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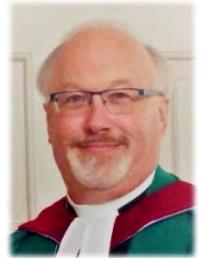
From General Presbyter Roy Martin

Your presbytery will hold its next stated meeting on August 22, 2023 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola.

This promises to be an interesting meeting as we hear a progress report from the Strategic Planning Task Force regarding their work in looking to your

presbytery's future, the Committee on Mission and Outreach as they present a proposed covenant with the Presbyterian Women's organization in Guatemala, the wonderful summer of camps held at Dogwood Acres, and the educational hour put on by the Racial Justice Subcommittee.

I will report on my learnings from my study leave time in Great Britain earlier this summer, a



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

proposed budget for 2024 will be presented by the Committee on Presbytery Administration, and engaging worship will be led by the Rev. Eric Spoon from Grace Presbyterian Church in Panama City.

If you have never been to a presbytery meeting and you are not a commissioner, please know you are more than welcome to attend as an observer to see how your congregation is engaging in ministry beyond your own community.

To all commissioners and clergy members, I look forward to seeing you at Trinity Presbyterian Church August 22nd starting at 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT with registration beginning at 8 a.m. CDT/9 a.m. EDT.

Roy

Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting @Trinity Presbyterian Church 3400 Bayou Blvd., Pensacola Tuesday, August 22nd 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET

Registration begins at 8 am CT/9 am ET

Download meeting materials at
www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/



**From our
Stated Clerk**



*By Jeannie Dixon,
Fellowship,
Tallahassee Elder*

Book of Order revisions bring changes for congregations

The new amendments to the *Book of Order* as approved by the presbyteries around the country became effective July 9, 2023.

Major changes for congregations include:

- Boundary training is required for all staff, ruling elders and deacons for sexual abuse and child abuse, with re-certification every 36 months;

- The Rules of Discipline have been completely rewritten and are now entitled “Church Discipline”;
- Your Sexual Misconduct Policy must address harassment issues;
- An antiracism policy is required;
- Family Leave of 12 weeks is required.

The PC(USA)
MidCouncil Leaders

Group and the Association of Stated Clerks are working jointly to develop resources on these for our congregations. I will share these as soon as they are available.

If you ever have a complaint or allegation of misconduct against a ruling elder or teaching elder contact me immediately! Do not attempt an investigation yourself.

**Walking In
New Shoes**
Isaiah 40:31

POAMN
Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network Conference
September 14-15, 2023 • Grosse Ile, Michigan

<https://poamn.org/2023-conference/>

PEACE BEGINS WITH EACH OF US.

SEPTEMBER 3-OCTOBER 1, 2023

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Trinity United and Faith neighbors co-host Caring event

Loving and compassionate relationships are the substance of Christian discipleship. Those relationships include our family, fellow church members, the extended Christian community, and our neighbors.

And so it was that the congregation at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, a historically black church in Tallahassee, answered a call to serve in love. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the church was led to host a Festival of Caring at Trinity on June 24. Trinity collected food and clothing to distribute to those in need in the community.

During the depths of the Covid epidemic and after the death of George Floyd, Trinity formed a partnership with a Sunday School class from Faith Presbyterian, a historically white church in Tallahassee. Trinity invited their Faith prayer partners to assist with the venture and join in the festivities. In addition to the food and clothing giveaway, games and prizes, everyone enjoyed a meal of barbeque ribs, sausage, burgers, and hot dogs, with all the fixings.

The deacons and elders of Trinity were joined by members of Faith all working together to make the event a success. But it

was the Christian fellowship manifested through working together that made for a day that was joy-filled for all. Also in attendance were Trinity guest ministers, Rev. James Holley and Rev. Ted Houston and the lead pastor at Faith, Dr. Brad Clayton and his wife, Julianne.

The acts of lovingkindness and fellowship at the Festival of Caring led to a deepening of the relationship between two Presbyterian congregations and their community beyond. Shown below is a collage of photos from the June 24 event.

From the Racial Justice Subcommittee



*By
Ruth Reynolds,
Subcommittee member and
Faith, Tallahassee elder*



available to more people in need. | By training local laborers in manual drilling, they are able to drill wells for people in their community, and provide training on the application of pumps, allowing people to make and maintain their own pumps with local supplies. PRDA even helps establish supply chains of materials like filter elements that are not locally produced. The result? Stronger, healthier communities that are invested in their own safe water efforts. • LOUISVILLE — Afghan refugees in Prince William County, Virginia, had two major needs: job opportunities and Halal food. There was experience in the community with farming and cattle-raising in the northern Virginia county's Afghan community. Some refugees had pooled their resources to purchase cattle and secure land. | In March 2021 the Afghan Cattle Cooperative formed, and in October, the farm management group was organized and registered as Afghan Farm Associates LLC. The goal is to help meet the growing demand for Halal food, which is food permissible, cultivated and prepared according to Islamic law, for the local Afghan and Muslim community. | While the group has been able to start the Af-

