - Office Supplies	\$ 2,000
590-01 - Committee Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 1,000
593-01 - Utilities	\$ 23,000
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 105,200
Summer Camp Expenses	
521-01 - Contract Staff Insurance	\$ 4,500
546-02 - Contract Staff Wages	\$ 70,000
566-01 - Summer Staff Appreciation	\$ 1,500
566-02 - Summer Staff Training	\$ 1,500
573-02 - Summer Camp Food	\$ 40,000
586-02 - Summer Camp Supplies	\$ 15,000
587-02 - Peace Camp Expenses	\$ 2,000
Total Summer Camp Expenses	\$ 134,500
Site Maintenance Expenses	
517-01 - Equipment Maintenance	\$ 3,500
520-01 - Fuel/Gas	\$ 3,500
534-01 - Propane	\$ 3,000
535-01 - Property Taxes	\$ 250
550-01 - Buildings	\$ 125,000
551-01 - Grounds	\$ 35,000
552-01 - Pool	\$ 5,000
554-01 - Water	\$ 5,000
571-01 - Cleaning Supplies & Paper Products	\$ 3,000
595-01 - Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 10,000
Total Site Maintenance Expenses	\$ 193,250
Retreat Season Expenses	

[illegible]

Proposed 2023 Staff Salary Costs														D.1		
MP Staff	FTE	Hire Date	Bi-weekly Salary	Monthly Salary & Housing	BI-Weekly Housing	Proposed 2023 Salary Rate	Total Annualized Employer paid BOP	Fidelity 403b Annualized Employer paid	2023 Annualized Total Compensation Employer Costs	2023 Allotted Travel Budget	2023 Allotted Continue Educ	2023 Annual Total Comp	2023 Approved Salary Increase			
Melody Gonzalez	1.00	8/1/2018	1,955.27	4,236.42		50,837.09	13,436.28		68,162.41		500.00	68,662.41	3,300.00			
Jeanne Morgan	0.60	5/5/2017	1,125.84	2,439.32		29,271.83	-		31,511.12		500.00	32,011.12	1,656.90			
Caitlin Supcoff	1.00	7/1/2018	1,814.02	3,930.37		47,164.48	28,312.15		79,084.71	4,500.00	1,000.00	84,584.71	3,300.00			
Laurie Palmer	1.00	5/15/2016	1,427.55	5,967.69	1,161.38	71,612.24	28,819.65		100,431.89	6,000.00	1,000.00	107,431.89	4,300.00			
Sallie Watson	1.00	5/15/2016	1,992.55	8,333.33	1,636.85	100,000.00	39,867.20	855.00	140,722.20	12,000.00	1,500.00	154,222.20	5,635.54			
Monica Smith **				300.00		3,600.00			3,875.40	1,500.00		5,375.40				
Totals			8,315.23	25,207.14	2,798.23	302,485.64	110,435.28		423,787.74	24,000.00	4,500.00	452,287.74	18,192.44			
**Coverage while Sallie is out on sabbatical March - May 2023											6841-52 CS	5165-52 Staff				
											6837-52 LP	5166-52 SW				
											6839-52 SW	5167-52 LP				
Salary Expenses supported by CDE funds & BOP Grant																
	FTE	Hire Date	Bi-weekly Salary	Monthly Salary	BI-Weekly Housing	Proposed 2023 Salary Rate	Total Annualized Employer paid BOP	Fidelity 403b Annualized Employer paid	2023 Annualized Total Compensation Employer Costs	2023 Allotted Travel Budget	2023 Allotted Continue Educ	2023 Annual Total Comp	2023 Approved Salary Increase			
Ezequiel Herrera ***	1.00	6/1/2018	1,426.92	5,383.33	961.54	64,600.00	1,448.16		70,990.06	2,000.00		72,990.06	2,500.08			
Totals				5,383.33	961.54	64,600.00	1,448.16		70,990.06	2,000.00	-	72,990.06				
***	CDE Agreed to pay salary. Benefits covered 100% by BOP grant starting 8.1.20 - July 20										6166-52					
Ezequiel on BOP Evangelist Grant, covers full employer paid benefits for multiple years thru August 2024													525,277.80	2023 Proposed HR		
Expenses Reimbursed by JKR Operations																
	FTE	Hire Date	Bi-weekly Salary	Monthly Salary	BI-Weekly Housing	Proposed 2023 Salary Rate	Total Annualized Employer paid BOP	Fidelity 403b Annualized Employer paid	2023 Annualized Total Compensation Employer Costs	2023 Allotted Travel Budget	2023 Allotted Continue Educ	2023 Annual Total Comp	2023 Approved Salary Increase			
Henry Owen	1.00	12/1/2018	2,792.46	6,050.34		72,604.07	29,735.44		107,893.72	2,000.00	1,000.00	110,893.72	9,470.00			
Andy Watson	1.00	9/1/2019	1,554.12	3,367.26		40,407.12	9,616.94		53,115.20			53,115.20	1,714.00			
Lori Bruns	1.00	6/12/2018	1,822.25	3,948.22		47,378.61	9,791.23		60,794.30			60,794.30	1,856.80			
Totals			6,168.84	13,365.82	-	160,389.80	49,143.60	-	221,803.22	2,000.00	1,000.00	224,803.22	13,040.80			
***	JKR has been reimbursing MP for these expenses since 1.1.2019															
These costs should be part of JKR's budget																
**ER = Employer Paid																
**EE = Employee Paid																

Income Narrative 2023

We are a *connectional* church: whereas an individual congregation does ministry mostly in its own area, the presbytery is a group of churches working together for the good of all the churches, doing things that a single church cannot do, and providing oversight for all the churches in its area. We are Mission Presbytery.



