

The Stated Meeting of Mission Presbytery
October 24, 2020
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

9:00 AM	Opening Service of Word & Sacrament The Installation of a Stated Clerk	
9:45 AM	Call to Order & Opening Prayer	Moderator Stacy Ikard
	Enabling Motions	Interim Stated Clerk Bill Poe
9:50 AM	Commission on Ministry (Report A)	Monica Smith
10:20 AM	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Report B)	Kathy Escandell
10:50 AM	General Presbyter's Report	Sallie Watson
11:00 AM	Interim Stated Clerk's Report (Report C)	Bill Poe
11:05 AM	General Council (Report D) Presentation of the 2021 Presbytery Budget (Report D-1)	Peter Crouch Fred Gamble
11:20 AM	Youth Coordinating Committee	Ellen Hensle & Katy Walters
11:25 AM	Mission Outreach & Justice Committee (Report E)	Dries Coetzee
11:30 AM	John Knox Ranch Committee (Report F)	Sarah Allen
11:55 AM	General Assembly Commissioners' Report	
12:00 PM	Committee on Representation & Participation (Report G)	Kris Bair Elizabeth Duhan
12:05 PM	Commissioned Pastor Task Force (Report H)	Kris Bair
12:05 PM	The Installation of a Moderator	Stacy Ikard & Carlos Baladez
12:20 PM	Pastoral Care Committee (Report I) Retirements & Congregational Necrologies	Marsha Brown
12:35 PM	Adjournment & Closing Prayer	

**Mission Presbytery
Commission on Ministry
Report to Presbytery
October 24, 2020**

For information:

The Commission on Ministry has adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy, in response to the recommendation from the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.

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 Terms of Call and Contracts:

Brian Wiggins & Memorial, Fredericksburg, effective July 1, 2020

Compensation	
Salary & Housing	75,000
Benefits	
Board of Pensions	27,750
Reimbursed Expenses	
Prof. Exp.	5,000

Edward L. Boyce, III & First, Rockport, effective Aug. 15, 2020

Compensation	
Salary	37,700
Housing	32,300
Benefits	
Board of Pensions	Full
Reimbursed Expenses	
Auto	@ IRS Rate
Professional Expenses	2,500

Carl McCauley (Interim) & Gonzales, Gonzales, effective August 1, 2020 (12 months)

Compensation	
Salary	28,500
Housing	9,000
Employer's Contr. 403(b)	5,000
Benefits	
Board of Pensions	5,100
Reimbursed Expenses	
Travel	5,000
Con. Ed., etc.	1,800

Caz Minter & Live Oak, Leander, effective Sept. 1, 2020

Compensation

Salary	16,440.00
Housing	35,341.92
Benefits	
Bd. of Pensions	19,159.20
½ SECA	3,961.32

CP Cindy Myers & First, Refugio, effective July 19, 2020 (half-time)

Compensation	
Salary	10,400
Reimbursed expenses	
Travel	1,100 (\$.55/mi)
Benefits	
4 weeks paid vacation	
1 week Cont. Ed.	

TE Kris Marie Crawford & Gonzales, Gonzales, effective November 15, 2020

Compensation	
Salary	25,000
Housing	25,000
Benefits	
Bd. of Pensions	19,915
½ SECA	3,825
Dental	905
Reimbursed expenses	
Mileage	5,000
Cell Phone	2,500
Cont. Ed.	1,000
4 weeks' vacation	
2 weeks' study leave	
Actual Moving Expenses	

TE Laurie Wirth Palmer & Mission Presbytery (Stated Clerk), effective November 9, 2020

Compensation	
Salary	30,196
Housing	30,196
Benefits	
Bd. of Pensions	Full
½ SECA	4,620
Reimbursed Expenses	
Professional	6,000
Cont. Ed.	1,000
4 weeks' vacation, 2 weeks study leave	
Moving expenses	

TE Vanessa Potter & Emmanuel, San Antonio, effective Nov. 1, 2020 (Stated Supply – ½ time, 1 yr)

Compensation	
Salary & Housing	21,300
Benefits	
Vacation	2 weeks, plus 1 Sunday off per month
Cont. Ed.	1 week
Reimbursed Expenses	
Auto	\$.58/mi.

Triennial Visits Completed

- Covenant, San Antonio, June 15, 2020. RE Joyce Batty & TE Carl McCauley
- Six Mile, Port Lavaca – Aug. 16, 2020 – REs Bonnie & William Wilkinson.
- St. Andrew, San Antonio – Aug. 25, 2020 – RE Joyce Batty & TE Carl McCauley
- Oak Hills, San Antonio – September, 2020 – RE Joyce Batty & TE Carl McCauley
- First, New Braunfels – September, 2020 – RE Joyce Batty & TE Carl McCauley

Ordination and Installation Commissions Approved and Dismissed

Approve the Administrative Commission to Ordain & Install Ezequiel Herrera as Rio Grande Valley Evangelist for Mission Presbytery, Sunday, June 28, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. at First, McAllen:

Teaching Elders:

Stacy Ikard, Preside and Propound the Constitutional Questions
Eric Dittman
Kathryn Escandell
Matt Gaventa, Preach the Sermon
Thomas W. Currie, Charge the Pastor
Monica Thompson Smith, Offer Ordination Prayer
Sallie Watson

Ruling Elders:

Jennifer Rektorik, First, Weslaco
Carlos & Shannon Perales, First, Mission
David Rowland, First, McAllen

Asked to Sit with the Commission:

RE Rene Cardona, PC(USA), Connecticut, Charge the Congregation
Usama Malik, Interfaith Representative (Muslim)

Dismiss the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Ezequiel Herrera.

Approve the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Ed Sackett as a Minister of Word and Sacrament as the Disaster Response Coordinator for Mission Presbytery, Saturday, August 15, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. at First, Kerrville:

Teaching Elders:

Stacy Ikard, Preside and Propound the Constitutional Questions

Dick Powell, President of Mo Ranch
Sallie Watson, General Presbyter, to Charge the Pastor
Elizabeth McLean, to Preach the Sermon

Ruling Elders:

Ray Lopez, First, Austin
Fred Gamble, First, Kerrville, to Charge the Congregation
Caitlin Supcoff, University, Austin, to Lead the Ordination/Installation Prayer

To dismiss the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Ed Sackett.

Approve the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Angela Grace Williams to be the faith and outreach coordinator for the Texas Freedom Network, a validated ministry, Saturday, September 5, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. At Canyon Lake Presbyterian Church, Canyon Lake, TX:

Teaching Elders:

Carolina Treviño, Central, Austin, to lead the ordination/installation prayer
Remington Johnson, Chaplain, to propound the questions to the congregation
Jack Barden, Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis, Austin
Stacy Ikard, Westlake Hills, Austin & Presbytery Moderator – to preside and propound the constitutional questions

Ruling Elders:

Sonja Miller, Central, Austin, to charge the pastor
Caly Fernández, First, McAllen
Gary Matthews, APTS

Others invited to sit with the commission:

TE abby mohaupt, San Francisco Presbytery, to preach the sermon
TE James “Carrot” Williams, Providence Presbytery
TE Alex McNeill, Western North Carolina Presbytery, to charge the congregation
Rev. Erika Forbes, Texas Freedom Network
Rabbi Kelly Levy, Congregation Beth Israel, Austin

To dismiss the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Angela Grace Williams.

Approve the Administrative Commission to install TE Brian Wiggins as Pastor, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, TX on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.:

Teaching Elders:

Sallie Watson, to preside, propound the constitutional questions, lead the ordination prayer, and charge the pastor
David Jones, to preach the sermon
William Karlson, to propound the questions to the congregation
Carol Clarke

Ruling Elders:

RE Glenn Miller, FPC, Brady
RE Rita Odom, FPC, Kerrville
RE _____

Interim Contracts:

Renew the Interim Contract between Gonzales, Gonzales and TE Carl McCauley, August 1, 2020 – July 29, 2021.

Approved the Formation of Pastor Nominating Committees

St Mark, Boerne

Ministerial Changes

- Dissolve pastoral relationship – Meagan Ludwig & First, Beeville
- Dismiss Meagan Ludwig to Milwaukee Presbytery – Chaplain, Ascension Hospital System
- Dissolve pastoral relationship (associate) – Krystal Leedy & University, Austin and move to Member-at-Large status
- Dismiss Eric Peterson to Grace Presbytery – Associate Pastor, Grace, Temple
- Dissolve pastoral relationship -- Elise Neal & Northminster, San Antonio and move to Member-at-Large status
- Move TE Susan Montoya from First, Kerrville to Member-at-Large status
- Receive TE Edward L Boyce, III from Salem Presbytery, to Pastor at First, Rockport
- Receive TE Brian Wiggins from New Covenant Presbytery to Pastor at Memorial, Fredericksburg
- Dismiss TE Tricia Tedrow to Grand Canyon Presbytery, effective May 30, 2020.
- Receive TE Laurie Wirth Palmer from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, effective November 9, 2020.
- Receive TE Kris Crawford from Arkansas Presbytery, effective November 15, 2020.
- Receive the Rev. Manjung Abraham Tsai from the Evangelical Formosan Church, effective August 19, 2020.

Examinations

- Sustained the examination of TE Ed Boyce to serve as pastor of First, Rockport, and enroll him as a member of Mission Presbytery.
- Sustained the examination of TE Paula J. Sanders to labor within our bounds for an extended time, specifically along the border. She will remain a member of Presbytery of the Twin Cities
- Sustained the examination of TE Kris Crawford to serve as pastor of Gonzales, Gonzales, and to enroll her as a member of Mission Presbytery.
- Sustained the examination of TE Laurie Wirth Palmer to serve as Stated Clerk of Mission Presbytery. Elected 10/5/20 at a Called Meeting of Presbytery.

- Sustained the examination of CRE Beth Truax to serve one of three pastoral positions at New Hope, La Feria. She will be presented for examination at the Presbytery meeting.

Honorably Retired Status Granted

- Nancy Marroquin, from Dripping Springs, effective June 1, 2020.

Deaths Reported

- John Bradshaw (HR) died July 19, 2020 in Rockport, TX
- Louis Zbinden (HR) died September 11, 2020, in San Antonio, TX

Edward L. Boyce, III

I was born in Richmond, Virginia and grew up in Bon Air, Virginia, a suburb of Richmond. God called me, while still in my mother's womb, to be a disciple of Jesus. According to God's gracious providence, I was born into a Christian family. My parents saw to it that all five of their children grew in the faith and attended church. My entire family was active in the church and when the doors were opened, we were there. Throughout my youth, I was active in Sunday School, Youth Group, and the choir.

Upon graduation from High School, I attended Emory & Henry College for two years. During that time, I first sensed God's call upon my life to enter full time Christian ministry. I decided to spend some time working fulltime, hoping this would clarify God's call.

I was a sales representative in the bearing and industrial supply industry for several years before returning to college fulltime. It was at this point that I acknowledged God's call and responded with my willingness to enter fulltime pastoral ministry. I graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in History and Religious Studies

I attended Union Theological Seminary in Virginia where I earned a Master of Divinity. While attending seminary, I met and married my wife, Rev. Marian J. Carmical. Following my graduation and preceding my wife's graduation, I worked for Union Seminary fulltime for two years.

My wife and I accepted a call as co-pastors to a three-church parish in Henderson, NC. (St. Andrews, Brookston, and Young Memorial Presbyterian Churches) While in Henderson, our son, William was born. We enjoyed ministry surrounded by fields of tobacco, soybean, and corn.

Following our ministry in Henderson, I accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church in Winnfield, Louisiana. While pastoring in Winnfield, I worked with the local congregation and with the presbytery on Redevelopment and Revitalization issues and strategies. I spent the majority of my continuing education time studying and learning about congregational redevelopment and revitalization. While in Louisiana, I was actively involved in Kairos Prison Ministry, Rotary Club International, and the Winn Parish Literacy Council.

Sensing God's continued call in my life, we moved to Franklin, Virginia to working with another congregation in Redevelopment and Revitalization. In Franklin, I continued to work with congregations on redevelopment and revitalization issues as well as helping other congregations with developing and implementing effective stewardship ministries.

My next call was to the Eureka Church in Whispering Pines, NC. We lived in Whispering Pines for almost nine years. During my time there I enjoyed helping the congregation reconnect with the community around the church. We especially concentrated on strengthening the relationship between the congregation and the elementary school next to the church's property.

I currently serve as the Transitional Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church of Statesville, NC. I have worked extensively with the Transition Team, Mission Study Team, Session, and congregation in preparation for collecting data for the Mission Study, assisted in writing the Mission Study Report, and been a resource for the PNC. It has been my pleasure to serve this vital and historic congregation in their search for a new called and installed pastor.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing guitars, building guitars, spending time with my wife and son, swimming, cooking, photography, reading spy novels, and playing and watching any sporting event.

Statement of Faith
Edward L. Boyce, III

I believe in God the Father Almighty, who created the universe and continues to sustain and rule the universe. While being one in substance, God is distinct in three persons: God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Humankind was created in God's image. God calls humanity into covenant. God continues to sustain the covenant relationship with humanity and calls women, men, and children to follow him, glorifying and enjoying him forever.

Jesus Christ is God's only begotten son. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. Jesus came to restore humanity to fellowship with God. Jesus accomplished for us that which we cannot do for ourselves by reconciling us with God. He accomplished this through his life, death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead. God raised Jesus from the dead and Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of God. To Christ belongs the victory. Come, Lord, Jesus Come!

The Holy Spirit teaches, comforts, edifies, equips, and guides humanity. The Holy Spirit renews us in the image of God and enables humankind to die to sin and live in righteousness. The Holy Spirit guided the production of the Scriptures and opens them to us today as both the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and the rule of the faith and life of the church. The Holy Spirit gathers us into the church and leads us forth in mission into the world. The Holy Spirit communicates to us the grace of God, the forgiveness of sin, and the gift of faith. By the Holy Spirit, we are endowed with spiritual gifts, the call to obedience and service, and eternal life.

I believe that the sacraments are signs and seals of God's covenant with humanity. I believe that the sacraments are an outward and visible sign of a spiritual and an inward grace. With the breaking of bread and pouring of the wine, we partake of a meal with the crucified and risen Christ. Further, it is a foretaste of the marriage banquet to be celebrated with the Lamb of God. Through baptism humanity dies to that which separates us from God and will be born into new life in Jesus Christ. We also receive the promise of new life in Christ and the hope of the resurrection.

The waters of baptism cleanse, renew, purify, and restore humanity. Baptism points back to God's grace and forward to God's promises. I believe that the Church is the Body of Christ and is God's earthly demonstration of what is intended for all humanity. Through the Church, God proclaims the gospel to the world. She enacts signs of repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life for humanity. God calls all of the disciples of Jesus to be disciple-making disciples, to invite people into relationship with Jesus, to be equipped for ministry, and to go into the world to minister in Jesus' name.