ACC in order to make it a member of the Refugee Resettlement Program, the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, we didn't have enough funding on our own, we needed support to boost our efforts in achieving our goals," says Shafiq Faqeerzai, general manager of the Afghan Cattle Cooperative. "Consequently, we submitted a grant application, and management of SDOP's ACC's goals," Faqeerzai said. "We have been up to 12 more calves and/or young cows for the winter season, and other necessities." | The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has proven meet its production goals. (Contributed photo) on the farm. The goal is to supply local Afghan more Afghan families are coming to Virginia, as well as U.S. war in Afghanistan. Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia has been arriving in the U.S. | Faqeerzai says the Afghan refugee families get to gather and spend time with the cattle. Meanwhile, they are learning the modern community and other farmer members of Greenwich Presbyterian, Faqeerzai says, simply involving submitting the mate-

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years, citizens in Flint, Michigan, have been trying to bring awareness to high levels of lead leaching into their water supply from aging pipes. In late 2015, news broke nationally of just how bad the lead was—stains in the thousands of residents who have already experienced health issues due to lead poisoning—and cover up. But also, there are stories of citizens coming together to help one another and stories of relief pouring into the city of Flint as organizations provide water supplies, filters, and crisis counseling centers. With a long history of community

funding to manage the successful. A member of the Presbyterian Church in Nokesville, Virginia, recommended that the Presbyterian Self-Development of People budget to we wanted external assistance towards Mohammad Al management. Luckily it got assistance with planned to expand one bull and Assistance from vital to help the. He said there markets. | That as communities in Prince William County says the farm is their spare time farming system. The Presbyterian Church members online and with SDOP members or continue our SDOP by sub farm pictures and successful. Faqeerzai says while, we will create further from SDOP and SDOP donor. Without support, it was us to achieve Community connects connect purpose — and giving along need. | One of

the benefits of this small space, coupled with the ability to be flexible in the way they work, is that the family unit of people. • The Presbyterian Community Agreement in relative support. • The Presbyterian Community Agreement provided direct and technical assistance that increased the yield of the farm and economic security of their families. • The Presbyterian Community Agreement provided direct and technical assistance that increased the yield of the farm and economic security of their families. • The Presbyterian Community Agreement provided direct and technical assistance that increased the yield of the farm and economic security of their families.

<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>

many community gardening success stories that bloomed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic was Garfield Community Farm, a Pittsburgh-based organization supported by the Presbyterian Hunger Program and generous gifts made through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. The farm has supplied produce to feed its neighbors in predominantly low-income neighborhoods for years — and that mission was never more important than in 2020, when the pandemic created disruptions in traditional nutrition support safety net programs, sweeping job loss and economic hardship especially in already vulnerable communities. | Rather than buckling under challenges posed by social distancing requirements and stay-at-home mandates, Garfield Community Farm rose to the challenge and stepped up its efforts to feed the families in its neighborhoods. | The farm more than doubled the number of households served through produce deliveries containing lettuce, kale, collards, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, herbs, and more. Garfield Community Farm also experimented with distributing tomato seedlings for the first time. One recipient of seedlings was Phyllis Conner, a Garfield resident who had been told by the farm not to have a garden because of the lack of space. She had five-gallon buckets with holes in them that she used as planters. Phyllis had a long history of gardening, but she had never had a garden before. She had a garden in the past, but she had lost it under the assumption that they would destroy something. | Other successes emerged in the midst of the adversities of 2020: Garfield Community Farm reduced its crop loss (due to pest and disease) by 80% surpassed its 2020 estimate for seedling sales by 25% and increased its food pantry donations by 200%. | And when the COVID-19 pandemic created the need for Garfield to limit its market, the farm instead worked to increase the number of community support. Agriculture is a good option for local farmers to be more actively engaged in their communities surrounding CSA packaging and distribution. Because of that state, Garfield Community Farm distributed CSA boxes to its members. This is a great farm, community. | One of our Presbyterian Church serves to remind us of the staggering resilience and ingenuity of people working toward the common goal of helping their neighbors. | Though now rich and green, not long ago the fields of his property lay in ruin. Moti's farm was destroyed during a period of civil unrest. "They announced a peace truce and we went to the field to get tomatoes to eat, but found nothing. My efforts were all in vain," Moti remembers. "I was so sad that I had lost my farm. I had a big dream, but I had lost it. I had a big dream, but I had lost it. I had a big dream, but I had lost it." | Resources meet resolve. | The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Giving Catalog help restore livelihoods — and lives — in rural areas devastated by conflict and natural disasters. • Janet Mujawayezu, a 35-year-old mother of three, belongs to a savings group supported by a partnership between The Presbyterian Church of Rwanda and Self-Development of People. This partnership provides assistance for agricultural, water supply, craft, and electrical projects, that meet certain criteria. g cows and one bull and the required amount of hay for the winter season, and other necessities." | Assistance from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has proven vital to help the Afghan Cattle Cooperative cows and one bull and the required amount of hay for the winter season, and other necessities." | Assistance from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has proven vital to help the Afghan Cattle Cooperative

EVERY GIFT IS ANOTHER WORD, STITCHED TOGETHER BY LOVE, JOINED BY CARING, AND MADE STRONGER BY FAITH.