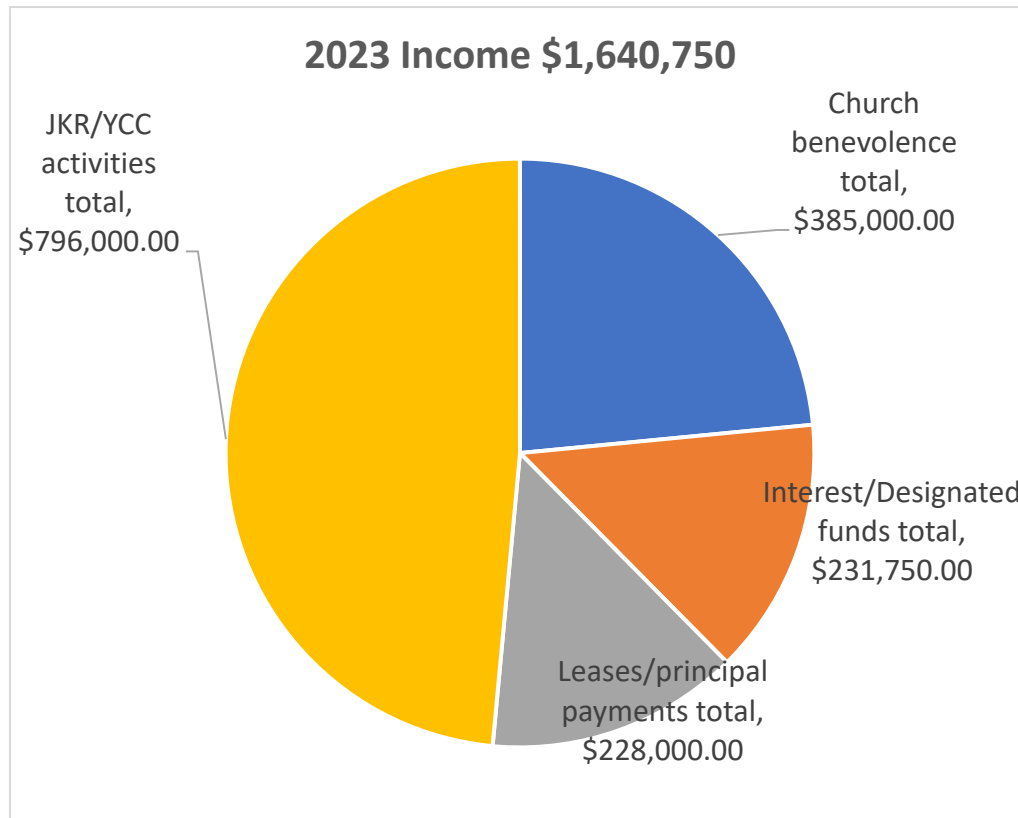
Panorama shot of Midwinter Gathering

The Book of Order states that the presbytery is “responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness.”

This responsibility is accomplished mostly by numerous elders volunteering to work together in presbytery commissions, committees, and task forces. With a presbytery the size of Mission, we need someone whose job it is to know what is going on in all churches and committees of the presbytery - and we are thankful to have Sallie, who more than rises to this challenge. We are required to have a Stated Clerk and are thankful to have Laurie for much of the “decently and in good order” matters. With the vast amount of presbytery money and bills, we need an accountant and are thankful to have Jeanne. We need a magician to keep communication working and flowing in the office and we are thankful to have Melody. We are making an effort to bring the gospel to the RGV in a new way and are thankful for Ezequiel. We want to keep a special concern for youth (more on that later) and are thankful to have Caitlin and Henry and the JKR staff.

It would be very difficult for the elders to do their presbytery work without the dedication and support of our staff. Accordingly, we have a presbytery with a budget - and a big part of that budget goes toward salaries for that staff so that the presbytery can fulfill its ministry. They are like the tent poles that hold up the canvas of the tent – they allow the tent to do its job: to cover and protect a large

swathe of land and the people under it. Here is the 2023 income projection, as a pie chart:



Imagine all our presbytery does, for example:

- employ great staff and have an office with supplies and equipment to support the work of our Elders;
- run a major Christian camp with ~1000 campers per year and available to all youth, emphasizing Reformed understanding of the Bible (how many Christian camps do that?);
- develop programs for youth throughout the presbytery;
- help us communicate with each other via meetings, the weekly newsletter, emails, and other venues;
- pay an evangelist for the RGV;
- issue grants totaling ~\$100,000 annually for various mission and ministry efforts;
- care for all the churches, finding pastoral leadership for churches, assisting churches in need, providing low or zero-interest loans for churches so they can thrive;
- receive and determine the best uses for acquired property, whether it is for redevelopment of churches or to carry out the sale;

- carry out all the responsibilities stated in the Book of Order



Serving the homeless in Corpus Christi



Gathering at Canyon Lake

How much is this worth? If you had to start from scratch, it would be a lot. Please note that on the pie chart, the projected income needed for 2023 is ~\$1.6 million. Also notice that the individual churches' anticipated contribution is only \$385,000 which is only 23% of the pie. How can we do this? With incredible leverage!



Delivering Thanksgiving meals in New Braunfels

The second category is "Interest/Designated Funds (14%)." The presbytery has money invested at the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) and a few other places, and these investments earn interest. At this time, the Presbytery has \$5.3 million invested in various accounts at TPF. Thanks to this disciplined investing,

we have reserves and can use interest to drive ministry. Designated funds are monies which are earmarked toward certain ministries and must be spent in narrowly defined ways. The designated funds originated from certain donations over the years, or as settlements from churches leaving the denomination.



From young disciples.....to celebrating 70 years of Ministry

The third category is “leases and principal payments (14%).” The presbytery owns “The Broadway Building” which not only houses the presbytery offices but also brings in rental income from other tenants. The presbytery also received payments from churches it has lent money – these are referred to as “principal payments.”



A baptism at Shepherd of the Hills



Together at FPC Brownsville

The fourth category has to do with youth: John Knox Ranch and the activities of the Youth Connection Committee, which puts on Midwinters, Main Event, and Youth Triennium. Notice that this is about half the entire budget (49%), and almost entirely paid for with fees.



Grace PC in Round Rock held their annual “Be the Church Day” event

Now you might think, “This pays for itself and doesn’t need to be in the budget.” Suppose there were no JKR. Imagine a church wanted to have a camp with a thousand students. Sure, they could get registration money from people, maybe lots of people, but how will that be processed? Who will run the thing? Who will train the youth leaders, and where will you get them all? Who will develop the curriculum and activities? Where will they get the land to be on? Who will build the pool, the dining room, the showers, the sleeping areas? How will you feed them? How will the kids be kept safe with policies and procedures? Who will attend to the legal responsibilities? When you think about it, it is too daunting to imagine any church being able to pull this off, no matter how big it is.



Happy campers at John Knox Ranch

Yes, even though the JKR camp is pretty much “revenue neutral” on paper with fees paying for yearly expenses, the camp *would not exist* without the presbytery's leadership (like Henry), the JKR Committee, the General Council, etc.