My Spiritual Journey: John H. "Jack" Haberer, Jr. April. 21, 2020

Born in Queens, N.Y., and raised in northern New Jersey, I was baptized and confirmed into the Roman Catholic faith. However, as a typical adolescent of the day, I lost faith in God and church as a 14-year old. I called myself an atheist. However, as a budding musician, I enjoyed the music of a rock band in a high school assembly, so I went to hear them perform in an evening concert. There they sang songs that sounded strangely religious. I was intrigued. I went to a "follow-up meeting" at a small church and planted my bluejeaned self on the floor of a fellowship hall with about a hundred other teenagers. They spoke enthusiastically about Jesus. We broke into small groups. My group's leader soon invited me to pray a prayer to accept Jesus into my heart. I didn't get what he was talking about, but I followed his lead and prayed as guided. Immediately, I felt like something changed in my life.

That took place exactly 50 years ago today: April 21, 1970. I count today to be my 50th spiritual birthday.

My faith took off like a rocket. I told everybody I knew about Jesus. In the next year I led about 100 high school classmates into the faith. Just after my 16th birthday, I started a weekly coffeehouse, The Mustard Seed, at the Episcopal Church. I began singing and playing guitar in a duo, "Nick and Jack." Soon the coffeehouse had an average attendance of around 200. The Jesus Movement was upon us.

The Mustard Seed and the Jesus Movement became my major passion through my high school years, and it was in a senior calculus class (I was good in math) that I realized that I didn't want to do this as a career. "I have to be a pastor," I said to myself. That proved to be my call moment. I never looked back.

I enrolled in a Pentecostal Bible college where I learned so much about the Bible. After three semesters I transferred to a Methodist liberal arts college, majoring in Religion and Philosophy. I got captivated with the claim, "All Truth is God's Truth, Wherever it May be Found," and felt called to be a preaching scholar.

Barbie Niswander and I married right after graduation in the Bible college's sanctuary. We moved to my New Jersey hometown, where I worked in a Christian bookstore. We helped turn the Mustard Seed into a non-denominational church. I served on the board and, lacking a pastor, preached about once a month. The church saw fit to sponsor us, along with two babies, to enroll at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. There I was introduced to more classical expressions of Protestant faith. They also turned this Jesus Freak into an adherent of the Reformed faith. They also introduced me to a vision for justice, inclusion, and diversity – for which I later became an outspoken advocate.

Upon graduation I was hired to the staff of New Covenant (United Presbyterian) Church in Pompano Beach, Florida, where I was taken under care to become a Presbyterian pastor. I self-taught the needed understandings in preparation for ordination exams. And, I had another conversion while reading the Book of Order. Yes, it was a religious experience to discover the wisdom and soundness of the applied faith that the Presbyterians had developed over the centuries.

Two years later, I was ordained and called into my first pastorate in Satellite Beach, Florida. The presbytery executive took me under wing to help orient me to the Presbyterian life. Soon I was serving on presbytery committees and getting active in the larger church. I earned a D.Min. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary which broadened my comprehension of the Presbyterian theological and interpersonal culture.

After a wonderful 10 years in Satellite Beach, I was called to Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, in Houston, Texas. A 12-year tenure brought robust ministry opportunities, including service on three General Assembly task forces. I also wrote my first two books, one on the Holy Spirit and the other on denominational conflict.

I was called to serve as Editor-Publisher of The Presbyterian Outlook, and loved my nine years of reporting about and giving my counsel to my colleagues in ministry. Sensing a need to return to the pastorate I served for two years as pastor of Vanderbilt Church in Naples, Florida, and four years as pastor of First Church of Allentown, Pa.

Barbie and I will soon celebrate 44 years of marriage. We are looking forward to the prospect of returning to the Great State of Texas to carry forward the ministry that God may wish us to do, with the added benefit of being nearer to our two children and six grandchildren. Looking back and ahead, we count our time together in service to our Lord in the PC(USA) to be rich in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

A Statement of My Faith John H. "Jack" Haberer, Jr. April 21, 2020

I believe in, that is, I depend upon God.

I believe that God is and always has been comprised of three persons, most commonly named Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the God of love, introduced in the first words of Scripture as the Creator. Like any artist, God turned imagined beauty into an observable reality by inventing stars and planets. As a being of beauty, God created living organisms on at least one of those planets, earth, and as that God of love, created human beings with whom that love could be shared.

The first humans declared their independence from and rebelled against God. God's existence allowed no such rivalries, so the humans were banished to live their lives estranged from the Godhead. But the loving God did not rest content with that. God sent representatives – emancipators, prophets – to plead the case for reconciliation. After receiving for millennia mostly negative results, God sent God's own Son.

I believe in the God of grace, the Son of God, whom we know as Jesus the Christ. While eternally co-existent with the Father, Jesus took on flesh, being born of a virgin, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit. He grew, was baptized and then tempted to join the human rebellion. He resisted. He launched a ministry of teaching; he was, in fact, the living Word of God. He also healed and emancipated. He was perceived as a threat to the common order, so an unjust, diabolical plot was hatched, leading to his arrest, torture and execution, being nailed to a cross. In the process he also was enacting the Godhead's larger plan, by taking upon his innocent self the guilt of human rebels and returning to them a forgiveness that only a victim can give its perpetrator. Having died for their sins, on the third day he rose from the grave, conquering death's claim on humanity. He ascended into heaven to apply his accomplished work to countless humans, dead, living and not yet born, thereby acquitting them from guilt. Along with the Father, he then sent the Holy Spirit to a fledgling community of followers.

I believe in the God of communion, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit encountered humans intermittently through the Old Testament era and inspired the writings of the Hebrew scriptures. The Spirit, being present with Christ in the incarnation, was then given to dwell within and among the community of believers on the first Christian Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus' crucifixion. The Spirit there initiated an ongoing ministry of calling persons to faith, forming Christian community, empowering diverse ministries and inspiring the writing of the New Testament scriptures. The Spirit continues to dwell in and among those elected to faith by God, inspires the proclamation of God's Word, gives impact to the sacraments as believers remember, reenact, and renew God's covenant claims upon them, and gives impetus to live lives that love others, glorify God, and enjoy God fully forever.

I believe and proclaim these truths as if everyone's life depends upon them.

Beth Truax-Commissioned Pastor New Hope Presbyterian Church

I believe in "I AM", the Most High Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the three in ONE.

The Father who wanted children to love and to be loved by. The Master of art and science who created the universe and everything in it and saw that it was good. The Creator whose purpose is unfolding. The Almighty who understands and gives unending grace. The Alpha and Omega who knows how many hairs are on my head and has my name written in the palm of his hand. The One in whose image we are all made. The GOD, whose mystery, covenant and majesty are greater than we can understand. The whispered Yahweh.

The Son who is Divinely Human, who grew up humbly, the son of a carpenter. The One who is the only begotten son and was the WORD at the creation and saw that it was good. A Man who at age thirty began his ministry on earth, preaching, teaching the kingdom and healing the sick and dying. JESUS who touched the unclean, ate with the poorest, blessed the little children, who forgave the sinners. This Rebel against the temple pride who allowed himself to be taken, beaten, spat upon and nailed to the cross. The SAVIOR Messiah who rose from the dead conquering what first man, Adam, set in motion. Giving evil it's death blow. YAHSHUA lives!

The Holy Spirit, this shy, behind the scenes being who gets things done without calling attention to herself, bringing glory to the Most High GOD. Who at the beginning of creation brooded over the waters and brought it all into being and saw that it was good. This Spirit of truth who inspired GOD's law givers, judges and prophets; who was there to baptize and anoint JESUS. The Mighty Wind with Tongues of Fire who was at the birth of the church with the twelve. Who is with us today comforting... counseling....leading. Ruach ha'Kodesh.

I believe in the Crucifixion. A well laid plan between the Creator and the WORD, that would put an end to challenges made by evil. A plan that encompassed all mankind, with the opportunity to be saved. Yahshua, pure love, pure sacrifice, who took on the war against sin; that began with a fruit at the beginning and brought about death to mankind. No greater love has ever been nor will ever be; the greatest force on Earth or in Heaven that ultimately won the war, giving HIS pure life.

I believe in the Resurrection. The phenomenon, of the body of Christ, descending into sheol, but not bound there. Not held in that place of the dead. As a conqueror, arising from death, alive and perfect, bringing about the salvation of mankind and delivering us from evil death.

I believe in the Universal Church that awaits as a bride for CHRIST's coming. When all Christian followers will be gathered up. I cry out "Come Jesus! Come!" I keep my eyes open and looking up in anticipation. I am such a small part of the whole body, but I know my place is important in the whole plan. I was born with a purpose to fulfill.

I believe in the Judgement when the quick and the dead will stand and be judged accordingly. When Christ as advocate will separate the sheep from the goats and a new Earth awaits, living in God's light.

I believe that the Holy Bible was written by men inspired by GOD. That we will never fully understand nor know all that is contained in it; but that we should never stop trying to learn. I study, study and study it some more. The wonder of reading a chapter or verse 40 times and the 41st time going "Oh my goodness! Now I see!" It truly is the Living WORD!

I believe in the Sacraments. Baptism claims us as GOD's adopted children; uniting us with Jesus marked against death. The LORD'S Supper: bread and cup we do in remembrance. That CHRIST died that we may live forever with him. A new covenant! I do this as often as possible to never forget; to renew and strengthen my faith, for the privilege of my service to my King.

I believe that prayer brings me close to God's Almighty power and that relationship allows me with rock solid faith to facilitate amazing things for others in JESUS' name. There is tremendous power in my prayers, and they are unfailingly answered.

I am a child of GOD, broken, saved by grace; a disciple of JESUS here on earth, preaching, teaching, healing, serving and praying; guided and enabled by the HOLY SPIRIT who prays for me when I can't. All praise and glory to the FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT: God is sovereign!

Beth Truax – Commissioned Pastor New Hope Presbyterian Church La Feria Texas

Life Journey in Faith

I would like to begin this introduction at the Spring of my life, I was born in Mercedes, Texas. I was baptized at First Presbyterian Church of Weslaco and had a fantastic childhood. One younger brother, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles who all loved me, and I them. My father was a pilot, so we moved a few times around the state and country. That was an education in and of itself. We were the 'new kids' and learned how to adapt to new settings, while my Mom made a wonderful home for us wherever we landed. I had my first theological debate with my Episcopalian best friend at age six regarding debtors not trespasses in the Lord's Prayer. VBS at First Presbyterian Church of Weslaco are some of the absolute best memories of my first eight years on earth. I was confirmed at age eleven at the First Presbyterian Church in Mineral Wells, Texas and I sang in the Children's Choir there. We finally came back to the Rio Grande Valley, to Harlingen, Texas for my freshman year in high school. I transferred membership to First Presbyterian Church of Harlingen at age fifteen and at seventeen taught my first Kinder Sunday School class.

As the Summer of my life approached in April of 1975, my Jr. year in high school, God placed this beautiful young man across the street from my parents' house. I dropped out my Senior year to marry the love of my life, Rusty Truax, on November 21st, 1975. I was eighteen, he was twenty and fresh out of the Army. We were living on love and our faith was strong. We had a paycheck and a car. Our first daughter was stillborn in September of the following year. I miscarried another daughter that was a twin to our third son, but GOD is so good. We were blessed with three living sons and three daughters who range in age from 42 to 24.

Due to a horrendous choice made in 1995 by our oldest seventeen-year-old son, he is serving life in prison. The experience of grace in this situation has been nothing less than holy. Our family is stronger in faith, love, and tolerance because of it. We are so blessed by the man he has become. Through the Kairos ministry he flourishes and helps his fellow prisoners find their way to Jesus.

I homeschooled the rest of them and they have exceeded our hopes and dreams - four college graduates, one farmer/rancher living his dreams and one published author, busy on book #2. I cannot take the credit or the blame for my children. They were gifts surely from above. All were baptized at First Presbyterian Church of Harlingen and three have become Elders. I taught every age level of Sunday School sometimes more than once, participated in all the VBS', Christmas Pageants, and was a guardian/leader in all the youth groups and Mission trips for over thirty years.

The Autumn of my life was full of highs and lows.....Such as our oldest daughter, at sixteen-years-old giving us our first grandchild four months before I gave birth to our youngest daughter. Our family continued to grow with in-law children of the heart; three more sons and two more daughters. Yikes eleven adult kids in all! We have also been blessed with three grandsons and eight granddaughters who are all joys and keeps us busy.

Being pronounced dead at 7:03 am, June 26, 2006, after having five massive heart attacks in a row, and flat lining four times I had the front row seat of a miracle....I am alive and well! I can witness that death

is nothing to fear, it is a new beginning. In 2011, my mother became ill and I became her caregiver in our home. After seven years, at ninety-two, momma flew home to her Lord, and we celebrated her long very blessed life with a party.

During the late Autumn in my life, I took more leadership roles at First Presbyterian Church Harlingen. I was ordained a ruling elder and served on several sessions. I was the Chair of different Committee/Teams and participated as a member of them all. While serving as Clerk of Session, we came to the heart wrenching decision to sell the property and transferred to New Hope Presbyterian Church in La Feria, Texas. I now serve as Treasurer and have resigned from the current session as of June 30, 2020. The transition to La Feria has been an amazing blessing, I have no regrets.

Now I enter the Winter of my life. Dedicating this time to the LORD is appropriate. Over all the years He called me, I put Him off first raising children, then caring for my mother. Until I heard Him ask, "Now what's your excuse?" I had none, it was time. Through the mentorship of Pastor Sheri Dittman, I was introduced to Union Presbyterian Seminary in 2017 for their CRE certification program. I was blessed with two years of wonderful training. The professors, other students and classwork were all soul food for me. I learned so much and I would love to do it again.

I have been blessed from birth and OH! how HE continues to bless me! Rusty and I will celebrate forty-five years together this November. Our kids, grandkids and great granddaughter are well and thriving and all faithful followers of Jesus. My weird (Titus 2:14 KJV) little church called New Hope continues to be a work in progress and I am honored to be part of that process. I give all the thanks, praise, and glory to our Almighty LORD.

Manjung Tsai Journey of Faith

I grew up in a Christian home. Although I was familiar with Bible stories and basic truths since I was a child, I always felt that the Christian faith belonged to my parents and not to myself. Thus, I gradually left the church during my high school years. It was not until the age of 20 that I began to search for the meaning of life and realized that this God is not only the God of my parents, but also mine. Since my conversion experience, the Holy Spirit has constantly been transforming my life, including my words, actions, values, morals, and attitudes so that I could become his vessel for the rest of my life.