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

In the midst of bad news, there is good news

There actually is good news about the climate crisis that is being swamped by all the bad news, because the bad news is really bad. Unrelenting triple digit temperatures are roasting the South, wildfire smoke is blanketing the Midwest, flash floods in the Northeast have killed five, and record hot water temperatures in the Gulf and Atlantic, including Florida Bay, are reaching 101 degrees F. Floridians are enduring the hottest and most humid summer ever recorded. It is especially bad for outdoor workers, seniors and those who can't afford air conditioning.

And, by the way, there are increasing costs associated with all this bad news. Property insurers, Farmer's and AAA are exiting Florida because it is a risky market. Our property insurance costs are four times the national average.

There is some very good news. But first, I want you to read this sentence very slowly: All the horrors we are experiencing are from the **early stages** of climate change because we are **less than halfway** to the temperature our current emissions trajectory will produce. Yes, it is going to get worse, thanks to banks, insurance companies and others, including our denomination, that continue to invest in the fossil fuel industry.

Here is the good news. The world is making rapid progress with renewable energy. A [new report](#) from RMI, formerly known as the Rocky Mountain Institute, claims that one-third of all the electricity the world needs will come from renewable sources by 2030. This is huge and welcome news.

Renewable energy, like solar and wind, along with battery technology, are experiencing exponential growth. "Exponential" means that the increase in growth will come faster and faster. This growth brings with it widespread benefits, like supply security, job growth, and cleaner air, as well as a counter to energy price inflation. It is projected to make electric costs cheaper!

According to RMI, this means that fossil fuel demand for electricity will be in steep decline. It foresees a decrease of up to 30% from the 2022 peak by 2030, as renewable electricity further out-competes hydrocarbons on cost. This is good news for getting off the current emissions trajectory.

There is more good news that might surprise you. Evangelicals, specifically the Evangelical Environmental Network, supports rules for addressing hazardous air pollutants from coal-fired power plants, tailpipe emission standards, fixing

leaks in natural gas pipelines, a 90% cut in carbon emissions from fossil fuel power plants by 2040 and EPA's new Methane Emissions Reduction Program. These standards account for more than half of carbon emissions in the U.S.

In Florida, our local governments are switching to renewable clean energy. They include Dunedin, Gainesville, Largo, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, South Miami and Tallahassee.

Next month, I will share with you Tallahassee's Clean Energy Plan and what it will mean to our community. Hint: It will keep our energy costs affordable, our air cleaner, and make our community one of the most desirable places to live in Florida.

So, there is good news and exciting progress on cutting our emissions, but more is required. Our denomination slowly divesting company by company and possibly reinvesting in other fossil fuel companies, while the world is blowing through extreme weather records and costs are mounting is...[you finish the sentence.](#)

As always if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at pammcvety@hotmail.com.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
*Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
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"Renewable energy, like solar and wind, along with battery technology, are experiencing exponential growth."

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Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

In August		Looking ahead	
Tuesday, August 1 12 p.m. CT/ 1 p.m. ET	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)	Tuesday, September 5 12 p.m. CT/ 1 p.m. ET	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Sunday, August 6	Blessing of the Backpacks @ Faith, Fellowship and Christ, Tallahassee	Thursday, September 7 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Monday, August 7	1st, Lynn Haven Elementary School Teacher and Staff Back-to-School Lunch	Tuesday, September 12 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Thursday, August 10 2 p.m. CT/ 3 p.m. ET	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Thursday, September 14 2 p.m. CT/ 3 p.m. ET	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Friday, August 11 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT	1st, Ft. Walton Beach Rummage Sale	Friday – Sunday, September 15 – 17	Dogwood Acres Small Church Retreat
Saturday, August 12 7:30 a.m. – noon CT		Tuesday, September 19 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Saturday, August 19 8 a.m. – noon ET	Faith, Tallahassee Churchwide Work Day	Monday – Wednesday, September 25 – 27	Stewardship Kaleidoscope , Minneapolis, MN
Saturday, August 19 6:30 p.m. CT	Grace, Panama City, 5th Annual ALS Fundraiser	Wednesday, September 27 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee
Tuesday, August 22 9 a.m. CT/ 10 a.m. ET	Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting@Trinity, Pensacola <i>Registration begins an hour ahead</i>		
Wednesday, August 23 10 a.m. CT/ 11 a.m. ET	Racial Justice Subcommittee		

PLEASE SIGN UP TO
PROVIDE A MEAL FOR
THURSDAY NIGHTS [A7]






Real Tools for Real Ministry

Exciting Worship Experiences,
Thought-Provoking Workshops,
Incredible Networking
Opportunities, and More
Sept. 25th - 27th, 2023
Minneapolis, MN

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