It's hard to imagine with today's JKR success that not many years ago JKR was considered for possible sale -- and had it been sold, it would be impossible to rebuild what we have now. *It takes the machinery and resources of the presbytery to keep it running.*



Youth in Taylor



Youth in Corpus Christi

To a smaller degree, the same is true for YCC and events like Midwinters. Yes, it pays for a lot of its own costs through fees, but again it is the YCC, the leadership at the presbytery level, etc. that makes these events possible and probably beyond the reach of any particular church in the presbytery.



College Campus Ministries

In conclusion, you, the churches of Mission Presbytery, get (at least) \$1.6 million worth of services for 2023 and only pay for \$385,000 (23%) of it - due to generous giving in the past, careful investing of funds over the years, wise setting of fees, and maintaining some excellent property. And, yes, the presbytery could charge a fee - take that \$385,000, divide it among the total number of members of our 120 churches, and send each church a "bill." Most presbyteries do that. For years,

Mission Presbytery has not done that, but instead has relied on the generosity of our member churches to give to Benevolence each year.



Prayer time at FPC New Braunfels



4 baptisms and 2 renewals at FPC Copperas Cove

We hope you will see by this Income Narrative how much we are getting for our money as churches - and how essential it is for ALL to give generously to keep engaging not only with our present ministries and responsibilities, but to imagine what we could do with more.

Grace and peace,

Michael Day and Eric Dittman, co-chairs, Fiscal Oversight Team

Kevin Jones, chair, Stewardship Team

(The Stewardship Team and the Fiscal Oversight Team are the two halves of the Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight Committee)



Greetings from FPC Uvalde

Mission Presbytery Minimum Terms of Call & Board of Pensions Rates Effective January 1, 2023

2023 Minimum Effective Salary

Full time:

Pastoral Calls: \$46,250

Certified Christian Educators: \$30,945

Associate Christian Educators: \$29,883

Part time minimum terms of call are prorated, according to the number of hours, based on 40 hours as full time.

"Pastoral Calls" applies to installed and temporary pastoral positions (stated supply, interim pastor).

"Effective Salary" is defined by the Board of Pensions. It includes:

- Cash salary
- Housing allowance or manse fair rental value
- Utilities allowance
- Bonuses
- Allowances that are not reimbursements
- Does not include SECA payments
- More information and explanation can be found at pensions.org (search for "effective salary").

2023 Board of Pensions Dues, are based on full time compensation, and are subject to minimums and maximums. Basic dues are 39% of effective salary. There is a helpful calculator at pensions.org (search for "dues calculator").

All installed pastoral positions (installed, designated, full or part time) must include full Pastor's Participation in the Board of Pensions. Temporary positions (stated supply) may include full Pastor's Participation, or Minister's Choice options (if at least 20 hours/week), or no Board of Pensions benefits .

Thus, the total cost to a particular church, in order to meet the minimum terms of call for a full time, installed pastor is:

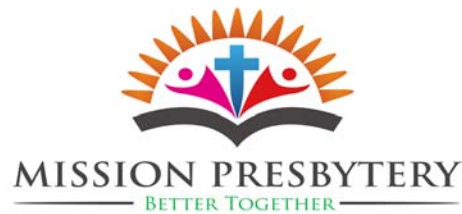
$$\text{\$46,250 (effective salary)} + \text{\$18,037 (Board of Pensions)} = \text{\$64,287}$$

Minimum terms of call also include:

- Reimbursable allowances (car, book, continuing education)
- Four weeks of vacation and two weeks of study leave. These apply equally to full and part-time, installed and temporary positions

Mission Presbytery desires that each church have pastoral leadership. Mission Presbytery also desires that each pastoral leader be paid fairly for their labor. If your congregation can no longer meet the minimum terms of call for your pastor, please contact the Commission on Ministry at com@missionpby.org, and we will work with you to find a solution.

If you have questions about these terms, please contact the Stated Clerk at statedclerk@missionpby.org, or 210-826-3296



LGBTQ+ Statement of Inclusivity for Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch

The arc of scripture and the work and witness of Jesus Christ call us to accept people as they are. Both the Old and New Testaments tell us of men and women who defy gender norms and are accepted.

One of which is the Ethiopian Eunuch, who was baptized by Philip after being denied access to the temple based on the law of that time. It is through Philip's actions (based on the teachings of Jesus) that the eunuch is credited with starting the church in Ethiopia.

Another is Deborah, a warrior and the only female judge named in the book of Judges. To our knowledge, this was not the norm of her time.

It is with this Biblical support we affirm that even in our differences, we are all children of God, created in the imago Dei.

A. Purpose Statement:

1. Christian community is a shared journey from which no one should be excluded. In alignment with our values, vision, and mission, Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch welcome all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, as guests and full participants in all our programs.
2. This policy is a statement of our sincere intention to include all participants in the work and activities of Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch. Some solutions will not be ideal because of existing structures and facilities, but we will do our best to accommodate all participants. The work is not yet complete, and we will continue to revisit and revise this policy as we live into it.

3. LGBTQ+ youth and campers are already participating in our programs. They are members of our families, our churches, and our wider communities. Adopting this inclusion statement will not change that but will enable our LGBTQ+ siblings and their families to have greater reassurance that Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch will do everything in our power to keep them safe.
4. This policy applies to Mission Presbytery-sponsored youth events and retreats and John Knox Ranch summer camp only. Churches that bring youth to a Mission Presbytery youth event agree to abide by the policy while they are attending the event. The policy does not apply to individual congregations, gatherings of multiple Mission Presbytery youth groups that are not planned or led by the Mission Presbytery Youth Connection Committee, or third-party groups hosting events at John Knox Ranch. However, this policy may serve as a template for sessions, youth committees, and other entities that want to adopt a similar policy.

B. Definitions:

1. **Youth participant:** youth (grades 6-12) attending a Mission Presbytery-sponsored youth event and/or a camper at John Knox Ranch.
2. **Adult participant:** church staff or volunteer youth leader who attends a youth event as a youth group chaperone or who volunteers at John Knox Ranch summer camp as a chaplain or other helper.
3. **Group registrar:** Designated church staff or volunteer youth leader who fills out and submits registration paperwork for their youth group for an event and communicates with event leadership.
4. **Leadership:** Mission Presbytery staff and adult members of the Youth Connection Committee who are responsible for managing registration, leading programs, and assigning housing for a Mission Presbytery-sponsored youth event, or John Knox Ranch directors and upper leadership.
5. **Secondary leadership:** Small group leaders, worship leaders, keynote speakers, and youth members of the Presbytery Youth Leadership Team who help with a Mission Presbytery-sponsored youth event or John Knox Ranch summer staff/counselors.