In 1997, I sensed a calling from God. I gave up my job in computer science, entered Holy Light Theological Seminary, and obtained a Master of Divinity in 2001. After five years of studying and serving, I gradually realized that my gifts are in preaching, teaching, and starting ministries.

In July of 2001, I began my first year of full-time ministry. The church that I served at was the Kaohsiung Holiness Church. During the first year, I studied with the Rev. Benjamin Lee, whose gift lies in the exegesis and teaching. I was also greatly influenced by his preaching and leading of Bible studies. Five months later, Pastor Lee immigrated to the United States. For the next year, I was put in charge of the church while the congregation waited for a new pastor. During this time, I had the opportunity to learn how to independently shepherd a traditional church of more than 200 people.

In November of 2002, Rev. Nathan Wu took over the post as the senior pastor. Pastor Wu has considerable gifts and experience in the administrative organization. Also, Mrs. Wu, on the other hand, has the gift of caring for others. In them, I learned the pastor's heart, the persistence to truth and the commitment to ministry.

In 2008, God clearly spoke to me through Hebrews 11:8-9. When I went out, I did not know where to go... It seems to be a different place..." (... And he went out, not knowing where he was going... as in a foreign land...) This was the main reason I chose instead to continue my studies abroad. In May 2008, I entered Logos Evangelical Seminary to pursue Doctor of Ministry. I realized that I experienced the most growth in leadership, especially in church conflict and spiritual authority, as well as my communication with my family.

In September of 2011, I served as the senior pastor of the EFC of South Florida until the end of November of 2018. This was my first time shepherding a small church. There were many things that needed to be done or required participation by the shepherds themselves. Interpersonal relationships were more important than decision-making. God gave me this experience to further equip me in this unexpected area. In 2018, my contract with the church expired. After a period of prayer, I decided not to renew the contract with the church. Amazingly, the second day after I submitted my resignation to the

deacons, a long-lost pastor suddenly called to ask about my current situation. He happened to be charged to find a pastor for ATPC. This coincidence left me with a fond impression toward ATPC. After forty days of prayer, my wife and I felt peace about it. ATPC also felt that we should work together, and so I accepted ATPC's invitation to be their senior pastor.

Rev. Manjung Tsai

Manjung Tsai Statement of Faith

I believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a trinity in unity, and they are a unity that in triune. God is creator of all things and the sovereign Lord of the universe who loves this world and all people freely and justly in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is both the fullest expression of God and the fullest expression of a human, combining both dimensions in himself in a mysterious way that is completely unique among all who have ever lived. The Holy Spirit breaks into our old ways of life and thinking to bring fresh new ways that give honor and glory to God, and calls brings together, and empowers a community of Christian believers who will worship, love, and serve God by being followers of Jesus Christ.

I believe the holy scripture is the revelation from God, written down by men who are inspired by the Holy Spirit. The scripture reveals the Triune nature of God, the understanding of the church, redemption, and of the world. In teaching truth, the holy scripture is both necessary and has absolute authority.

I believe sin lives in the hearts of men and affects the man's reasoning, emotion, and will. Therefore, man by merit cannot achieve rebirth and salvation. Only through the Spirit's work that allows a man to obtain the faith to receive Christ, towards the renunciation of sin, and for the restoration of identity as son/daughter of God. However, justification is not equivalent with sanctification. Sanctification is an internal process that occurs inside a person. It's a continues growth process, and would not end in this lifetime.

I believe that church is a community formed by those who place their faith in Christ, and those who seek sanctification. The communion of saints is the essence of church. Christ is the head of the church; Christ unites the saints with Himself through the work of the Holy Spirit, making them members of His body. Therefore, church (body of Christ, saints) is not limited to space nor time; the church is also referring to those "in heaven or on earth, in the past or future to come, in spirit whom are connected with Christ."

Furthermore, church governance is the medium to realize the communion of the saints. The unified nature of the church is not based on exterior characteristics, but rooted in the spiritual quality, that the saints share the same faith, bonded together by love, and share the same future hope of glory. To differentiate from heresy, the church must bear three defining markers: "preach the truth verily, honor the sacrament accurately, and implement disciplines devotedly." The relationship between the three are: "preach the truth yet do not become reliant on the sacrament; honor the sacrament while clinging to the truth; enact disciplines to ensure the pureness of the truth, and the holiness of the sacrament"

Dr. Brian Wiggins Journey Of Faith And Ministry

Nearing the start of my college days I began a prayer that lasted for years! Three of my high school buddies were ready to head to college knowing exactly what they wanted to study and what they “wanted to be when they grew up.” I didn’t! I didn’t have a clue as to what I wanted to do vocationally. Having been raised in the Presbyterian Church in a family that always participated in the life of the church, I not only believed in God, but knew that God had me here for a purpose. The question that plagued me was how my vocation would fit in with that purpose. As a child and a teen, prayer had been a part of my life. Also, knowing Jesus was with me, I began praying, “Lord show me which way to go. Please show me what you would have me do as a career.” Little did I know where that would take me.

I felt a partial answer while in college. I enrolled in premed courses and through an elective I took a business class. I enjoyed the business class much more than memorizing scientific names of worms and bacteria, so I took it as a sign from God to declare business administration as my major. Although I still did not know which area of business or the line of work I would spend my life doing, I saw this as God’s leading. Encouraged somewhat, I continued my prayer as I declared my major of study.

I graduated college with my bachelors of business administration in hand and was fortunately hired by a commercial finance corporation in Dallas. Although my job seemed to be a good step in the direction of finding the answer to the prayer I had started years ago, I did not have a complete sense of peace. So, I continued praying God would show me what I could be passionate about doing.

A tragedy in my life helped shape the answer to my vocational prayer. While living in Dallas with my older brother, he was tragically involved in a fatal auto accident. His sudden departure from this life into heaven put me in greater touch with all I had come to believe. I always knew there was a heaven, but heaven was no longer some blissful place I would someday enter, it was very near. I knew my life was directed toward Jesus and he would lead me into God’s eternal presence, but it was a very real presence that led me through my grief. Although my faith always meant everything to me, it meant even more after I buried my brother and emerged with a greater sense of how important it is to live for the Lord while we are here in this world.

My career took me to Atlanta. Although I was thankful for God’s provision, I continued to have an angst about my vocation. Like my high school friends, I desired to have the firm sense of calling they seemed to discover. While my prayer continued, I found myself driving home from church imagining what it would be like to be a minister. Even though these ideas became frequent musings, I wrote them off to imagination. I did not believe I had the talent or skill to be a minister.

While working in Atlanta, a client from work offered me a position in sales as they believed I showed promise in establishing relationships with customers. I thought this was the answer to my prayer started long ago! I accepted the job offer and moved to work in California. I did enjoy the new position much more than my former one. The angst I had for years, the vocational question I had asked for a long time, appeared to have been answered.

One day in church, after working my new job for three years, a missionary preached. The sermon was on the Great Commission. I was truly moved by the sense of call God had on our lives. In my relationships built with customers at work, I was surprised by how many of them stated they had no faith or very little spiritual practice. After worship, I went to the beach needing to pray. I asked, "God am I in the right vocation or was that You calling me back when I lived in Atlanta?" The answer crystal clear. God wanted me to be in relationship with those who did not know the love of God available in Jesus Christ. To respond to what seemed to be an answer to my prayer of many years, I went into bargaining mode. I told God I would go into ministry if I was accepted to a seminary. After sending applications to various seminaries, they all invited me to come.

I use my years long vocational prayer as an example of how I have both sensed God's presence and providence in my life. God has directed me. Sometimes I was more aware of it than others, but God has been faithful to guide. Whether it be my vocation or a tragedy, I can trust Jesus to be my Shepherd. I have learned he hears and answers my prayers.

Dr. Brian Wiggins Statement Of Faith

I believe there is one living, eternal God who is Lord over everything known and unknown, who is the creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. God has revealed Godself in the Holy Scriptures as the one true God who consists of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There are not three gods, but three persons who share equally within the Godhead and are so joined together that they are one God. Within God is equal and united relationship, a wonderful picture of what God desires for all of humanity.

I believe God created man and woman in the image of God so that they might have fellowship with God, love God with their whole heart and live eternally with God. They were placed over God's creation to care for and enjoy what God created; but unfortunately, they rebelled against God's sovereignty and became servants to sin. They acted on their own and the image of God in which man and woman had been created was lost. All of humanity has fallen from its original righteousness and communion with God. No longer being in the original image of God to which they are created, humanity now hides from its creator and seeks its own ways, ignoring God's commandments. Under the dominion of sin, humanity exploits its neighbors and the creation to which God has placed us.

God has from the beginning of time even until now, covenanted to restore humanity to its proper relationship with God. Motivated by love, God has made these promises through Adam and Eve, then through Noah, then through Abraham and David, onwards to the birth of Jesus Christ. Through Christ Jesus, all people everywhere can be afforded the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life in a loving relationship with God. Christ revealed the love of God for all the world through his preaching, teaching, and deeds to the poor, sick, afflicted, sinful, and outcast. Jesus Christ was arrested, persecuted, and crucified on a cross even though he did no wrong. Jesus Christ, being fully human, was able to die in our place on the cross for our sins; and being fully God, was able to stand in our place to satisfy the judgment of God which we deserved. He then rose from the grave to freely share his victory over sin and death so that we could live our days knowing that nothing can no longer separate us from the love of God.

By faith, those believing in Jesus Christ receive salvation unto eternal life. As the word of God, as it is written in the Holy Scriptures, comes to us, the Holy Spirit reveals God and gives birth to faith so that we may take our proper place in the body of Christ, the church universal. The church stands to reveal God through the reading and preaching of God's word and the administration of the sacraments. It is the church's ministry to make God known, teach the commands of Christ, baptize those repenting of sins and confessing Christ as Savior, administer the Lord's Supper to nourish the body of Christ, and tend to the needs of the poor, hungry, sick, oppressed, and lowly. The church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, remains as a witness of God's presence in the world.

As Christians, we are called to be participants in the body of Christ and to trust God with the growth and direction of our faith. Our lives should be characterized by a spirit of worship as we recognize God's graceful presence working in our lives, providing for our faith through the scriptures and the

sacraments. We are not to separate ourselves from the world in which we live, but instead are called to go out in it, reflecting, sharing, and pointing to the great love God has for everyone. By doing so, we help make God's kingdom a reality to those around us.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

PAULA J. SANDERS

JUNE 26, 2020

Two weeks ago, I turned 63. Magically, it seems, because right alongside the pictures of my grandchildren in my head sit clear images of miles of green cornstalks rippling in the wind. Detassling corn was my first job. At my age, it takes faith just to get up every morning to face a world that is constantly changing underfoot, literally and figuratively. Last September, I heard Spirit calling and after 40 years in Minneapolis, I got up and I moved to Texas.

For months I had been watching the horrible pictures on the news of children being separated from their families at our southern border. and families sleeping on a hot bridge over the Rio Grande. I studied the immigration policies and laws of our country and something just didn't seem right. I talked to God about it and I soon realized that even though I had been in Minnesota for 40 years, I still did not have roots on my feet. I could pick up and come to Texas and see what was going on for myself. Shortly after that I saw on Facebook a group called Angry Tias and Abuelas who were helping the asylum seekers. I got in touch with the Angry Tias and the rest is her-story.

I am now one of the nine official Tias/Abuelas. Though my Parkinson's disease keeps me from walking across the bridge much even when it is open, I am still able to do the computer-based work that I did for much of much of my professional life which is communications and fundraising. I am blessed to work with women of strength and courage. My faith is challenged frequently as I work to witness, interpret and then communicate everything that is happening here at the border.

In one of my first seminary classes, we were given a choice between two books to read about "purpose." One of them was the Parker Palmer classic, "Let Your Life Speak." In it, Palmer speaks of a time of great uncertainty for him. He sought direction with a Mennonite elder who told him that not a lot of way had every opened before her, but she could think of many times when "way" closed behind her, just as effectively indicacy potential paths.

I plan to continue the next phase of my faith journey loving and serving the Lord here in Texas.

Statement of Faith

Paula J. Sanders

God has chosen me and I choose to place God at the center of my existence. God's Triune nature is revealed to us as God the Father/Mother, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father/Mother created and is sovereign over all that is, has been and will be. All of God's creation is made in the image of God and so deserves full respect and dignity. This includes people, all other creatures and our environment.

As part of our ongoing relationship with God, Jesus was sent as embodiment of the Word to teach us how to live and how to become ever closer to God. Jesus taught us to love God with all of our hearts, and with all of our souls, and with all of our minds, and to love each other as deeply as we love ourselves. By his death on the cross, Jesus redeemed our sinful nature and opened the floodgates to God's unlimited and undeserved grace. As his disciples, we must follow his lead in binding the brokenhearted, proclaiming release to the captives and sight to the blind. Through the Body of Christ, we are forever interdependent. Wherever one hurts or is oppressed, all are in pain.

God sent the Wind of the Holy Spirit to spur us to action on God's behalf. It is through the Holy Spirit that we may understand the Word of God, and find strength to fight the forces of evil. When these forces intersect and collude as evil systems, we are called by the Spirit to seek justice and restore dignity for the least, the lost and the locked out. Guidance for the journey may be found in the Scriptures, the inspired Word of God.

Through the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ, we gather to worship Father/Mother God, to learn about Jesus, the son of God and to develop our relationship with ruah, God of the always moving Holy Spirit. In the community of the Church, the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion serve as sign and seal of our participation in the family of God. Since we are fallible human beings, the Church is not always perfect but according to our Reformed faith is always changing and seeking to improve, according to the will of God. We wait in joyful anticipation for the day when our time in this life ends and we join the Church Triumphant for Life Everlasting.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Mission Presbytery
October 24, 2020**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) reports the following actions taken at our 2-part meeting on September 25 and 28, 2020.

The following Candidate was **Certified Ready to Receive a Call:**
Janine Zabriskie (Central, Austin)

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry presents the following motions:

That **Laurel Dixon**
be removed from the roll of Inquirers at her request.

That Mission Presbytery receive:

Chelsea May LaRue (Hope, Austin)

Sonja Miller (Central Austin)

Kimbol Soques (Shepherd of the Hills, Austin)

Karen Sprouse (Community Fellowship, New Braunfels; now under care of Mission Presbytery)

as candidates for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament after examining them with respect to Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry.

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Escandell (Co-Chair), Malcolm McQueen (Interim Co-Chair), Ellen Babinsky, Linda Bourianoff, Ann Brizindine, James Dement, Doug Fritzsche, Lemuel Garcia, Chuck Kimball, David Meriwether, Carla Mathews, Meg McReynolds, Claudia Smith, Debbie Warden.

