



## MISSION PRESBYTERY BETTER TOGETHER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a strange time we find ourselves in! I pray for your health and safety, and that your congregation feels the guidance and the power of Christ as we serve each other and our communities during this remarkable period.

Your presbytery staff and the General Council of Mission Presbytery continue to work diligently (albeit remotely) to meet the needs of congregations and our combined ministry. As part of that work, General Council has called a special meeting of the Presbytery to be held by Zoom Video Conferencing on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to act on recommendations from the Commission on Ministry and Mission Presbytery Trustees.

While this meeting will be brief, it is important. Please make every effort to join us. Registration information for this special meeting will be included in the newsletter and can be found on the Presbytery meeting page of the Mission Presbytery website ([mission-presbytery.org](https://mission-presbytery.org)).

I look forward to meeting with you and gathering as the Body of Christ (even on a screen!). Until then, I leave you with these words from the Apostle Paul:

*Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers...Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 CEB*

Grace and Peace,

*Stacy Ikard*

The Rev Dr. Stacy Ikard  
Moderator, Mission Presbytery

## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

COM moves the that presbytery declare First Presbyterian Church of Taft to be an abandoned ministry, and to appoint an Administrative Commission to consider and conclude matters regarding the church. The AC duties shall include but shall not be limited to:

1. Inquiring into the current status of membership and all finances.
2. Assuming original jurisdiction of the Session.
3. Ascertaining what legal recourses may need to be taken.
4. Recommending to the Mission Presbytery Trustees a plan for the property.

Administrative Commission to consist of:

- RE Bobby Patterson, First-Taft
- RE Mary Beth Delano, Parkway-Corpus Christi
- TE Bette Burris, HR
- TE Jim DeMent, First-Victoria
- TE Bart Roush, Madison Square-San Antonio

Rationale:

First Presbyterian of Taft was planning to close as the pandemic hit. They had not called a congregational meeting, but discussions were underway. The congregation has dwindled in numbers, and the Session has not been functional. There are now not sufficient numbers of members available to hold a congregational meeting, which would be the usual way of handling a church closure.

A declaration of “abandoned ministry” will allow the Presbytery, through the Administrative Commission, to care for both the remaining members and the property, as they work their way through a closure process.

## **Mission Presbytery Trustees Report**

The Trustees of Mission Presbytery moves that the presbytery declare Community Fellowship Presbyterian Church of New Braunfels to be an abandoned ministry, and to appoint an Administrative Commission to consider and conclude matters regarding the church. The AC duties shall include but shall not be limited to:

1. Inquiring into the current status of membership and all finances.
2. Assuming original jurisdiction of the Session.
3. Ascertaining what legal recourses may need to be taken.
4. Recommending to the Mission Presbytery Trustees a plan for the property.

Administrative Commission to consist of the following and others who will be named:

- TE Rob Mueller (MP Trustee)

Rationale:

It appears there has been no activity or worship occurring for Community Fellowship Presbyterian Church for some time. Further, the property of the church has not been secured or maintained.