C. Mutual Respect and Community Expectations:

1. All participants will treat one another with respect and kindness. Bullying or harassment of another participant will not be tolerated. Any participant

who engages in bullying behavior during a Mission Presbytery event will be sent home at their family's expense.

2. When referring to another participant, all participants should use the individual's self-identified pronouns when not using the person's name.
3. Intentional misgendering of a transgender and/or nonbinary person is a form of bullying. While grace will be offered to all participants as they adapt to new ways of thinking and speaking, repeated and intentional misgendering of any participant will not be tolerated.
4. The purpose of Mission Presbytery youth events and John Knox Ranch summer camp is community building and spiritual growth. Sexual activity of any kind is prohibited at Mission Presbytery youth events and John Knox Ranch summer camp.

D. Registration:

1. Parents/guardians or group registrars will indicate the gender of youth participants on the event registration form. That information will be used by event leadership to assign appropriate housing. Adult participants and staff will indicate their own gender.
2. If a youth participant requests to use a different gender than they were registered with, leadership will work with the youth participant to accommodate them for comfort and safety. Due to potential safety concerns and confidentiality, the leaders will not report the youth participant's gender request to their parents/guardian or church pastor without the youth participant's consent.
3. Participants, parents/guardians, or group registrars are not required to disclose to leadership that a participant is transgender and/or nonbinary. However, sharing this information is encouraged so leaders can make the best housing arrangements for all participants with all relevant information.
4. If the transgender and/or nonbinary identity of a participant is shared with leadership, it will be held in confidence and shared only at the participant's discretion. With the participant's consent, the information may be shared with some secondary leadership (such as small group leaders, the health care provider, or counselors), who will work directly with the participant so they can provide a safe and inclusive environment for all participants.

E. Housing and Restrooms at Mission Presbytery Youth Events:

1. Adult and youth participants at Mission Presbytery-sponsored youth events will be housed in rooms corresponding to the gender indicated on their registration form.
2. Nonbinary participants can choose their housing from a list of options (including either male or female housing) provided by leadership.
3. When event leadership is aware that a transgender and/or nonbinary participant is attending, they will reach out to the group registrar or parent/guardian of the participant to discuss the best housing options for the event.
4. Transgender and/or nonbinary participants will not be required to stay in separate or alternative housing. However, if they wish to have more private lodgings, every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate those wishes to make them feel safe and comfortable.
5. Adult and youth participants may use restrooms corresponding to their self-identified gender. When selecting host sites for events, the Youth Connection Committee will prioritize hosting events at churches and facilities with at least some gender-neutral restrooms.
6. Participants and parents/guardians of participants will not be informed in advance if or when a transgender and/or nonbinary participant will be sharing their housing during a Mission Presbytery youth event.
7. If a participant expresses discomfort with sharing housing space with a transgender and/or nonbinary participant, that participant will be allowed to be re-housed, when possible. If a change is desired, it will be made with discretion and sensitivity to all parties involved. Every reasonable effort will be made to keep youth groups together.
8. Mission Presbytery requires that all event participants change clothes in private areas and forbids nudity or disrobing in shared housing areas such as dormitories. Adult and youth participants must change clothes in private bathrooms or shower stalls. All showers are single occupancy.
9. Mission Presbytery requires that all participants sleep in their own bed or sleeping bag and do not share sleeping surfaces regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

4. Further Considerations for Inclusion:

- A. Mission Presbytery's Child Protection Policy states that all youth participants will be supervised at all times during youth events. The policy also states that at least two adults will always be present (unless it is an open space where others can observe) and that all adults will be properly background-checked. The Child Protection Policy protects all participants

regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Therefore, this policy does not increase the risk of inappropriate behavior or sexual misconduct due to the full inclusion of transgender and/or nonbinary participants.

- B. Parents/guardians will be provided with this policy and the Child Protection Policy as part of the registration process. They must review and sign for their youth to participate in the event. Parents/guardians should understand that their youth may share housing and/or a bathroom facility with a transgender and/or nonbinary youth or adult.
- C. Training for adult sponsors and event leadership will include information regarding this policy and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ youth participants.
- D. Participants will have an opportunity but will not be required to wear a pronoun button on their nametag (or write it on their nametag).
- E. Event leaders will be encouraged to use gender-neutral group greetings such as “Hi y’all” or “Hey everybody!” Leadership will strive to use inclusive language for humanity and expansive language for God in written and spoken communications and worship. Keynote speakers, presenters, and worship leaders will be encouraged to model inclusive language from the front.
- F. Euphemistic terms such as “no purpling” will not be used to describe prohibited activities (historically, “purpling” has been used as a euphemism for sexual activity. If males are blue and females are red, sexual activity would make “purple”). Instead, we will strive for clarity in communication so that both youth and sponsors can understand expectations and help to keep one another safe.

5. Inclusion at John Knox Ranch: As an entity of Mission Presbytery, John Knox Ranch will utilize the policy as described above with the following additions:

- A. At John Knox Ranch, campers typically sleep in cabins according to gender specified on the registration form. John Knox Ranch will work with nonbinary campers and their families to find the best housing situation they are most comfortable with.
- B. John Knox Ranch requires that all campers and staff practice discretion when changing clothes in the cabin and forbids nudity or disrobing directly in front of others. All campers and staff have the option to change clothes in private single-occupancy bathrooms or shower stalls. All showers are single occupancy.
- C. John Knox Ranch’s policies state that all campers will be supervised at all times during summer camp. The policy also states that at least two staff

members will always be present (unless it is an open space where others can observe) and that all staff will be properly background-checked and trained. These policies protect all campers and staff regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Therefore, there is no increased risk of inappropriate behavior or sexual misconduct due to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ participants.

- D. Parents/guardians of campers will be provided with this policy as part of the registration process. Parents/guardians should understand that their youth may share a cabin and/or a bathroom facility with an LGBTQ+ camper or staff member.
- E. John Knox Ranch fills staff vacancies and assigns staff lodging/responsibilities based on summer staff applicant's self-selected gender.
- F. Staff training will include a session regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ+ campers. This policy will be discussed, along with rationale and training for providing transgender and/or nonbinary campers (and every camper) with an emotionally and physically safe environment.