**Report of the Interim Stated Clerk
The Stated Meeting of Mission Presbytery
October 24, 2020**

First of all, I can hardly express how thankful I am to see a new Stated Clerk coming to Mission Presbytery! I look forward to working with Laurie Palmer for whatever period of time she finds helpful as she “gets her feet on the ground.” It has been my great pleasure and privilege to work for a brief time alongside Sallie Watson and an extraordinarily gifted staff, and to have had the opportunity to interact with so many of you – pastors, ministers, elders, and churches – over the past five months or so. Thank you all for your warm friendship and prayerful support!

Betty Anne and I are looking forward to a return to retirement and to whatever adventures await us down the road. She continues her work as a Deacon for First, Georgetown, and we anticipate good times with our children and grandchildren, all of whom are close by.

Upcoming Presbytery Meetings

According to the formula laid out in the By-Laws and Operating Manual of Mission Presbytery, the dates for the Stated Meetings for 2021 are as follows:

March 5-6 (by Zoom or at Holy Trinity, San Antonio)

June 18-19 (by Zoom or at Trinity University, San Antonio)

October 22-23 (by Zoom or at a venue to be determined)

Per Capita

In August, your church office received a letter from me about your per capita amount for 2021. As Sallie reminded us in her Ponderings column a few weeks ago, this amount is a “pass-through.” In other words, none of it stays here in Mission Presbytery but is sent on for the operation of the General Assembly. The per capita amount for 2021 is \$8.98 per member, up from \$8.95 per member in 2020. Enclosed in that letter was a request to sessions and congregations to consider making a commitment to Shared Mission Giving in 2021, along with a Commitment Card to be sent back to the Presbytery Office. Shared Mission Giving is what supports the mission and ministries of Mission Presbytery, and we hope that your return of that Commitment Card will give us a better idea of what our congregations intend to give in the new year.

Regional ZOOM Groups

One of the parts of this work I have enjoyed the most has been the regular regional meetings with pastors and other church representatives over Zoom. Sallie and I have made them a priority during this pandemic time, with all the change, upheaval, and trauma that our churches have experienced since last March. The regional gatherings have been a blessing that God has brought to us during the pandemic. We have remained in touch with each other, supported and encouraged each other, and listened while some of us ranted and grieved. We have prayed together, shared ideas, and looked to the future. A monthly group of those engaged in specialized ministries has also started, along with some embryonic efforts at a group for retired clergy.

Church Closures

As you will see later on in your Docket for today, we have observed the closing of three of our churches this year. Working with the Administrative Commissions and the Trustees of the presbytery, the following churches have been closed:

Pilgrim, San Antonio, effective April 19, 2020

First, Taft, effective August 31, 2020

Community Fellowship, New Braunfels, effective September 16, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Poe, Interim Stated Clerk

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNCIL TO PRESBYTERY October 24, 2020

On behalf of the Presbytery, General Council:

- **approved** a revised Youth Ministry Manual for the approval of General Council.
- **received**, as a first reading, a Proposed Child & Youth Protection Policy for Mission Presbytery by the Youth Connection Committee. A second reading is docketed for the first General Council meeting of 2021.
- **endorsed** the recommendation of the John Knox Ranch Committee to enter a conservation easement agreement through the Hill Country Conservancy.
- **approved** a recommendation from the Pastoral Care Committee to move its Necrology Report to October, beginning in 2021.
- **approved** an updated job description for the Presbytery's Rio Grande Valley Commissioned Evangelist by the Human Resources Committee.
- **approved** a three-part recommendation of the Commission on Ministry
 - (1) That Mission Presbytery not change the minimum Terms of Call for 2021, urging sessions and congregations to express their deep gratitude to their pastors for their hard work during this pandemic year.
 - (2) That three new members be added to COM, one in each of the classes: 2021, 2022, 2023.
 - (3) That a new section 4.5 be added to the COM Manual to provide for an Associate Pastor Coordinator on COM.
- **approved** the recommendation of the Church Development & Evangelism Committee (CDE) that the committee have a "pause" in its normal work in 2021 so that they might re-vision the committee's purpose. While they will continue their scholarships and existing programs (RGV Evangelist, Vital Congregations, etc.), they will undertake no new work and instead spend time looking towards the future.
- **approved** the proposed 2021 budget for Mission Presbytery (which includes John Knox Ranch) by the Stewardship & Fiscal Oversight Committee.
- **received**, as a first reading, a recommendation of the Disaster Preparedness & Assistance Committee to adopt a new Firearms Policy for Mission Presbytery (but not necessarily for all of the congregations of the Presbytery). A second reading is docketed for the first General Council meeting of 2021.
- **approved** the following persons to serve as Committee Chairs in 2021:
 - CDE –
 - COM – Monica Smith (Chair); Gordon Ringler (Vice-Chair)
 - CORP – Kris Bair & Elizabeth Duhan, Co-Chairs
 - CPM – Malcolm McQueen
 - DPAC – Jennifer Rektorik
 - ECN – Jennifer Mitchell
 - HMK – Kris Brown
 - HRT – Lisa Ringler
 - JKR – Sarah Allen
 - MOJC – Andries Coetzee & Caly Fernandez, Co-Chairs
 - PCC – Marsha Brown
 - SFOC – Fred Gamble
 - Trustees –
 - YCC – Ellen Hensle & Katy Walters, Co-Chairs
 - Moderator-elect – Nancy Chester McCranie

Rev. Peter Crouch, Chair

Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight Committee Report
October, 2021 Presbytery Meeting

Mission Presbytery's Approved 2020 & 2021 Budgets

INCOME	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	Notes
Shared Mission Support (MP 90%; GA 5%; Synod 5%)	400,000.00	380,000.00	
Transfers from Designated Reserves	58,750.00	-	1
Broadway Building Lease Income		160,000.00	2
John Knox Ranch (JKR) Revenue		476,000.00	3
Better Together Fund Interest Income (SFO)	40,000.00	36,000.00	
Korean Congregation Payments (Admin)	50,000.00	50,000.00	4
Odom Tech Designated Transfer (Admin)	3,600.00	4,000.00	
Transfers from Various Committee Settlement Funds (COM; CORP; SFO; GC; CPM; MOJC; PCC; PW)	31,950.00	46,726.00	5
Oil & Gas Revenues (TR)	4,000.00	3,000.00	
Background Checks Reimbursements	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer of CDE Designated Funds	215,900.00	118,789.55	6
Transfer of Trustee Designated Fund (TR)	6,000.00	-	
Transfer of CDE Designated Funds: Evangelist (HR)	89,800.00	88,789.93	
Transfer of PDA Designated Funds (HR)	99,400.00	88,724.87	
Yoakum & Alice Interest Income	10,000.00	38,000.00	7
Mid-Winters Income	52,000.00	-	8
Total Income	1,062,700.00	1,491,330.34	

EXPENSES	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	Notes
Administrative	53,600.00	80,000.00	9
Broadway Building		108,000.00	10
Church Development & Evangelism	215,900.00	120,000.00	11
Committee on Ministry	2,300.00	2,300.00	
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Committee on Representation & Nominations	600.00	600.00	
Education/Congregational Nurture	750.00	1,000.00	
General Council	3,200.00	3,000.00	
H. M. King Trustees	100.00	200.00	
Human Resources Team	574,100.00	585,751.89	
John Knox Ranch	36,000.00	473,250.00	12
Mission Outreach & Justice	42,000.00	42,000.00	
Trustees	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Pastoral Care Committee	100.00	2,000.00	13

Presbyterian Women	1,800.00	1,000.00	
Regional Representatives		6,000.00	
Stewardship & Fiscal Oversight	3,250.00	2,000.00	
Better Together Fund Grants	24,000.00	36,000.00	14
Better Together Fund Growth	16,000.00	-	
Youth Ministry	64,000.00	2,000.00	15
Total Expenses	1,062,700.00	1,490,101.89	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	-	1,228.45	

Notes:

1. Fewer designated funds were needed to balance the budget due to JKR meeting their expenses and the use of Broadway Building surplus revenue.
2. SFOC included the revenue and expenses related to the Broadway building's lease income and maintenance expenses, netting a surplus of \$52,000 for the presbytery's operating fund.
3. John Knox Ranch's income and expenses were included in the 2021 budget.
4. Request for deferral of Korean Church's final 2020 payment to 2021 was approved by the Trustees.
5. Usage of settlement funds (awarded to committees in 2017) increased \$15,000 in 2021. If Shared Mission Support from congregations remains the same or declines, these funds will need to be used to meet committee expenses.
6. It is anticipated CDE will use less than this amount budgeted in 2021.
7. A sale and mortgage of property in Alice will produce more in interest income in 2021.
8. The Mid-winter retreat and the Main Event youth retreats will be virtual in 2021, thereby producing no attendance fee income or associated expenses in 2021.
9. Administrative expenses were increased to cover the cost of an audit and additional financial reporting.
10. Broadway Building income and expenses were included in the 2021 budget. This results in providing \$52,000 for operating expenses.
11. It is anticipated CDE may use less than this amount budgeted in 2021.
12. Same as Income Note 1 above: JKR income and expenses included in the 2021 budget.
13. Pastoral Care Committee has sufficient Settlement Funds to meet their expenses.
14. SFO Comm will calculate available funds each January (4% x annual valuation)
15. Same as Income Note 4 above: change in format of Main Event and Mid Winters in 2021.

John Knox Ranch**Income****2020 Budget****2021 Budget****Gifts**

430-01 - Gifts - Individuals	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000
431-01 - Gifts - Churches\Organizations	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000
432-01 - Gifts - Foundations	\$ 45,000	\$ 40,000
433-01 - Gifts- Scholarships\individuals	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
434-01 - Gifts-Scholarship Churches/Organiza	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
436-01 - Gifts- Scholarships\Foundation	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000

Total Gifts

\$ 150,000	\$ 185,000
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Summer Camp Income

424-02 - Summer Camp Income-Day Camp	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
426-02 - Summer Camp Inc-Resident Camp	\$ 170,000	\$ 160,000

Total Summer Camp Income

\$ 195,000	\$ 185,000
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Retreat Season Income

412-03 - Retreat Season Income - Programming	\$ -	\$ 3,000
437-01 - Retreat Season Income - Catering	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
451-03 - Retreat Season Income - JKR Rentals	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
467-03 - Retreat Season Income - Rentals	\$ 2,000	\$ -

Total Retreat Season Income

\$ 102,000	\$ 103,000
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Other Income

408-01 - Interest Income	\$ -	\$ -
419-01 - Camp Store Income	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,000
475-00 - Misc. Income	\$ -	\$ -

Total Other Income

\$ 8,000	\$ 3,000
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Total Revenues

\$ 455,000	\$ 476,000
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Expenses**2020 Budget****2021 Budget**

527-02 - Misc.	\$ -	\$ -
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Administrative Expenses

507-01 - Business Expense-Ser. Chgs, bank fees	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
518-01 - Leased Equipment	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
519-01 - Camp Store Exp	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
522-01 - Information Technology	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,500
522-02 - General Liability Insurance	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
526-01 - Membership Dues & Fees	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
531-01 - Payroll Taxes & Paychex Fees	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000
532-01 - Printing & Copying	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
536-01 - Marketing	\$ 2,000	\$ 8,000
579-01 - Office Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,500
590-01 - Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ -	\$ 4,000
593-01 - Utilities	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,000
594-01 - Committee & Planning	\$ -	\$ -

Total Administrative Expenses

\$ 62,000	\$ 85,000
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Summer Camp Expenses

521-01 - Contract Staff Insurance	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
546-02 - Contract Staff Wages	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
566-01 - Summer Staff Appreciation	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
566-02 - Summer Staff Training	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
572-02 - Day Camp Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
573-02 - Summer Camp Food	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
586-02 - Resident Camp Supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total Summer Camp Expenses	\$ 92,000	\$ 92,000

Site Maintenance Expenses

517-01 - Equipment Maintenance	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
520-01 - Fuel/Gas	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
534-01 - Propane	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
535-01 - Property Taxes	\$ 250	\$ 250
550-01 - Buildings	\$ 28,000	\$ 35,000
551-01 - Grounds	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
552-01 - Pool	\$ 3,600	\$ 6,000
554-01 - Water	\$ -	\$ 3,000
571-01 - Cleaning Supplies & Paper Products	\$ -	\$ 3,000
595-01 - Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Total Site Maintenance Expenses	\$ 54,850	\$ 72,250

Retreat Season Expenses

546-03 - Retreat Staff Wages	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
573-03 - Retreat Season Food	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
579-03 - Retreat Season - Program Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Total Retreat Season Expenses	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000

Year-Round Employee Expenses

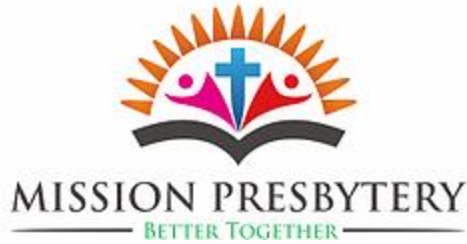
527-01 - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
530-01 - Board of Pensions	\$ 40,000	\$ 45,000
541-03 - Salaried Employees Payroll	\$ 140,000	\$ 150,000
542-03 - Part Time Employee Payroll	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
565-01 - Year Round Staff Recruit/Training	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
565-02 - Year Round Staff Appreciation	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
567-01 - Year Round Staff Continue Educ	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Total Year-Round Employee Expenses	\$ 198,000	\$ 213,000

Total Expenses

\$ 417,850	\$ 473,250
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Net Surplus (Deficit)

\$ 37,150	\$ 2,750
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Report of Mission Outreach and Justice Committee

To: Mission Presbytery

October 14, 2020

Report on Mission Committee Training: Ellen Sherby, PC(USA) Mission Engagement has indicated that she is willing to work with us to produce a single Zoom event for multiple congregations: format is similar to what we have done in the past, involving Ellen's materials: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/mission-resources/mission-toolkits/mission-committee-toolkit/> This training could be a one-half day presentation using Zoom breakout rooms. Staffing has included: Presbyter, Pastor, Ellen Sherby and a couple of MOJC Committee members to facilitate the breakout sessions.

Global Missions: The Johnson's have evacuated from Zambia due to COVID-19. Charles Johnson has recently retired as a PC(USA) Mission Co-worker.

Immigration Task Force: Is no longer active. Caly Fernández suggested that the Mission Presbytery Immigration Task Force join the Texas Border Collaboration Network (TBCN) due to lack of leadership. The TBCN meets monthly and provides informational webinars. (See attached flyer).

