

Minutes

Mission Presbytery Stated Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

October 20-21, 2023

Mo-Ranch Presbyterian Assembly

Motions in bold.

Pre-Presbytery Gatherings

- What's going on in the life of the church? Dishman Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.
Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery; Steve Shive, Synod of the Sun; and Laurie Kraus, Director, Humanitarian & Global Ecumenical Engagement PC (USA)
- New Commissioner Training, 3:00 p.m., Manor House meeting room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order on Friday, October 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. by Moderator Fred Gamble. He declared that a quorum was present. A quorum for Mission Presbytery meetings is 12 Ruling Elders and 12 Teaching Elders from 12 different congregations. Fred opened the meeting with prayer.

He read the Mission Statement: As Mission Presbytery, we connect diverse leaders and congregations by providing opportunities for worship, learning, and service so that we can flourish through God's grace.

The Moderator asked if there was a motion and second to approve the docket for the meeting. There was, and the motion passed.

The Moderator presented a Land Acknowledgment:

Long before the Synod of Texas occupied this land as Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, and even before Dan Moran made this his family/Continental Oil Company retreat, and centuries before O. R. Seagraves lost all his fortune in the stock market crash of '29, causing the sale of this place to Dan Moran, this land was inhabited. Archeological findings go back as early as 10,000 BCE. The area we know as Kerr County was occupied by the Lipian Apaches, the Comanches, and the Kiowas. In fact, there are middens located right here on Mo-Ranch. The oldest natives of this land were probably the Coahueltican. It is good and proper that we remember all who once called this small slice of heaven home.

Thank you, God, for the abundant life and culture you placed within your people who came before us. Peoples whose names we so easily forget, whose history and life we so easily dismiss. We confess the role that our ancestors played in sidelining them, dispersing them, and, in more than one way, killing them. We confess the role that we play today as well, sidelining them through ignorance or misunderstanding. Help us, as we walk this ground they once walked, to continue learning from them and to live in gratitude for their lives and witness. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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

He introduced Corresponding Members:

- Laurie Kraus, Director, Humanitarian and Global Ecumenical Engagement for the PC(USA)
 - Steve Shive, Bridge Interim Leader and Stated Clerk for the Synod of the Sun
- The Moderator asked if there were other Corresponding Members present. Hearing none, **he entertained a motion and a second that we give voice but not vote to our Corresponding Members. The motion and second were made, and the motion passed.**

Fred invited Tim Huchton, President of Mo-Ranch Presbytery Assembly, forward to welcome the presbytery and to give a report.

Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Humanitarian and Global Ecumenical Engagement for the PC(USA, gave her report.

Rev. Dr. Steve Shive, Bridge Interim Leader and Stated Clerk for the Synod of the Sun, brought greetings from the Synod.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT, LAURIE PALMER

- 1. The Stated Clerk moved approval of excused absences for this meeting. There was a second, and the motion passed.**
- 2. The Stated Clerk moved that Mission Presbytery grant First, Brownsville, and Grace, San Antonio waivers on the limitations of session terms per G-2.0404. There was a second, and the motion passed.**

Other information from the Stated Clerk, who referred to her report in the Addendum.

I. An accusation has been made against a minister member of Mission Presbytery. An Investigating Committee has been formed.

II. The Annual Statistical Report opens on December 1, 2023, and will run through February 12, 2024. She reminded Presbytery that Per Capita is based on membership numbers from the last annual statistical report submitted. Some churches have had the same number for years because the report has not been submitted.

Approximately 85 of 119 churches in Mission Presbytery submit their reports each year. An increase in submitted reports would give us more accurate data about presbytery.

III. 2022 Session Minutes Review

33 of 119 congregations sent their 2022 minutes to be reviewed, and they were. It is not too late to submit minutes for review. Laurie directed the presbytery to her report for more information.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION (CORP)

JUDY FERGUSON

From Mission Presbytery's Manual of Operations:

The Committee on Representation and Participation (CORP) nominates leadership for Mission Presbytery's committees, commissions, and task groups. It ensures the reflection of the rich diversity of its members as per the Book of Order. (G-3.0301) It ensures representation of the constituency of Mission Presbytery for leadership in the Presbytery, Synod of the Sun, and General Assembly. It places nominations before the Presbytery persons whose interests, skills, and experiences qualify them for the leadership they are being nominated for.