Giving Report Through August 31, 2022

						2022 Shared Mission Support										2022 SPECIAL OFFERINGS									
City	Church	Pin #	Members as of 12.31.21	GENERAL (1)	MSH PRY (3)	SYNOD (4)	GA (2)	Total PRES'N Benevolence	PER CAPITA (8)	JOY (20)	OGHS (22)	PEACEMNG GA (12/3) (24)	PEACEMNG MP (1/3) (25)	PENTECOST (26)	THEOLOG. EDUC. (28)	Misc GIFTS	Total								
Copperas Cove	FPC	3446	76						682.48								545.00								
Boerne	St. Mark PC	3449	309	2,000.00				2,000.00	2,442.56	1,328.00	110.00						2,159.00	\$ 1,549.68							
Austin	St. John's PC	7767	55							100.00								\$ 7,929.56							
Port Lavaca	St. Mile PC	7925	9															\$ 210.00							
San Antonio	Oak Hills	8047	166	700.00				700.00	1,490.68	746.00	720.92					175.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 1,838.00							
Austin	FPC	8621	435							2,276.30	1							\$ 3,68							
Austin	Cheapside PC	8623	11															\$ 4,933.22							
Harper	Harper PC	8628	40						359.20									\$ 359.20							
Gonzales/Smiley	Pilgrim	8633	21															\$							
Austin	St. Andrew's	8634	363						3,259.74		895.00							\$ 3,259.74							
San Antonio	Divine Redeemer	8635	125								195.00			107.00				\$ 695.00							
San Antonio	Los Angeles Heights	8636	31	550.00	300.00			850.00	278.38								110.00	\$ 1,535.38							
San Antonio	Madison Square	8637	150	8,000.00				8,000.00	1,347.00	507.00							1,000.00	\$ 10,854.00							
Smithville	FPC - Smithville	8638	63						583.70		250.00						500.00	\$ 1,083.70							
San Antonio	University PC	8640	378	16,000.00				16,000.00	3,394.44	1,400.00					1,650.00		\$ 23,642.44								
Menard	FPC	8650	27														\$	\$							
Adamsville	FPC	8845	5								893.00							\$							
Lampasas	FPC	8857	72	3,160.35				3,160.35	646.56	785.00	1			449			1,250.00	\$ 6,893.91							
Austin	Hope PC	10338	432	700.00				700.00	3,879.36	125.00							1,198.00	\$ 6,351.36							
San Antonio	Holy Trinity	10427	278	5,275.00				5,275.00	2,496.44			202.60	101.15				1,274.05	\$ 9,342.24							
Austin	Shepherd of the Hills	10600	545	15,750.00				15,750.00	4,894.10								20,644.10	\$ 20,644.10							
San Antonio	Northminster	10759	137	1,050.00				1,050.00	615.10									\$ 1,665.10							
Lago Vista	Rolling Hills	10843	62	250.00				250.00										\$ 250.00							
Round Rock	Round Rock PC	10869	137	1,710.00				1,710.00	700.44	5.00	256.00						220.00	\$ 3,096.26							
Pipe Creek	Pipe Creek PC	11110	78						700.44									\$ 700.44							
Canyon Lake	Canyon Lake PC	11111	78	1,666.00	625.00			2,291.00	700.44	195.00	115.00						302.00	\$ 3,191.44							
Wimberley	Wimberley	11200	195					3,000.00	1,751.10									\$ 2,541.10							
Austin	Talavera	11552	99	3,000.00							00							\$ 3,000.00							
Corpus Christi	Faith Community	11554	75	600.00				600.00	817.18		1,205.							\$ 2,622.18							
Corpus Christi	Island PC	11628	73															\$							
Austin	Genesis PC	11699	30						269.40									\$ 269.40							
Georgetown	San Gabriel	11792	203	8,250.00				8,250.00	1,742.12	222.00							6,450.00	\$ 18,092.12							
Round Rock	Grace PC	11794	241	7,747.92				7,747.92	4,328.36	2.	2.						60.00	\$ 14,358.28							
Brownsville	Primeta Iglesia	11840	72						646.56									\$ 646.56							
Austin	PC Lake Travis	12042	78						610.70									\$ 610.70							
McAllen	First Korean	12044	46							1,981.00								\$ 1,981.00							
Austin	New Covenant	12091	45						3,681.00									\$							
Dripping Springs	Dripping Springs PC	12121	410															\$							
Schulenburg	St. Paul's PC	12197	27															\$							
Leander	Live Oak PC	12340																\$							
Austin	Covenant PC	21668	1,761	10,000.00				10,000.00	15,813.78								260.00	\$ 260.00							
Austin	El Burn Pastor	21669	65															\$							
Austin	Faith PC	21670	133							1,090.00	870.00	616.98	308.02	414.00				\$ 3,299.00							
Austin	Central PC	21671	420	6,650.00				6,650.00		800.00	3,055.00			50.00				\$ 9,835.00							
Austin	Hyde Park PC	21673	67	1,230.				1,230.	574.72	260.	611.00	165.08	82.42					\$ 2,923.22							
Austin	University PC	21674	488	20,067.00				20,067.00		3,260.00	5,200.00			1,344.60			485.00	\$ 30,357.22							
Austin	Westlake Hills	21675	1,921	22,500.				22,500.	17,250.58								3,397.00	\$ 75,017.55							
Austin	Westminster	21676	389	18,033.12				18,033.12		1,375.							500.00	\$ 21,020.12							
Beaville	PC	21678	12	1,596.52			16	896.68			541.00			195.00			2,613.34	\$ 5,446.02							
Brownsville	PC	21680	90	1,292.65				1,292.65	808.20		24.34			206.25				\$ 2,463.55							
Burnet	Burnet	21682	63	400				400.00	493.90	725	715.00			20.00				\$ 2,353.90							
Callisburg	Callisburg	21684	28	1,000.00				1,000.00	251.44	590.00								\$ 1,841.44							
Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi	21686	7	2,662				2,662.00	601.66	282.00								\$							
Corpus Christi	Grace PC	21689	276	7,316.40				7,316.40	2,478.48	572.00								\$ 3,945.66							
Corpus Christi	Ison Woods	21690	75							90.00	215.00				273.02			\$ 30,639.90							
Corpus Christi	Pathway PC	21691	404	6,398.00				6,398.00	3,627.92	1,100.00	997.75							\$ 305.00							
Corpus Christi	Pathway PC	21691	404	6,398.00				6,398.00	3,627.92	1,100.00	997.75							\$ 12,504.67							