Presbyterian Border Region Outreach (PBRO): Presbyterian Border Ministries is hosting a virtual border conference, November 6th – 8th; Gospel, Hospitality and the Kingdom of God. (See attached flyer). Registration is still open at <https://presbyterianborder.org/events>

Puentes de Cristo located in Hidalgo, Texas is one of the five border ministry sites. Puentes de Cristo fall newsletter is posted on the MOJC website. The direct link to the newsletter is: https://14321e2b-2537-4ebb-90c2-cad7d32faa5c.filesusr.com/ugd/e1e8df_53b33a318b3a4a6ba40c05e46d1c6edd.pdf

Immigration Overture: Because of the pandemic the docket for overtures was severely restricted. Mission Presbytery's Overture had sufficient concurrences to be on the docket, but the overture was tabled to 2022. Rev. Meagan Ludwig was selected by MOJC as the advocate for the Overture and will need to be replaced as she has resigned from the Immigration Task Force and moved out of state. The Overture will need to be updated to reflect ambient circumstance in the next several months.

Grants Subcommittee: Guidelines and applications for 2021 MOJC Grants are available on the Mission Presbytery website at <https://www.mission-presbytery.org/outreach-justice>. Rev. Chad Lawson has agreed to chair the Grants Committee.

Cuba Partnership: Jo Ella Holman the PC(USA) Mission Co-worker, Caribbean Liaison retired on September 30, 2020. The Cuba Partners Network virtual gathering was held on September 25th – 26th and focused on the 130th Anniversary of the Iglesia Presbyteriana Reformada de Cuba. A 30-minute video documented the celebration with an excellent review of their history and connection with the PC(USA). Due to well-orchestrated computer connections and syncing of videos, communication with our Cuban partners worked very well and we were able to worship and pray together, sharing thoughts and comments on issues our countries are facing.

God's love is abundant!

Andries Coetzee, Pastor
University Presbyterian Church
Moderator, Mission Outreach and Justice Committee, Mission Presbytery
October 14, 2020

Texas Border Collaboration Network Flyer

Presbyterian Border Region Outreach Event Flyer

Conservation Easement Overview and Motion



Over 50 years ago, leaders in Mission Presbytery had the foresight to purchase the land for John Knox Ranch and set it aside for the use of camp and retreat ministry. We were so looking forward to hosting the Oct Presbytery meeting out here at the ranch. Covid has delayed our coming together in person but not our important work.

Our 300 acres of beautiful Texas Hill Country, and our spring fed Blue Hole in particular, are unique natural resources and spiritual places that must be protected.

A conservation easement will protect this land from being subdivided or developed, forever. A conservation easement is a tool used in partnership with a land trust (which is a nonprofit focused on land conservation) to conserve natural land for generations while realizing some of the monetary value now. In exchange for committing to never subdivide or develop a portion of the property, significant funds can be generated that could be used to set up an endowment for camp ministry at John Knox Ranch in Mission Presbytery.

In this way, a conservation easement completes two major long-range goals of John Knox Ranch:

- protection for the sacred ground of the ranch and;
- financial stability in the form of an endowment that will ensure that John Knox Ranch will provide camp and retreat ministry in Mission Presbytery for generations to come.

The John Knox Ranch Committee has been working on this project for over a year. We have spoken to local experts, interviewed different land trusts, talked to past directors, and visited with private landowners as well as other camps who have set up conservation easements on their land. We have also completed a formal strategic planning process led by consultants who specialize in camp ministry sites and who have experience working with camps setting up conservation easements.

The proposed easement area is between 200 and 220 acres of the total 300 acres that make up John Knox Ranch. The proposed areas are the “nature preserve” south of Carpers Creek and the Blanco River floodplain near the dining hall. The “nature preserve” area is currently used for hiking, mountain biking, ropes challenge course, and overnight camping. If a conservation easement were to be placed on the property, we will be able to continue to use this space as we have for the last 57 years of camp ministry.

A preliminary appraisal has been conducted on the proposed easement area. A formal appraisal will be conducted as part of the process and the total number acres needs to be finalized. We can expect to receive between \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million in return for restricting the development of the property.

We have an opportunity this fall to secure funding for the easement. Our potential project has been identified as a priority to be funded through the Hays County conservation bond vote that will be on the ballot in the November 2020 election. In order to be included in the conservation bond funds, we need to secure Presbytery approval at the October Presbytery Meeting.

This project not only secures the future of John Knox Ranch, it helps fulfill our mission “*to foster experiences of Christian community in the beauty of God’s creation*”. Through strategic planning, we identified the three core aspects of a John Knox Ranch experience for a summer camper or retreat participant: Christian community, connection to nature, and excellent food that enhances interpersonal relationships. Establishing a conservation easement at John Knox Ranch enhances our ability to fulfill our mission and meet our organizational potential as a Summer Camp and Retreat Center.

Over 50 years ago, leaders in the Presbyterian Church had the foresight to purchase this land and set it aside for the use of camp and retreat ministry. Now, we have an opportunity to stand on their shoulders and grasp a vision of permanent protection for this sacred ground as well as permanent financial protection for camp ministry in Mission Presbytery.

The John Knox Ranch Committee and Mission Presbytery Trustees will present the following joint motion at the October Mission Presbytery meeting. This motion has been endorsed by the General Council of Mission Presbytery.

Motion: Conservation Easement

The JKR Steering Committee and the Trustees recommend that Mission Presbytery:

- (1) approve the joint recommendation of the John Knox Ranch Committee and the Trustees of Mission Presbytery that Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch enter into a conservation easement agreement on a portion of the property of John Knox Ranch through the Hill Country Conservancy of Texas; and*
- (2) that the Trustees of Mission Presbytery be authorized to complete and sign the necessary documents on behalf of Mission Presbytery to consummate this agreement; and*
- (3) that proceeds received from the completion of this agreement be placed with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and invested to establish an endowment for John Knox Ranch.*

For more information about this project, please visit
<https://johnknoxranch.org/conservationeasementatjkr>

To watch a video regarding the Conservation Easement project and see gorgeous views of the nature we are protecting visit the John Knox Ranch youtube channel

<https://youtu.be/W1pUFPMmCIU>

Please support this project at the October Presbytery Meeting.
Thank you.



John Knox Ranch Steering committee update
9/22/2020

The John Knox Ranch Steering committee has been diligently working on a strategic planning effort with Run River consultants over the past month.

We have met with our consultants at Run River several times over Zoom over the past month and have focused our efforts on the following strategic planning items

- Financial Planning
- Programs
- Facilities
- Possible Conservation Easement

Our meetings have been extremely productive and have helped us to consider how JKR will live into our mission of fostering experiences of Christian community in the beauty of God's creation. Specifically, JKR has honed our purpose as a camp and retreat center which helps inform how we will plan for future building projects as well as programmatic additions to our calendar.

In our meetings, we realized three major themes of JKR that set it apart from other camps and speak to our purpose and mission.

*Christian Community: JKR is/needs to continue to be intentional in relationship-building for children and adults who participate in camp and retreats at camp. Our programming and ministries are intentionally built for Christian community that transforms lives. Any additional programming will focus on intentional relationship building with God as well as with others at camp/retreats at JKR.

*Creation: Important to the ministry/programming at JKR is our integral connection to the beauty of creation at JKR. We want to continue to be "outdoor-focused" in our programming as well as in our buildings, making sure that what we build will still encourage outdoor activities/movement and not be a 'one-stop-shop' indoors that might hinder participants from being in the beauty of God's creation.

*Food: Good food is central at JKR. We want to continue to take pride in homemade and "camp-favorite" recipes that have become a part of the community. Family-style meals (when possible) are an important way of breaking bread together and creating this connection around meals. We will encourage outside groups who come to rent space to also eat the food that JKR provides. We are also looking at how we could find sustainable ways to grow our own food at JKR in the future and what programs might be possible around this.

Motion: Conservation Easement (See attached information from JKR Director Henry Owen)

The JKR Steering Committee and the Trustees recommend that Mission Presbytery:

(1) approve the joint recommendation of the John Knox Ranch Committee and the Trustees of Mission Presbytery that Mission Presbytery and John Knox Ranch enter into a conservation easement agreement on a portion of the property of John Knox Ranch through the Hill Country Conservancy of Texas; and

- (2) that the Trustees of Mission Presbytery be authorized to complete and sign the necessary documents on behalf of Mission Presbytery to consummate this agreement; and
- (3) that proceeds received from the completion of this agreement be placed with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and invested to establish an endowment for John Knox Ranch.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Sarah D. Allen
JKR Committee Chair

Conservation Easement at John Knox Ranch FAQs

What is a conservation easement?

Conservation Easements can be used to conserve a property in its natural state, while allowing land owners to retain many rights, including ownership of the property.

A property owner has many rights that come with land ownership, including the rights to manage its resources, change its uses, or develop the property. With a conservation easement, a landowner can limit one or more of these rights. For example, a landowner can restrict the right to develop the property, but keep the rights to build a house, raise cattle, grow crops, and hunt and fish the land.

A conservation easement is a recorded written agreement between a landowner and a nonprofit land trust, like Hill Country Conservancy. The property owner makes the decision to allow the land trust to be the “holder” of the agreement. The owner keeps the legal title to the land and together with the land trust decides which uses should continue on the property and which they want to limit. As part of the arrangement, the land trust periodically checks the land to make sure it is maintained according to the terms of the agreement.

To summarize, a conservation easement is a limit or restriction a landowner freely places on a property to protect it. It is a choice the landowner makes to preserve the natural beauty, fertile soil, wildlife, and history of their land forever. In the case of the proposed JKR conservation easement, JKR would receive payment in return for agreeing to never develop or subdivide the easement land.

Why would we do this?

John Knox Ranch's 300 acres of beautiful Texas Hill Country and our Blue Hole Spring in particular are unique natural resources and spiritual places that must be protected. A conservation easement will protect the ranch from being subdivided or developed, forever. In exchange for selling the development rights, significant funds will be generated that will be used to set up an endowment for camp ministry at JKR in Mission Presbytery.

In this way, a conservation easement completes two major long-range goals of John Knox Ranch:

- protection for the sacred ground of the ranch and;

- financial stability to ensure that John Knox Ranch will be around for generations to provide camp and retreat ministry in Mission Presbytery.

We are proposing this from a place of financial stability. Our summer camp numbers, usage numbers, and fundraising are all trending up. The John Knox Ranch Committee has been working on this project for over a year. We have spoken to local experts, interviewed three different land trusts, talked to past directors, and visited with private landowners as well as other camps who have set up conservation easements on their land. We have also completed a formal strategic planning process led by consultants who specialize in camp ministry sites and who have experience working with camps considering setting up conservation easements.

This project not only secures the future of John Knox Ranch, it also fits in with our mission to foster experiences of Christian community in the beauty of God's creation. Through strategic planning we identified the three core aspects of a John Knox Ranch experience for a summer camper or retreat participant: Christian community, connection to nature, and excellent food that enhances interpersonal relationships. Establishing a conservation easement at John Knox Ranch enhances our ability to fulfill our mission and meet our organizational potential.

Over 50 years ago, leaders in the Presbyterian Church had the foresight to purchase this land and set it aside for the use of camp and retreat ministry. Now, we have an opportunity to stand on their shoulders and grasp a vision of permanent protection for this hallowed ground as well as permanent financial protection for camp ministry in Mission Presbytery.

How is the dollar value of a conservation easement established?

An appraisal will determine the value of the property before and after a conservation easement is placed on the land. The value of the easement is the difference between these two figures. Appraisals need to be done with care by a qualified appraiser who is familiar with conservation easements, with local real estate conditions, and with the particular type of land use in question.

How many acres are we considering putting under conservation easement?

We are considering putting between 200 and 220 acres under conservation easement of the total 300 acres that make up John Knox Ranch. The proposed areas are the "nature preserve" south of Carpers Creek and the Blanco River Flood Plain. The "nature preserve" area is currently used for hiking, mountain biking, ropes challenge course, and overnight camping. If a

conservation easement were to be placed on the property, we will be able to continue to use this space as we have for the last 57 years of camp ministry.

What is the estimated value of the easement? How much could we expect in return for setting up the easement?

A preliminary appraisal has been conducted on the proposed JKR conservation easement. A formal appraisal will be conducted as part of the process and the total number acres needs to be finalized. We can expect to receive between \$1.2 and 1.5 million in return for restricting the development of the property. Those funds would be used to set up an endowment for camp ministry at John Knox Ranch in Mission Presbytery.

How will the endowment for camp ministry at John Knox Ranch be set up?

The JKR committee will work with the Fiscal Oversight Committee and long-time ministry partner of Mission Presbytery, Texas Presbyterian Foundation to use funds generated from the conservation easement to set up an endowment designated for John Knox Ranch.

In this way, a conservation easement completes two major long range goals of JKR: protection for the hallowed ground that is JKR and financial stability to ensure that JKR will be around for generations to provide camp ministry and retreat ministry in Mission Presbytery.

Where will that money come from?

It is the responsibility of the partner land trust (Hill Country Conservancy) to secure the funding for the easement. One place that funding can come from is a County bond designated for conservation. Our potential project has been identified as a priority to be included in the Hays County Conservation bond vote that will be on the ballot in the November 2020 election. Early polling shows a 70% approval rating for the conservation bond. If the bond vote does not pass, Hill Country Conservancy will continue to look for other funding sources for the project which could take several years.

If the money comes from Hays County through a bond vote, does the County set the rules for what we can do?

No, with a minor exception. The exact rules and language are set during a negotiation between John Knox Ranch and the partner land trust, Hill Country Conservancy (HCC). The land trust's role as "primary holder" is to partner with the landowner long term to ensure that the easement agreement is being followed. They can also provide resources and planning to help us create and enact habitat conservation and restoration planning. A land steward from the Hill Country Conservancy will schedule annual monitoring visits to the property. These occasions provide an opportunity to answer questions or respond to concerns, and provide technical resources.

Because Hays County will be making a financial investment in the conservation easement, they would reserve the rights to be a "backup holder" of the easement. In the unlikely case of Hill Country Conservancy not fulfilling its responsibilities, the county would then have the right to replace HCC as the primary holder. To date, there is no known instance of this ever occurring on related agreements in Texas.

What Land Trust would we partner with?

We would partner with Hill Country Conservancy. They are recognized as a regional and statewide leader and have been great to work with so far and have acted as an engaged partner throughout the exploration process. Learn more about them at their website.

<https://hillcountryconservancy.org>

If we put a conservation easement on the property, do we need to allow public access such as that for a public park?

No. Landowners retain control of access to their property. They may choose to allow access to specific groups or the general public in their conservation easement agreement but are not required to do so, other than access that is required to allow the monitoring of the property by the organization that holds the easement (the land trust).

Hays County has indicated it would seek limited forms of public access, on a by-appointment basis which would not interfere with JKR operations or cause damage to the land or water. Details on this limited form of access are negotiable.

Why now?