Giving Report Through August 31, 2022

			2022 Shared Mission Support										2022 SPECIAL OFFERINGS						
City	Church	Pin #	Members as of 12.31.21	GENERAL (1)	MSGN PRY (3)	SYNOD (4)	GA (2)	Total PRIEST'S Benevolence	PER CARTA (\$)	JOY (20)	OGHS (22)	PEACEMKG GA (2/3) (24)	PEACEMKG NP (1/3) (25)	PENTECOST (26)	THEOLOG. EDUC (28)	Misc Gifts	Total		
Conalia	FPC	21694	5							1,305.12	602.00			1,296.00			\$		
Cuero	FPC	21696	117														\$		
Del Rio	FPC	21697	112														\$		
El Campo	FPC	21701	142		100.00			100.00	1,275.16	460.00	610.00						\$		
Elgin	FPC	21702	88	2,500.00				2,500.00	790.24								\$		
Fredericksburg	Memorial PC	21707	53	1,000.00	1,000.00			2,000.00		740.00	150.00				2,200.00	6,800.00	\$		
Georgetown	FPC	21708	562	26,189.00				26,189.00	5,046.76	3,153.00	2,821.24					2,000.00	\$		
Giddings	FPC	21709	42						565.74								\$		
Goliad	Goliad PC	21710	49														\$		
Gonzales	Gonzales PC	21711	117							715.00	1,525.00						\$		
La Feria	New Hope PC	21712	30	561.00				561.00	260.42	28.00							\$		
Harlingen	Second PC	21713	19						170.62								\$		
Harlingen	Treasure Hills	21714	175	3,500.00				3,500.00									\$		
Holmes	Forest Hills	21715	130	380.00		20.00		400.00	1,167.40	348.24	892.33	139.90	79.42	150.97		37.86	\$		
Junction	FPC	21716	143	3,000.00				3,000.00		1,505.00						2,133.36	\$		
Jones City	FPC	21717	46														\$		
Kernville	FPC	21718	489														\$		
Kingsville	FPC	21719	89	2,000.00				2,000.00									\$		
Kingsville	Gethsemane	21720	30														\$		
La Grange	FPC	21722	177	4,800.00				4,800.00	1,050.66								\$		
Laredo	Sisal PC	21724	90														\$		
Leander	Leander PC	21725	60	1,050.00				1,050.00	538.80	115.00	217.60						\$		
Llano	FPC	21726	13													107.76	\$		
Lockhart	FPC	21727	34														\$		
Lockhart	Faith/Fe PC	21728	40														\$		
Luling	St. Andrew PC	21729	19						359.20	221.00				240.00			\$		
Marble Falls	Bethania	21731	38						100.00	718.40							\$		
McAllen	PC	21732	138	2,000.00				2,000.00	1,230.26		720.00			147.00			\$		
Mercedes	PC	21734	26	250.00				250.00	233.48	64.00	258.32						\$		
Mission	PC	21735	240	1,000.00	1,000.00			2,000.00	2,155.20								\$		
New Braunfels	PC	21737	51														\$		
New Braunfels	New Braunfels PC	21738	343	3,208.31	916.66			4,124.97	3,080.14	1,530.00	1,510.85			578.40		10,874.88	\$		
Palacios	PC	21739	68						610.64	635.00	865.00						\$		
Pleasanton	PC	21741	22	1,600.00				1,600.00		285.00	105.00			185.00			\$		
Port Aransas	Community PC	21742	115														\$		
Port Lavaca	FPC	21743	67														\$		
Refugio	FPC	21747	39	150.00	750.00			900.00	384.15	100.00	100.00					300.00	\$		
Rockport	FPC	21750	191	7,280.00				7,280.00	1,715.18	590.00	2,153.78			190.20			\$		
Rocksprings	FPC	21751	35														\$		
San Antonio	Alamo Heights	21752	306	1,250.00				1,250.00	2,747.88								\$		
San Antonio	Bokville	21755	112						1,005.76								\$		
San Antonio	Covenant PC	21756	309	14,000.00				14,000.00	2,774.82								\$		
San Antonio	Crestholme	21757	22		250.00			250.00		95.00		16.68	8.32	135.00			\$		
San Antonio	Emmanuel	21758	62														\$		
San Antonio	Grace PC	21760	52	600.00				600.00	466.96	610.00	703.00	50.03	24.97	216.00			\$		
San Antonio	Cross Roads (John Calkie)	21765	171	750.00				750.00	1,517.62		95.00	905.79	452.21	551.00		300.00	\$		
San Antonio	Northwood	21767	179	4,800.00				4,800.00								5,050.00	\$		
San Antonio	St. Andrew PC	21769	141	1,000.00				1,000.00	1,266.18	985.00							\$		
San Antonio	San Pedro PC	21770	327	2,750.00				2,750.00	2,936.46								\$		
San Benito	FPC	21772	57						511.86								\$		
San Benito	Iglesia Gettemani	21773	23														\$		
San Marcos	FPC	21774	137	905.00				905.00	2,514.40	145.00	200.00					45,000.00	\$		
San Marcos	Memorial PC	21775	63						600.85								\$		
Seguin	FPC	21776	143													1,500.00	\$		
Sinton	Sinton PC	21777	11	400.00				400.00	108.35	320.00	1,120.00						\$		

Giving Report Through August 31, 2022

			2022 Shared Mission Support								2022 SPECIAL OFFERINGS						
City	Church	Pin #	Members as of 12.31.21	GENERAL (1)	MSM PRV (3)	SYNOD (4)	GA (2)	Total PRES'N Benevolence	PER CAPITA (6)	JOY (20)	OGHS (22)	PEACEMING GA (2/3) (24)	PEACEMING MP (1/3) (25)	PENTECOST (26)	THEOLOG. EDUC. (28)	Misc Gifts	Total
Taylor	Everlasting Hope	21781	47					-	287.36	75.00	100.00			143.58			\$ 318.58
Thvoli	Thvoli	21782	32					-									\$ 287.36
Uvalde	FPC	21783	61					-	551.60	246.00	144.00						\$ 941.60
Victoria	FPC	21785	119	603.00				603.00	1,068.62								\$ 1,671.62
Victoria	Grace PC	21786	123	1,000.00				1,000.00	1,104.54								\$ 2,104.54
Victoria	Nicea	21787	31					-									\$ -
Weslaco	FPC	21788	106	1,000.00				1,000.00	951.88								\$ 1,951.88
Weslaco	San Pablo PC	21789	34	200.00				200.00	200.00	215.00							\$ 615.00
Woodsboro	Faith United	21790	1					-	8.98								\$ 8.98
Yorktown	FPC	21792	92	1,000.00				1,000.00	916.05								\$ 1,916.05
San Antonio	First Korean	23344	118	500.00				500.00	1,059.64	33,307.66	66,847.10	2,117.06	1,056.91	10,761.20	5,948.02	101,154.36	\$ 5,559.64
TOTAL CHURCH GIFTS				266,882.79	4,941.66	20.00	300.16	272,144.61	128,700.24								\$ 622,037.16
Other External Church Gifts																	\$ -
INDIVIDUAL GIFTS				2,263.60	550.50			2,814.10								45,655.50	\$ 48,469.60
TOTAL GIFTS				269,146.39	5,492.16	20.00	300.16	274,958.71	128,700.24	33,307.66	66,847.10	2,117.06	1,056.91	10,761.20	5,948.02	146,809.86	\$ 670,506.76
																	\$ -
Mission Pkwy 90%				242,231.75	5,492.16			247,723.91					1,056.91				\$ 248,780.82
Synod 5%				13,457.32		20.00		13,477.32									\$ 13,477.32
																	\$ -
GA 5%				13,457.32			300.16	13,757.48	128,700.24	33,307.66	66,847.10	2,117.06	1,056.91	10,761.20	5,948.02		\$ 262,495.67
																146,809.86	\$ 146,809.86