There are several reasons that make this an ideal time to pursue a conservation easement:

- The potential for funding the entire project through the Hays County conservation bond. Funding conservation easement can take years and we have an opportunity to get it done this year. The last time Hays County did a conservation bond was in 2007 or 2008.
- Establishing an endowment is sort of like planting a tree. The best time to do it is 50 years ago. The second best time is today. Covid19 has reminded us once again how important having an endowment is for an organization. An endowment also encourages large gifts from donors to the endowment.
- We have recently completed strategic planning for John Knox Ranch. The conservation easement project is a part of that long range plan.

Will we be able to continue to use the property for camping, hiking, etc?

Yes! We will retain the rights to use the property as we have for the last 57 years of camp ministry.

In the future can we add new trails, trail signage, repairs to the ropes course, new primitive campsites?

Yes! The JKR Committee is completing a guided strategic planning process. One of the goals of the process is to identify any future use of the proposed conservation easement property so that we can work with Hill Country Conservancy to build those rights into the agreement. This would be things like: repairing the ropes course or adding a new element to the ropes course, adding a composting toilet for campers and hikers, adding new hiking or biking trails with appropriate signage, etc.

What buildings might we want to add to JKR in the future? Do we have enough space for them if we do the conservation easement?

As part of the strategic planning process, the JKR Committee is working with specialized consultants to identify any future buildings that might be needed for future programming. We have identified 3 potential locations for large buildings (retreat center, alternative dining hall location) that are not in the flood plain or in the proposed easement area. We have also identified several potential areas for smaller buildings (new cabins or health care center). We feel confident that by excluding 80-100 acres from the conservation easement we are retaining the space we need for any future buildings we may need to fulfill our mission.

Will Mission Presbytery retain the title to the property?

Yes, Mission Presbytery will retain the title. We would not be selling the property, only encumbering a portion of the property with development restrictions.

Can we still sell the property in the future?

Yes, a property with a conservation easement can be bought and sold. However, the conservation easement is tied to the land and binds all present and future owners to its terms and restrictions. Setting up a conservation easement on the nature preserve at JKR, permanently protects the land from development and preserves its natural state for generations to come.

Is the conservation easement reversible?

No. Conservation easements offer permanent protection from subdivision and development.

Are there any costs associated with setting up a conservation easement?

Yes. There are legal costs associated with setting up a conservation easement as there are with any real estate transaction. These costs include things like appraisals, surveys, legal fees, etc. Ordinarily these costs would be paid out of the funds received by setting up the easement, however, John Knox Ranch has applied for and received a grant for \$35,000 from the Hershey

Foundation designated toward paying the costs of setting up an easement. This is the first grant from the Hershey Foundation to JKR. If for any reason the conservation is not set up the grant for \$35,000 will need to be returned to the foundation.

Can we hold chunks of the land out of the easement so that we can build in the future?

Yes. A limited number of small “building envelopes” within the proposed easement area can be reserved so that they can be built on later. For example, as part of the strategic planning process, the JKR Committee identified a potential future need for additional on site staff housing. The very back southern property line of JKR would be an ideal area for staff housing, therefore we intend to reserve a small building envelope for this potential future use.

Have any other camps done this?

Yes, we have spoken with several camps who have entered into conservation easements. Some view their experience as positive; others had negative experiences.

The distinguishing factor between a positive and negative experience seems to be the amount of planning done before entering into the agreement and the financial state of the camp before the agreement. The camps that had positive experiences spent time carefully planning the program and facilities before the agreement and were in a stable financial position. One camp, Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp in MN, has entered into two separate conservation agreements with tremendous success. The funds generated were used to make repairs to facilities and set up an endowment for camp. Montreat Conference Center currently has 2,460 acres under conservation easement and views it as a “real blessing”. They highly value their partnership with their land trust which has helped advise them on land management.

The camps that had negative experiences were close to closing due to financial issues and viewed the conservation easement as the solution to keeping them open. They tried to maximize the amount of funds generated and didn't leave any space for future development of camp buildings. One of these camps is now closed. Even in that case however, the silver lining is that the land will still be protected.

Some text above is adapted from the Hill Country Conservancy website which can be found here. <https://hillcountryconservancy.org/landowners/resources/>



September 22, 2020

Rev. Peter D. Crouch, Chair and General Counsel
Mission Presbytery
7201 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78029

Dear Rev. Crouch,

As a former Executive Director of both The Nature Conservancy in Texas and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as well as a lifelong Presbyterian, I am thrilled that the Presbytery is considering protecting important portions of John Knox Ranch with a conservation easement.

First and foremost, to take this action would permanently protect some of the most critically endangered landscape in the United States. As you know, Hays and Comal Counties are among the fastest growing counties in America and lands along the Blanco River particularly, are considered among the most threatened. Protecting them forever would not only ensure that many generations of children would continue to be inspired by the outdoors at John Knox but would send an important message from the denomination that we take seriously the fact that the earth is a gift and protecting it is the special privilege of humanity.

Finally, protecting critical portions of John Knox Ranch in this way would in no way inhibit its educational, recreational, and spiritual mission and would potentially put the Presbytery in a position to receive grant funds which could be used to endow the Ranch ensuring that the land and the camp ministry program are both protected for generations.

Very regularly, I am approached by young people engaged in conservation careers who tell me they were inspired to this calling by spending summers at John Knox Ranch. Protecting it forever would honor those who it has moved to dedicate their lives and ensure that other youth will do so in the future.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Andrew Sansom", is positioned below the closing "Yours very sincerely,".

Andrew Sansom, PhD
Founder

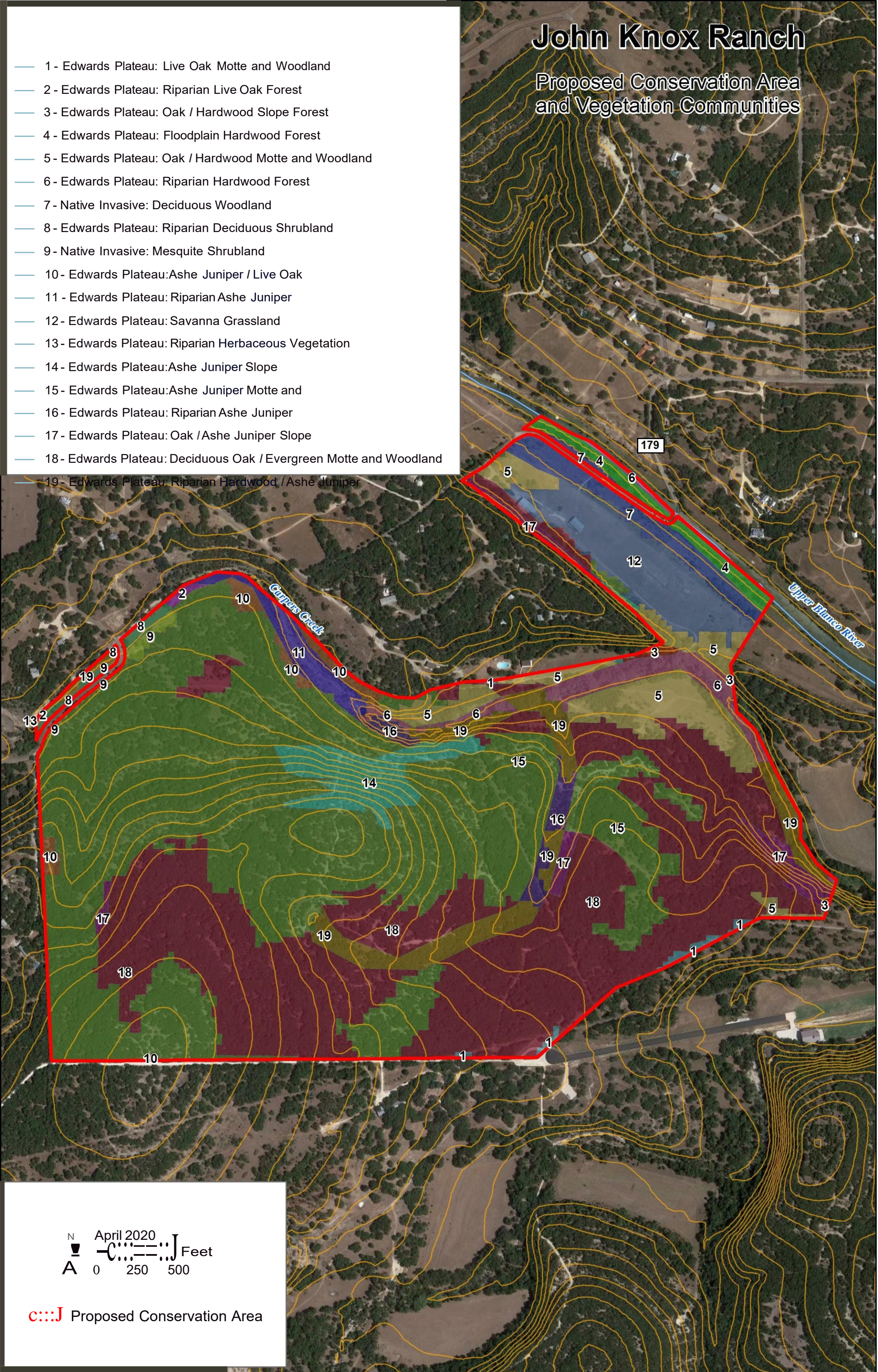
This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.

MEMBER **THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™**

John Knox Ranch

Proposed Conservation Area and Vegetation Communities

- 1 - Edwards Plateau: Live Oak Motte and Woodland
- 2 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Live Oak Forest
- 3 - Edwards Plateau: Oak / Hardwood Slope Forest
- 4 - Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Hardwood Forest
- 5 - Edwards Plateau: Oak / Hardwood Motte and Woodland
- 6 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood Forest
- 7 - Native Invasive: Deciduous Woodland
- 8 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Deciduous Shrubland
- 9 - Native Invasive: Mesquite Shrubland
- 10 - Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper / Live Oak
- 11 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Ashe Juniper
- 12 - Edwards Plateau: Savanna Grassland
- 13 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Herbaceous Vegetation
- 14 - Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Slope
- 15 - Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Motte and
- 16 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Ashe Juniper
- 17 - Edwards Plateau: Oak / Ashe Juniper Slope
- 18 - Edwards Plateau: Deciduous Oak / Evergreen Motte and Woodland
- 19 - Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood / Ashe Juniper



Sources: TNRIS, TPWD, Tx DOT

CORP Report for Mission Presbytery Meeting

Oct. 24, 2020

After a training meeting last January, CORP met to identify possible nominees several times in each of the following months: August, September and October. Nominees for this year are listed on page 2, but you will note there are still several vacant seats on several committees. Specifically, we need a COM member for a one or two-year term from the Victoria area, and one from the San Antonio area; we need nominees for the Human Resources Team for a two-year term and a three-year term; and a nominee for a two-year term on CORP. Otherwise, all vacancies are filled for a total of 62 nominees (pending additions after the time this report was filed). CORP has done its best to ensure fair representation on all committees.

We thank Melody for creating our new Nomination Form (link available at the top of our committee page on the MP website, and sometimes in the weekly newsletter). The new form is much easier to fill out than the old one, and you can fill it out and submit online. So if you have a heart for any committee work at all, please fill out a nomination form and submit it! We keep those forms and draw from them as vacancies open. But remember—filling out a form doesn't guarantee you will be asked to serve, since we have to consider balances in representation, as well as your call.

At our January stated committee meeting in 2021, we will be considering a protocol for selection of commissioners to General Assembly, discussing representation issues again, training on procedures, and assigning each CORP member specific committees to liaison with during the next year.

CORP brings one motion to the presbytery today:

Moved that presbytery approve the nominations list below, with any additions we may have to fill the vacancies noted, as stated by the CORP chair during her report.

Finally, we encourage committee chairs to contact ASAP those new members elected today to welcome them and provide necessary background for their participation on your committee. We have heard of several instances of new members not ever hearing about meeting dates and times over the last year! If CORP was able to contact a nominee, the contact information should be in the Church Life app for your phone, or in the presbytery office's database. Chairs could also contact their CORP liaison who made the exploratory calls—your liaison is listed on your chair's worksheet (the Stated Clerk will have access to all those from this last year).

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Bair, co-moderator

**COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION & PARTICIPATION
NOMINEES (all are Class of 2023 unless otherwise noted)**

CDE

TE Leon Bloder
TE Rachel Huntley
RE Caren Cobb

COM

RE Andy Anzaldúa (CC)
TE Kathy Escandell (RGV)
RE Steve Frazier (RGV)
TE Regina Maas (HC)
CP Duane Manning (HC)
TE David McCann (RGV)
TE Fred Morgan (A)
RE Gordon Ringle (SA)
TE Lana Russell (A)
RE Janice Shute (SA)
RE Lou Williams (SA)
(Vacancy in 2021, vacancy in 2022)

CORP

Walter Lee
Jim Berbiglia
RE Larry Sears (A)
Vacancy in 2022

CPM

TE Consuelo Donohue
TE Malcolm McQueen
TE Jon Wasson
RE Debbie Warden
Clark Weatherby (2021)

ECN

TE Linda Bourianoff
TE Mandi Richey
RE Dillon Vanderford
RE Melissa Kirkpatrick (2022)

DPAC

RE Charlie Dismore (A)
RE Charlie Felts (SA)
RE Lisa Davis (RGV)
TE Jim Barker (HC)

GC (Regional Reps)

RE Liz Anzaldúa (CC)
TE Dan Fultz (Vict)
TE Dan Milford (SA)

HMK Trustees

TE Naomi Ingram
RE Geoff Leech
TE Carl McCauley
RE Dennis Whitley (2022)
TE Bart Rousch (2021)

JKR

RE Andrew Brock???
RE David Junkin
RE Lynn Ware

HRT

RE Bonnie Wilkinson
(Vacancy in 2022, vacancy in 2023)

MOJC

Vacancy in 2023
RE Mac Holmes
TE Chad Lawson
TE Nicole Talkington
RE June Oliver

PCC

RE Phil Barnes
TE Marsha Brown
RE Barbie Haberer
TE Charles Walden

SFOC

RE Joy Durrant (2021)
RE Tom O'Meara (2022)
RE Fred Gamble
RE Mary Ellen Summerlin
RE Carl Spinner
RE Pam Power

MP Trustees

TE Dick Powell (2025)
RE Alex Villalpando (2025)

YCC

TE Alex Serna-Wallendar (2022)
RE Katie Henderson (2021)
RE Christina Moore
RE Neil McKown

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION & PARTICIPATION
NOMINEES (all are Class of 2023 unless otherwise noted)

CDE

TE Leon Bloder
TE Rachel Huntley
RE Caren Cobb

COM

RE Andy Anzaldua (CC)
TE Kathy Escandell (RGV)
RE Steve Frazier (RGV)
TE Regina Maas (HC)
CP Duane Manning (HC)
TE David McCann (RGV)
TE Fred Morgan (A)
RE Gordon Ringler (SA)
TE Lana Russell (A)
RE Janice Shute (SA)
RE Lou Williams (SA)

CORP

RE Jim Berbiglia
TE Walter Lee
RE Larry Sears

CPM

TE Consuelo Donohue
TE Malcolm McQueen
TE Jon Wasson
RE Debbie Warden
Clark Weatherby (2021)

ECN

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TE Mandi Richey
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RE Melissa Kirkpatrick (2022)

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D Lisa Davis (RGV)
TE Jim Barker (HC)

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RE Phil Barnes
TE Marsha Brown
RE Barbie Haberer
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TE Dick Powell (2025)
RE Alex Villalpando (2025)

YCC

TE Alex Serna-Wallendar (2022)
RE Katie Henderson (2021)
RE Christina Moore
RE Neil McKown

Report of the Commissioned Pastor Task Force
of Mission Presbytery
October 26, 2020

Task Force members Andy Anzaldua, Kris Bair, LaVerne (Sam) Baublitz, Ann Brizendine, Bill Cotman, Linda Bourianoff, Duane Manning, and Sallie Watson reviewed the present program in Mission Presbytery, as well as those in other presbyteries, notably the Presbytery of Northern Kansas. We spent the summer wrestling with definitions, requirements and protocols, keeping the core curriculum of the present program, but setting up clear boundaries and guidelines. This program would put CPM in charge of recruitment and training, and move Certified Ruling Elder graduates of the program into the care of COM. It would also create a new category of lay pastors commissioned to the presbytery-at-large, also under COM care. Finally, it provides a protocol for the certification of CREs, or CREs in process, transferring in to Mission Presbytery from another presbytery. We bring five motions to enable the program that following this page.