Fund Code
Account #'s

	2001-00	2015-00	2016-00	2014-00	2023-00	2002-00	2005-00	2006-00	2178-65	2007-00	2008-00
Misc Breakdown											
2,216.00 Pastoral Care											
680.47 Candidate Scholarships											
1,410.00 Zambia											
934.40 Disaster Relief-Storm											
6,912.68 Disaster Relief Prepare											
11,005.50 RGV											
3,177.59 APTS											
8,572.80 Childrens hm											
52,742.86 PDA											
2,377.62 Itasca											
3,725.00 JKR											
1,899.35 Misc											
8,000.00 Missionaries											
2,125.00 Mo Ranch											
250.00 New Church Develop											
5,644.26 Pan Am Sch											
40.00 Prsby Mental Health Network											
25,149.40 Uvalde Memorial											
525.00 HNS											
4,120.40 Gifts Undesig											
4,350.00 Boldsville Fund											
492.00 PW Thank											
431.25 Misc/Des											
28.28 PW least coin											
\$											

Ministry Report

Summer Camp 2022. What an amazing summer of camp ministry! In all, 927 campers attended our day camp or resident camp program this year, 101 more than last year! We are so proud of the growth in camper numbers and so grateful to all the individuals and churches who recommend camp to their friends and communities. Most of our sessions this summer were full and we had 121 campers on waiting lists who sadly did not get to attend. In order to add more campers, we will need to build new facilities.

Bereavement Camps. John Knox Ranch partners with 3 Hospice organizations (Austin, San Marcos, New Braunfels) to host Bereavement Camps for kids who have lost a loved one. The Hospice organization plans and leads therapy activities, we provide the fun, inclusive, loving camp setting. Camp Braveheart (Hospice Austin) has partnered with JKR for over 20 years and this year brought 96 campers to camp!

School Programs. Our Field Trip program is growing rapidly! We have a long-standing relationship with Mendez Elementary in San Marcos ISD (thank you First Pres San Marcos!). Thanks to recent advocacy and funding from First Pres San Marcos, San Marcos ISD plans to dramatically expand the number students they send to field trips at JKR this year. Additionally, Wimberley ISD has a goal of sending every student, in every grade to a field trip at JKR! Because of

OUR SUMMER IN NUMBERS!

927 TOTAL CAMPERS

602 ZIP LINE RIDERS 

504 LOAVES OF BREAD BAKED 

107 HIGHEST AIR TEMP 

32 UNCLOGGED TOILETS

16  CAMPFIRE

0.80 INCHES OF RAINFALL 

JOHN KNOX RANCH
SUMMER 2022

this rapid growth we have hired a part time school programs coordinator to help us meet these needs. Welcome Amy Lyles!

Family Camps. Enjoy all the summer camp favorites: swimming, singing, hiking, canoeing, archery, s'mores around the campfire, chaplain time, arts and crafts, and more. You will be responsible for your children while they are at camp. Families will stay together as they participate in activities around the camp. All ages are welcome! Each family stays in either a side of one of our duplex cabins with a bathroom and AC or in one of our rustic screened cabins with a shared shower house. At JKR Family Camp your family has the opportunity to unplug, relax, and reconnect with what is most important – family, faith, community and God's glorious creation. We host 4 family camps per year. This is a great packaged opportunity for churches to encourage their families to spend time building relationships in Christian community. Join us!

JKR Apprenticeship Program. We are launching an apprenticeship program! Apprentices will work and live at JKR for one year and are challenged and equipped to grow in all areas of our ministry. The program is designed to develop servant leadership skills while providing experience in camp ministry with hope that participants will continue their careers in camping, church ministry, recreation, education, or any other children, youth, and family-based organizations. Apprentices develop their professional resume, gain practical work experience, and develop personally and professionally as a leader.

Strategic Plan. Over the winter and spring of 2020-2021 the John Knox Ranch Committee completed a strategic planning process to help guide our work over the next few years. We are proud of the progress we have already made on our Strategic Plan. The completed strategic plan can be found on our website <https://johnknoxranch.org/strategicplan>.

Funding Opportunities. Our strategic plan includes several building improvement projects including new cabins, adding a solar array, and adding rain water collection. For more information on each project and to help fund a project, please visit our website <https://johnknoxranch.org/fundingopportunities>.

“My Daughter and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making it possible for her to attend camp this summer. It was the first camp for her and it was everything she expected and more. She loved all the activities, food, Bible study, but I think the most positive outcome was making what hopefully will be lifelong friends. God bless you all and once again thank you, thank you, thank you!” – Camp Scholarship Recipient

**Report for Mission Presbytery
Committee on Preparation for Ministry
October 21 - 22, 2022**

No actions for Mission Presbytery.

Since the last meeting of Mission Presbytery, the CPM met on September 16, 2022.

Information / Updates:

1. As we shared in our last report to Presbytery, one of the requirements for Ruling Elders seeking qualification to receive a commission from the Commission of Ministry is to complete a class on the history and ethnicity of Mission Presbytery. Up to this point, there is no class/material/curriculum available to meet this requirement, so we have needed to waive this. We are pleased to report that much progress has been made in finding a resource and hope to have it ready in the next few weeks.
2. Candidates Savannah Shivers (First, Austin) and Alan Constant (Hyde Park, Austin) came before the committee for Final Assessment. After a conversation with each candidate, reviewing materials, and listening to a sermon, the committee voted and approved each as certified ready for examination, pending a call.

Sincerely,

Malcolm McQueen (Co-Chair), Alex Serna-Wallender, Ann Brizendine, Doug Dalglish, Jim DeMint, Consuelo Donahue, Doug Fritzsche, Becca Longino, David Meriwether, John Roberts, Claudia Smith, Debbie Warden, Jon Wasson, Clark Weatherby



REPORT OF THE MISSION OUTREACH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Moderator, Rev. Andries Coetzee
Secretary, Mac Holmes
Treasurer, Nicki Roberson

No action for Mission Presbytery. This report is for information.

MOJC met on September 15, 2022 via Zoom.

Members Present: Andries Coetzee, Nicki Roberson, Dave Diercksen, Edward Esparza, Chad Lawson, Kathleen McCloskey, June Oliver, Nicole Talkington

Members Excused: Thomas Holmes, Remington Johnson

1. Rev. Remington Johnson and the Rev. Matt Gaventa Presbytery Representatives for Texas Impact Board. Early this summer a legislative priority setting retreat where held in wich both participated and a draft set of priorities was developed:

“The categories that focus our work are economic justice, climate justice, civic engagement and human rights.

Within the category of economic justice we chose to focus on maternal health and public schools. Maternal health focus includes but is not limited to an expansion of Medicaid and the limiting of criminal and civil penalties for abortion. For public schools the focus includes but is not limited to increased accountability for charter schools and an opposition to school vouchers that subsidize private education at the expense of the public schools.

In climate justice, the subcategories are the electric grid and protections for a changing climate. The goal is that our electric grid be one that is robust, has a backup and is supported by renewable energy sources. Climate change protections would include an establishment of a Resident Texas program to ensure that Texans are better prepared for the consequences of climate change.

Civic engagement includes support for voting rights and promotion of good governance. The goal is to increase civic participation and regulations on gun ownership.

Human rights include support for migrants and protection of minority communities. Defunding Operation Lone Star and supporting executive actions related to federal immigration are goals that will support migrants. The protection of minority communities includes advocacy for LGBTQ+ people and the restoration of rights for those seeking abortions.

The financial support of our presbytery and our churches supports this work.”

2. A motion was made to approve the reimbursement of \$1500 to Puentes de Cristo for legal fees paid for Yoan Zamora, a Cuban national, to obtain legal immigration from the "Peacemaking" account.

Explanation:

The "Peacemaking" Account is the portion of the Peacemaking Offering retained by the Presbytery and has a current balance of about \$3200.

Trustees of Mission Presbytery Report

Mission Presbytery Report, October 21-22, 2022

Trustees (10 Members 5-Year Terms)

Class of 2022 – Sonja Dalglish (TE), Brink Brinkerhoff (RE)

Class of 2023 – Matt Gaventa (TE), Les Gage (RE)

Class of 2024 – *Perry Deckard (RE), co-chair; Marc Raney (RE)

Class of 2025 – Dick Powell (RE), *Alex Villalpando (RE), co-chair

Class of 2026 – Lori Hockley (RE), Vacant

2022 Trustees of Mission Presbytery Summary

7 Zoom meetings; 3 e-votes; 1 property sale, Good Shepherd PC, SA;

0 property sales, active church; 5 promissory notes; 1 PILP review;

2 community partner agreement reviews;

San Augustine Oil and Gas Lease Mineral Rights Lease – \$54,000.00

Closed Church Property Updates

1. FPC, Menard (Lori Hockley) – The Administrative Commission Menard declared the church an "extinct congregation"--G-4.0205. The property is a high-risk liability. A chain of title for the property has been acquired. The property will soon be on the market.
2. FPC, Portland (Perry Deckard) – The property is on the market.

Active Church Property Updates

1. Round Rock PC (Alex Villalpando) No update.
2. Cross Roads PC Windcrest (Trustee) – No update.
3. Community PC, Port Aransas (Alex Villalpando, Brink Brinkerhoff) – The Administrative Commission and the church are going to mediation.
4. FPC Elgin (Les Gage) – The church plans to build a building for the Elgin Community Cupboard, a food pantry. On July 17, 2022, the Trustees of Mission Presbytery voted and approved FPC Elgin to move forward with a 10-year lease agreement with Elgin Community Cupboard. The Trustees reviewed and approved the action with the understanding legal counsel will review the lease before FPC Elgin enters into the lease agreement.
5. FPC Palacios (Acreage Sale) – The sale of church property is pending.

Financed Church Property Updates

1. House of Grace (Yoakum) –current
2. Ebenezer Church (Robstown) – current
3. New Pentecostal Church (Mercedes\Principe de Paz) – current
4. Corpus Christi Korean – Deferred payments approved through October 1, 2022.

Property Inquires

1. El Buen Pastor (Matt Gaventa) – COM met with El Buen Pastor and requested a Trustee meet with El Buen Pastor to gather specific information about property issues. No update.
2. Genesis Presbyterian Church Austin – The church is discerning its future. No update to report.
3. Central PC Austin – (Alex Villalpando, Perry Deckard, Matt Gaventa) – Sallie Watson and Laurie Palmer heard a report from church representatives regarding their future plan on September 19. The representatives from the church sent a letter to the Trustees, who received it and will support the church.

Mission Presbytery Youth Connection Committee Report for Mission Presbytery October 2022

Presbytery Youth Leadership Team Planning Meeting

August 12-13, 2022, at John Knox Ranch

The Presbytery Youth Leadership Team met on August 12-13, 2022, at John Knox Ranch to plan Main Event and Midwinters. The team selected Isaiah 58:8-12 and “Brick by Brick, Repairing God’s World “ as Main Event’s theme. They selected Luke 22:54-62 and John 21:15-19, and “Do You Love Me?” as Midwinters’ theme.

September 23-25, 2022 – Main Event for Youth Retreat at John Knox Ranch

Over 80 youth and adults gathered at John Knox Ranch for Main Event for Youth for the first time in three years! We were joined by Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell, the new Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery, as we discussed our theme verse, Isaiah 58:8-12. We made 22 disaster clean-up buckets and over 50 hygiene kits that will be stored around Mission Presbytery, ready to be deployed when they are needed.

Upcoming Events

November 11-12, 2022 – Presbytery Youth Leadership Team planning meeting in San Antonio

January 6-7, 2023 – Midwinter Preparation Weekend at Mo-Ranch

January 13-15, 2023 – Midwinter Youth Conference 1 at Mo-Ranch

January 20-22, 2023 – Midwinter Youth Conference 2 at Mo-Ranch