Motions

GC Member Kris Bair **moves** for the CP Task Force

1. that Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) who have previously served as Commissioned Pastors (CPs) may also, *at the recommendation of Committee on Ministry (COM)*, be commissioned-at-large to the presbytery to serve as *pulpit supply* to various congregations. In addition, they may administer the sacraments to the congregation being supplied and serve presbytery functions in the same way, with approval of the appropriate COM liaison for each function. CPs-at-Large shall have their names placed on presbytery's pulpit supply list.
2. that Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) be charged with the recruitment, training and certification of Ruling Elder candidates desiring to become Certified Ruling Elders (CREs).
3. that COM be charged with the care and oversight of CREs who have completed the program and been authorized by CPM to receive a commission, and to maintain a roster of active CREs, coordinating with CREs and congregations to facilitate placement.
4. that General Council adopt the *Commissioned Pastor Training Program* presented by the CP Task Force for training and utilizing CREs in Mission Presbytery, along with the Guidelines for Transferring Certified Ruling Elders (CREs) from the programs of other presbyteries or denominations into the Certified Ruling Elder Program of Mission Presbytery.
5. Should all, or the last three, motions above be adopted, the CP Task Force be dissolved.

Commissioned Pastor Training Program

Definitions of Terms

CREs (Certified Ruling Elders) are those individuals who have completed a ruling elder certification program recognized and approved by Mission Presbytery (MP). A CRE is not currently commissioned to a church or the presbytery-at-large.

- a) CREs may preach in any church when invited by the session.
- b) CREs may administer sacraments during worship if the session has received approval from the Committee on Ministry (COM) Liaison to that church.
- c) CREs may moderate session meetings if invited by the current moderator to that session to do so, and the COM Liaison to that congregation has been informed.
- d) CREs may be appointed by COM to moderate sessions lacking a moderator.

CPs (Commissioned Pastors) are CREs commissioned by MP to a particular church. CPs may moderate sessions and serve the sacraments, but only to the church to which they are commissioned. If requested to serve additional churches during that time, they will follow the protocols above for CREs.

CPs-at-Large

CREs who have previously served as CPs may also, at the recommendation of COM, be commissioned -at-large to the presbytery to serve as pulpit supply to various congregations. In addition, they may administer the sacraments to the congregation being supplied and serve presbytery functions in the same way, with approval of the appropriate COM liaison for each function. CPs-at-Large shall have their names placed on presbytery's pulpit supply list.

Statement of Purpose

Mission Presbytery joyfully affirms the need for Ruling Elders to be certified and commissioned for ministry in our congregations. *Hearing the calling of God through the Great Ends of the Church, Mission Presbytery commits itself to meeting this need.* Commissioned Pastors (CPs) share their gifts, as they serve the congregations to which they are called. The CP program provides an academic track to prepare Ruling Elders for a commission to a particular congregation, and continuing educational opportunities that allow CPs to grow in their pastoral identity while serving a congregation. This program also contains procedures to welcome and examine Certified Ruling Elders (CREs) joining Mission Presbytery from other presbyteries or denominations, and protocols for calling CREs as CPs to a congregation or to the presbytery-at-large.

Oversight of the Program and the CPs

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is charged with the training and certification of Ruling Elder candidates desiring to become Certified Ruling Elders (CREs).

COM is charged with the care and oversight of CREs who have completed the program and been authorized by CPM to receive a commission, and will maintain a roster of CREs, coordinating with CREs and congregations to facilitate placement.

Recruitment, Admission and Funding Protocols for the program are the responsibility of CPM.

Curriculum—these may be met via face-to-face or virtual meetings

1. CREs must complete coursework from an approved seminary (Union, Dubuque, or Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminaries; others approved on a case-by-case basis), to include the following or their equivalents:

Old Testament
PCUSA Polity

New Testament
Reformed Theology

Worship and Preaching	Pastoral Care
Christian Education	Church History
History/Multi Ethnicity of MP--could be completed by working with assigned Mentor	
Basic Church Management -----could be completed by working with assigned Mentor	

2. Required practicums (½-day sessions, 2 per year) will provide CREs opportunity to develop proficiency in fulfilling specific responsibilities to the congregation, and should also include use of appropriate resources (*Book of Order*, *Book of Common Worship*, *Book of Occasional Worship*, etc.) Practicums are organized by CPM. Required subjects include the following:

Worship/Liturgy (occasional services)	Sacraments
Preaching	Weddings/Funerals
(Other topics as CPM deems necessary)	
3. CPM will provide each candidate with a **mentor** to supervise coursework and provide advice and encouragement during the process. CPM determines parameters for completion of coursework and standards expected, and shall communicate these clearly to candidates (see attached flow charts).

Evaluation for Certification

After coursework and practicums are completed to the satisfaction of CPM, candidates are expected to

- Preach a sermon, turning in the written copy with a complete bibliography of works consulted;
- Write and submit a Statement of Faith;
- Provide a resume;
- Complete a written exam, if required by CPM;
- Complete a psychological evaluation.

CPM is responsible for administering and scoring these requirements, and determining pass/fail status for each candidate.

Post-Certification

In addition to maintaining a list of active CREs available for a call, and facilitating such calls in apt situations, COM will

- Assign each CP a mentor (through the appropriate COM regional representative) at the time of commissioning, with expectations for monthly contact between CP and mentor for mutual support/problem solving. The CP and mentor assume mutual responsibility for monthly contact.
- Evaluate the CP as any other pastor in service to a congregation, keeping in mind any limitations in the call itself and the nature of the CP classification.
- Require CPs to take Boundary Awareness Training and any other training required of active TEs in MP.
- Ensure that CPs are active in the presbytery, attending presbytery meetings with some regularity, attending regional cluster meetings, and serving on presbytery committees according to their gifts and abilities.
- Like TEs, CPs must take advantage of continuing education opportunities, which may include Theocademy courses (online, many available in Spanish, and free); Interim Training; workshops at presbytery meetings, conferences and pastors' retreats; APTS Midwinters, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, Festival of Homiletics, the Big Tent, etc. Their COM mentor should provide guidance for Continuing Education choices.

**Guidelines for Transferring Certified Ruling Elders (CREs)
from the programs of other presbyteries or denominations
into the**

Certified Ruling Elder Program of Mission Presbytery

CREs transferring into Mission Presbytery (MP) and wishing to be considered as “Available for Commissioning” or desiring to apply for admittance to the MP CRE Program, will

1. Complete and submit the MP CRE application.
2. Provide written documentation from the institution/instructor/presbytery that provided any previous education/training for which the individual is requesting CRE credit. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) will evaluate the documentation in order to determine the status of the candidate.
3. Provide references from the last congregation(s) served, if applicable.
4. Wait while Presbytery leaders consult the leadership of the presbytery in which the CRE trained and/or last served as to the candidate’s status. If the report is good, complete a criminal background check.
5. Meet with the CPM for the required initial interview, during which questions about faith journey and sense of call will be asked. CREs who have served as CPs will also be asked questions about their previous calls.
6. Complete all requirements of the MP CRE Program as outlined by the CPM. Requirements will be evaluated on a candidate-by-candidate basis, and some may be waived, or substitutions accepted, in the case of CREs with CP experience.
7. Complete a psychological evaluation.

When the CRE candidate has met the requirements, and the committee has agreed he or she is ready to serve, Committee on Ministry (COM) will be notified the CRE is ready for a call.

PCC Report to General Council September 22, 2020

Motion: To have the Presbytery Necrology Report in October (starting 2021) so it is closer to All Saints Day.

Description of PCC as it has evolved in 2020:

1. We perceive our main tasks to be the pastoral care for pastors, CLP, Christian Educators, and their families in times of difficulty and to enhance the general well-being and resilience of MP pastors, CLE and Christian Educators.
2. How we function: Sallie contacts Marsha who contacts a team member who contacts the pastor in need of care; then team member reports back that they made contact and Marsha reports that to Sallie. All information is confidential between the PCC member and the pastor in need of care- unless life is in danger. Follow-up is as needed.
3. When COVID 19 first hit, we contacted as many pastors as possible to offer support for the stress involved; especially chaplains and small church pastors and leaders.
4. We assist with HR announcements, obituaries of churches that close, and minister obituaries for the newsletter.
5. We have offered a pastoral retreat at Mo Ranch for pastors and CLPs and Christian Educators renewal and rest in 2019 that we hope to continue in Fall 2021.
6. Possible merger of ECN and PCC is on hold for now.
7. Next Meeting: Friday Oct. 29, 2020; 10am-12pm on Zoom.

PCC members: Mary Breden (TE-Rio Grande Valley), Mary Lee (RE San Antonio), Kristin Huffman (TE San Antonio) Charles Walden (TE Corpus Christi), David Marx (TE San Antonio), Nancy Benson-Nichol, (TE Austin), Cameron Allen (TE Austin), Susan Lewis (TE San Antonio), Ada Castle (RE Austin), Emily Owen (TE Hill Country), Peggy Shepherd (RE Victoria), chair; Marsha Brown (TE Austin) and Exec. Presbyter Sallie Watson, Ex-Officio member.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Marsha E. Brown

Education and Congregational Nurture Committee Report to Presbytery October 12, 2020

The ECN Committee met on July 21 and September 15, 2020 via Zoom.

ECN Members: Mandi Richey, Chair (TE, Genesis– Austin), Sam Baublitz, Secretary (RE, FPC– Kerrville), Jennifer Mitchell (TE, FPC– Karnes City), David Roach (HR), Ismael Cantu (RE, New Braunfels-New Braunfels), Dillon Vanderford (RE, Brownsville), Margot Whittaker (RE, Corpus Christi), Sallie Watson, ex-officio (General Presbyter)

Items to Report:

- Sabbatical Year in 2021
 - ECN will take a sabbatical year from January 1 – December 31, 2021 to discern the needs of the congregations of Mission Presbytery in regards to Christian education and nurture, and how they can best be supported. The Sabbatical request was approved by General Council at its meeting on September 26, 2020.
 - Rev. Jen Mitchell (TE, FPC – Karnes City) will serve as ECN chair in 2021.
 - During the Sabbatical year, ECN will:
 - Create a survey to be sent out to all the congregations in the presbytery asking what would be most helpful to them in the areas of Christian education and congregational nurture. Meet once or twice during the year to examine and discuss the results of the survey and the gathering and assess how best to move forward and make a recommendation to General Council.
 - Host a gathering of those responsible for Education Ministry in Mission Presbytery of all experience levels to brainstorm ways the presbytery can continue to support the education and congregational nurture ministries of the diverse congregations of Mission Presbytery.
 - Create a small task force to receive scholarship and grant applications and act on them as needed.
- Commissioned Ruling Elder program
 - The following Candidates will be transferred to CPM to complete their training/mentoring and then be handed off to COM as part of the new process for CRE/CP in the presbytery.
 - Dan Bautista - McAllen
 - Ron Anderson – First, Llano
 - Charley Kidder – New Hope-La Feria applying soon
- ECN Grow Grants
 - The Grow Grant deadline of April 15 is now waived. ECN will receive rolling applications year round.
 - Smithville, First used their Grow Grant in a little different way than expected because of Covid. Instead of doing a week-long children's musical in the summer, they have been

creating puppet-based messages to put on their website and Facebook page. They have also been incorporating puppets during their streaming services on Sunday.

- The Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis used their Grow Grant to help improve technology capabilities. The Zoom capabilities of the church were upgraded and a video channel acquired. This allows the technology based worship services to be accessible to all congregation members, especially to shut-ins, and also allows for archiving the worship services.

- Workshops/Trainings/Online Resources

- Rev. Jen Mitchell (FPC – Karnes City) has established a Mission Presbytery Educator Facebook group. Please join!
- There are no workshops or trainings scheduled at this time due to Covid.

- Merger with Pastoral Care Committee

- The conversation about merging has been put on hold at the time.

The final ECN meeting for 2020 will be held Tues., November 17, 2020, at 10:30am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandi Richey, Chair

Report K

City	Church	Pin #	Members as of 12.31.19	2020 Shared Mission Support						2020 SPECIAL OFFERINGS							Total
				GENERAL (1)	MSN PBY (3)	SYNOD (4)	GA (2)	Total PRES'N Benevolence	PER CAPITA (8)	JOY (20)	OGHS (22)	PEACEMKG GA (2/3) (24)	PEACEMKG MP (1/3) (25)	PENTECOST (26)	THEOLOG. EDUC. (28)	Misc Gift	
Adamsville	FPC	8845	5					-									\$ -
Austin	Central PC	21671	420	7,166.25				7,166.25		919.75							\$ 8,086.00
Austin	Covenant PC	21668	1,689	10,000.00				10,000.00	15,116.55								\$ 25,116.55
Austin	El Buen Pastor	21669	65					-									\$ -
Austin	Faith PC	21670	136					-	1,217.20	1,370.50		425.00	212.50	1,510.00			\$ 4,735.20
Austin	FPC	8621	435	7,000.00				7,000.00	3,893.25					1,151.74		1,136.00	\$ 13,180.99
Austin	Genesis PC	11699	33	25.00				25.00	295.35	322.00		108.50	54.25				\$ 805.10
Austin	Hope PC	10338	425	400.00				400.00	3,803.75	841.00						5,336.00	\$ 10,380.75
Austin	Hyde Park PC	21673	64	1,230.00				1,230.00		45.00	200.00	36.00	18.00	168.00			\$ 1,697.00
Austin	New Covenant	12091	45	750.00				750.00	402.75								\$ 1,152.75
Austin	PC Lake Travis	12042	78					-		515.00	426.00						\$ 941.00
Austin	Shepherd of the Hills	10600	582	11,760.00				11,760.00	5,208.90					1,245.00			\$ 18,213.90
Austin	St. Andrew's	8634	359	646.00				646.00	3,213.05								\$ 3,859.05
Austin	St. John's PC	7767	61	600.00				600.00	545.95	978.00	70.00			50.00			\$ 2,243.95
Austin	Taiwanese	11552	99					-								4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
Austin	University PC	21674	515	19,953.00				15,519.00	4,609.25	2,316.00	1,755.00						\$ 24,199.25
Austin	Westlake Hills	21675	1,900	20,000.00				20,000.00	17,005.00		11,000.00					750.00	\$ 48,755.00
Austin	Westminster	21676	643	12,150.00				12,150.00	5,754.85	980.00	2,985.00	16.67	8.33	651.00		1,500.00	\$ 24,045.85
Beeville	FPC	21678	138	3,446.63				3,446.63	1,235.10	360.00						1,154.25	\$ 6,195.98
Boerne	St. Mark PC	3449	309					-	2,765.55					429.00			\$ 3,194.55
Brady	Brady PC	8644	30					-									\$ -
Brownsville	FPC	21680	113	103.43				103.43	1,011.35								\$ 1,114.78
Brownsville	Primera Iglesia	11840	83					-	641.59								\$ 641.59
Burnet	Burnet PC	21682	53					-									\$ -
Canyon Lake	Canyon Lake PC	11111	89	2,175.00				2,175.00	796.55	1,511.00							\$ 4,482.55
Cheapside	Cheapside PC	8623	11					-	98.45								\$ 98.45
Collegeport	FPC	21684	28	500.00				500.00	259.55	300.00							\$ 1,059.55
Copperas Cove	FPC	3446	67					-	599.65	265.00	485.00			315.00			\$ 1,664.65
Corpus Christi	El Divino Salvador	21686	70	2,400.00				2,400.00	626.50	147.00	411.25						\$ 3,584.75
Corpus Christi	Faith Community	11554	78					-									\$ -
Corpus Christi	Grace PC	21689	250	1,847.00				1,847.00	2,237.50								\$ 4,084.50
Corpus Christi	Island PC	11628	87					-	778.65	797.74							\$ 1,576.39
Corpus Christi	Jackson Woods	21690	119	681.88				681.88	1,127.70	116.00	70.00						\$ 1,995.58
Corpus Christi	Korean PC	11543	65					-									\$ -
Corpus Christi	Parkway PC	21691	413	12,140.00				12,140.00	3,696.35								\$ 15,836.35
Cotulla	FPC	21694	5	500.00				500.00									\$ 500.00
Cuero	FPC	21696	117	410.00				410.00									\$ 410.00
Del Rio	FPC	21697	112					-									\$ -
Dripping Springs	Dripping Springs PC	12121	368					-									\$ -
El Campo	FPC	21701	115	100.00				100.00	1,217.20	1,065.00							\$ 2,382.20
Elgin	FPC	21702	86					-	769.70								\$ 769.70
Fredericksburg	Memorial PC	21707	55	1,750.00				1,750.00	438.55	340.00					1,850.00	5,400.00	\$ 9,778.55
Georgetown	FPC	21708	569	26,665.00				26,665.00	5,092.55	2,974.03	2,826.21					3,185.00	\$ 40,742.79
Georgetown	San Gabriel	11792	218	5,300.00				5,300.00	1,951.10	1,955.00	1,730.00	6.67	3.33		1,100.00	4,160.00	\$ 16,206.10
Giddings	FPC	21709	63	4,000.00	2,000.00			6,000.00	563.85	50.00	300.00					500.00	\$ 7,413.85
Goliad	Goliad PC	21710	49					-									\$ -
Gonzales	Gonzales PC	21711	117					-		1,190.00							\$ 1,190.00
Gonzales/Smiley	Pilgrim	8633	21					-									\$ -
Harlingen	Second PC	21713	19					-	170.05								\$ 170.05
Harlingen	Treasure Hills	21714	208	1,000.00				1,000.00	1,861.60								\$ 2,861.60
Harper	Harper PC	8628	42					-									\$ -
Helotes	Forest Hills	21715	130	800.00				800.00	1,163.50	491.00	408.03	225.00	112.00	455.65			\$ 3,655.18
Junction	FPC	21716	143	3,000.00				3,000.00		1,506.00						2,133.36	\$ 6,639.36
Karnes City	FPC	21717	46					-									\$ -
Kerrville	FPC	21718	547	3,000.00				3,000.00								394.00	\$ 3,394.00
Kingsville	FPC	21719	130	1,750.00	250.00			2,000.00		610.00							\$ 2,610.00
Kingsville	Gethsemane	21720	31					-									\$ -
La Feria	New Hope PC	21712	33	1,225.00				1,225.00		312.19	100.00			500.00		5,000.00	\$ 7,137.19
La Grange	FPC	21722	133	4,800.00				4,800.00									\$ 4,800.00
Lago Vista	Rolling Hills	10843	62					-	554.90								\$ 554.90
Lampasas	FPC	8857	78	2,000.00				2,000.00	698.10	566.00	870.00					500.00	\$ 4,634.10
Laredo	Sinal PC	21724	90					-									\$ -
Leander	Leander PC	21725	59	600.00				600.00	528.05	404.00							\$ 1,532.05

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Leander	Live Oak PC	12340	-	474.35				474.35	474.35								\$ 948.70
Llano	FPC	21726	13					-									\$ -
Lockhart	Faith/Fe PC	21728	40					-	358.00								\$ 358.00
Lockhart	FPC	21727	39					-									\$ -
Luling	FPC	21729	23	1,100.00	200.00			1,300.00		209.00							\$ 1,509.00
Marble Falls	St. Andrew PC	21730	72					-	644.40								\$ 644.40
McAllen	Bethania	21731	38					-									\$ -
McAllen	First Korean	12044	46					-									\$
McAllen	FPC	21732	131		1,500.00			1,500.00	1,235.10	546.00							\$ 3,281.10
Menard	FPC	8650	27					-									\$ -
Mercedes	FPC	21734	36	375.00				375.00	322.20	82.00							\$ 779.20
Mission	FPC	21735	244					-	2,183.80								\$ 2,183.80
New Braunfels	Community Fel.	12269	104	50.00				50.00	53.70								\$ 103.70
New Braunfels	FPC	21737	74					-									\$ -
New Braunfels	New Braunfels PC	21738	498	4,927.06	458.33	125.00		5,510.39	4,457.10						14,072.81	\$	24,040.30
Palacios	FPC	21739	64		3,500.00			3,500.00		711.00	525.33						\$ 4,736.33
Pipe Creek	Pipe Creek PC	11110	70					-									\$ -
Pleasanton	FPC	21741	19	1,400.00				1,400.00	170.05								\$ 1,570.05
Port Aransas	Community PC	21742	126					-									\$ -
Port Lavaca	FPC	21743	72					-	644.40								\$ 644.40
Port Lavaca	Six Mile PC	7925	11					-	98.45		45.00	46.98	23.49	20.40			\$ 234.32
Portland	FPC	21744	35					-									\$ -
Refugio	FPC	21747	39	450.00	750.00			1,200.00		183.00							\$ 1,383.00
Robstown	FPC	21748	-					-									\$ -
Rockport	FPC	21750	231	8,669.25				8,669.25	2,067.45	1,397.00							\$ 12,133.70
Rocksprings	FPC	21751	35					-	313.25								\$ 313.25
Round Rock	Grace PC	11794	268	8,928.00				8,928.00	2,398.00								\$ 11,326.00
Round Rock	Round Rock PC	10869	143					-	1,279.85	448.00		133.00	68.00				\$ 1,928.85
San Antonio	Alamo Heights	21752	362	1,000.00				1,000.00	3,239.90								\$ 4,239.90
San Antonio	Boldtville	21755	113					-	1,011.35								\$ 1,011.35
San Antonio	Covenant PC	21756	309	14,000.00				14,000.00									\$ 14,000.00
San Antonio	Crestholme	21757	24					-									\$ -
San Antonio	Cross Roads (John Calvin)	21765	176	375.00	375.00			750.00		905.00							\$ 1,655.00
San Antonio	Divine Redeemer	8635	122					-									\$ -
San Antonio	Emmanuel	21758	63	500.00				500.00			135.54						\$ 635.54
San Antonio	First Korean	23344	118	300.00				300.00		500.00							\$ 800.00
San Antonio	Good Shepherd	7977	42					-	375.90								\$ 375.90
San Antonio	Grace PC	21760	56	600.00				600.00	501.20	691.00	850.00			215.00			\$ 2,857.20
San Antonio	Holy Trinity	10427	289	5,625.00				5,625.00	2,586.55					483.00		2,991.00	\$ 11,685.55
San Antonio	Los Angeles Heights	8636	34	300.00				300.00	304.30	168.00	100.00						\$ 872.30
San Antonio	Madison Square	8637	137	7,000.00				7,000.00	1,226.15	365.00						2,000.00	\$ 10,591.15
San Antonio	Northminster	10759	193	1,050.00				1,050.00	863.78								\$ 1,913.78
San Antonio	Northwood	21767	144	4,800.00				4,800.00								1,650.00	\$ 6,450.00
San Antonio	Oak Hills	8047	216	1,493.00				1,493.00	1,933.20								\$ 3,426.20
San Antonio	Pilgrims	21768	42					-	375.90	215.00							\$ 590.90
San Antonio	San Pedro PC	21770	640	2,750.00				2,750.00									\$ 2,750.00
San Antonio	St. Andrew PC	21769	145	1,000.00				1,000.00	1,297.75	950.00	1,195.00			384.00			\$ 4,826.75
San Antonio	University PC	8640	324	14,600.00				14,600.00	2,899.80	2,471.00	965.00	49.70	24.85	450.00	1,650.00	677.00	\$ 23,787.35
San Benito	FPC	21772	63					-	563.85								\$ 563.85
San Benito	Iglesia Getsemani	21773	23	100.00				100.00								145.00	\$ 245.00
San Marcos	FPC	21774	187					-									\$ -
San Marcos	Memorial PC	21775	63	1,464.00				1,464.00									\$ 1,464.00
Schulenberg	St. Paul's PC	12197	48					-									\$ -
Seguin	FPC	21776	143					-								100.00	\$ 100.00
Sinton	Sinton PC	21777	12	200.00				200.00									\$ 200.00
Smithville	FPC - Smithville	8638	70					-	626.50								\$ 626.50
Taft	FPC	21779	35					-									\$ -
Taylor	Everlasting Hope	21781	37					-									\$ -
Taylor	First	21780								94.00							\$ 94.00
Tivoli	Tivoli	21782	32					-									\$ -
Uvalde	FPC	21783	65					-									\$ -
Victoria	FPC	21785	121					-									\$ -
Victoria	Grace PC	21786	132	5,485.06				5,485.06	1,181.40								\$ 6,666.46
Victoria	Nicea	21787	31					-									\$ -

City	Church	Pin #	Members as of 12.31.19	2020 Shared Mission Support						2020 SPECIAL OFFERINGS							Total		
				GENERAL (1)	MSN PBY (3)	SYNOD (4)	GA (2)	Total PRES'N Benevolence	PER CAPITA (8)	JOY (20)	OGHS (22)	PEACEMKG GA (2/3) (24)	PEACEMKG MP (1/3) (25)	PENTECOST (26)	THEOLOG. EDUC. (28)	Misc Gift			
Weslaco	FPC	21788	107	750.00	1,000.00			1,750.00									\$ 1,750.00		
Weslaco	San Pablo PC	21789	34					-									\$ -		
Wimberley	Wimberley	11200	195					-		740.00							\$ 740.00		
Woodsboro	Faith United	21790	1					-	8.95								\$ 8.95		
Yorktown	FPC	21792	145					-									\$ -		
TOTAL CHURCH GIFTS				261,639.91	10,033.33	125.00	-	271,798.24	127,646.07	33,922.21	27,452.36	1,047.52	524.75	8,027.79	4,600.00	56,984.42	\$ 532,003.36		
Other External Church Gifts																	\$ -		
INDIVIDUAL GIFTS				3,022.75	3,250.00			6,272.75		235.00	1,960.06					31,518.61	\$ 39,986.42		
TOTAL GIFTS				264,662.66	13,283.33	125.00	-	278,070.99	127,646.07	34,157.21	29,412.42	1,047.52	524.75	8,027.79	4,600.00	88,503.03	\$ 571,989.78		
			20,794														\$ -		
Mission Pby 90%				238,196.39	13,283.33			251,479.72					524.75				\$ 252,004.47		
Synod 5%				13,233.13		125.00		13,358.13		-							\$ 13,358.13		
GA 5%				13,233.13			-	13,233.13	127,646.07	34,157.21	29,412.42	1,047.52		8,027.79	4,600.00		\$ 218,124.14		
																88,503.03	\$ 88,503.03		
Fund Code																-			
Account #'s				2001-00	2015-00	2016-00	2014-00	2230-00	2002-00	2005-00	2006-00	2178-65	2007-00	2008-00	Misc Breakdown				
																-	HNS		
																2,145.50	Pastoral Care		
																1,645.50	Candidate Scholarships		
																1,956.00	Zambia		
																-	Disaster:Hill Country		
																-	Harvey		
																-	Valley Flood		
																2,666.00	Disaster Relief Prepare		
																-	Design. Funds		
																720.00	RGV		
																3,576.39	APTS		
																7,066.63	Childrens hm		
																4,910.00	PDA		
																1,784.75	Itasca		
																17,597.43	JKR		
																9,936.00	MP Disaster		
																-	Guatemala		
																-	Manos		
																3,171.26	Misc		
																5,850.00	Missionaries		
																2,093.75	Mo Ranch		
																-	New Church Develop		
																6,301.40	Pan Am Sch		
																-	Installations		
																-	Pby Women		
																10,567.42	Prsby Mental Health Netwo		
																-	Su Casa		
																-	Habitat for Humanity		
																-	HNS		
																750.00	Mission Outreach		
																-	Memorials		
																-	Gifts Undesig		
																-	JKR Deposits		
																635.00	Boldtville Fund		
																-	Background cks		
																250.00	Cuba		
																-	Youth Triennium		
																145.00	PW Thank		
																4,735.00	Misc/Des		
																-	PW Birthday		
																\$ 88,503.03			