On behalf of CORP, Judy moved that the following names be put into nomination and elected to the commissions, committees, task forces, and other positions in Mission Presbytery.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE 2024 GA MEETING (#226)

June 25-July 4, 2024; Salt Lake City, Utah

Austin: RE Teresa Ward

Hill Country: RE John Mallory

Rio Grande Valley: TE Ezequiel Herrera

San Antonio: RE Carlos Baladez

Corpus Christi: TE John Roberts

Victoria: TE Kathy Anderson

Alternate: TE Kevin Jones

OTHER NOMINATIONS

Moderator-Elect: TE Dan Milford, SA

Synod Commissioner RE Lisa Almon, A

Treasurer TE Leslie Ellison

Assistant Treasurer RE Sandy Nicholson

COMMISSIONS OF MISSION PRESBYTERY

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a council. Book of Order, G-3.0109. CORP nominates all commission members.

Commission on Ministry (COM)

Class of 2024 RE Becky Graham, SA

Class of 2025 TE Gini Norris-Lane, HC

Class of 2026 TE Kathy Escandell, RGV

TE Regina Maas, SA

RE Mary Ellen Summerlin, HC

RE Rita Livingston, A

RE Norman Wilcox, CC

TE Brian Wiggins, HC

Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)

Class of 2025 TE Chris Harrison, HC
Class of 2029 TE Monica Smith, A
TE Dan Fultz, V

Trustees of Mission Presbytery

Class of 2028 CP Kris Bair, CC
TE David Evans, A

COMMITTEES OF MISSION PRESBYTERY:

CORP nominates all committee members.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Class of 2025 TE Britta Dukes, A
Class of 2026 TE Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, HC
TE Sarah Dixon, A

Connect Committee

Class of 2026 TE Emily Owen, A
TE Erica Knisely, A

Fiscal Oversight (FO)

Class of 2026 RE Sandy Nicholson, SA

John Knox Ranch (JKR)

Class of 2026 TE Ellen Hensle, A
RE Meredith Weatherby, A
TE Cameron Allen, A

Learn Committee

Class of 2026 RE Kate Carey, SA
TE Tom Tickner, HC

Serve Committee

Class of 2026 TE Gin Courtney, SA
RE Lety Martinez, RGV

TASK FORCES

CORP nominates chairs only. Task Forces recruit their own members.

Disaster Preparedness and Assistance (DPATF)

RE Ben Henderson, SA

Human Resources (HR)

NOTE: Human Resources has requested to move back as a committee. Mission Presbytery will vote on this at this presbytery meeting under the General Council Report.

TE Nancy Reeves, A

Presbytery Women Coordinating Team (PWCT)

Lori Black, A

Youth Connection Task Force (YCTF)

TE Ellen Hensle, A

RE Neil McKown, A

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Henry Owen nominated TE Cameron Allen (Austin), for the JKR Committee.

Closing nominations, the Moderator called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM), GORDON RINGLER

Examinations

COM brought two candidates to be examined for ordination. The first candidate was Carter Grant, called as Associate Pastor for University, Austin. Her statement of faith and journey of faith were in the meeting packet. Gordon opened the examination with the first question. The Moderator asked if there were any questions from the floor.

After a time of examination, the question was called. A second was made.

Presbytery approved calling the question and sustaining Carter Grant's examination.

Carter's supporters and friends stood with her as Fred prayed for her.

On behalf of the COM, Gordon presented Alan Constant for examination for ordination. He is serving a validated position at APTS. Gordon asked the first question.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions from the floor. After the examination concluded, **Gordon moved on behalf of the Commission on Ministry that Mission Presbytery sustain Alan Constant's examination for ordination.**

Fred asked for any discussion and then called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

Alan's supporters and friends stood with him as Fred prayed for him.

Retirement

Gordon presented Malcolm McQueen for retirement. Malcolm will retire from Horseshoe Bay Community Church in January 2024. David Meriwether spoke on his behalf. Fred asked for those who've been members in congregations where Malcolm served to stand, and he prayed for Malcolm.

Introduction of new minister members

Tom Tickner: Retired and transferred from Grace Presbytery.

Ken Ritchie: Pastor, Island PC, Corpus Christi, and transferred from Grace Presbytery.

Chuck Robison: retired and transferred from Western Colorado Presbytery.

Kevin Boyd: Pastor, First, Cuero, and transferred from New Covenant Presbytery.

Debbie Parsons: retired and transferred from National Capital Presbytery.

Margaret Yochum: Chaplain for University Health in San Antonio and transferred from Scioto Presbytery.

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, FPC, Kerrville, transferred from Greater Atlanta.

Pastor deaths

Rev. Frank Seaman died on September 1, 2023. His memorial service was at University San Antonio, on September 16, 2023.

Rev. Mary Gaines died on September 12, 2023. Mary's service will be at San Gabriel, Georgetown, on October 22 at 3:00 p.m.

In its capacity as a commission of Mission Presbytery, the Commission on Ministry has taken the following actions since the June 2023 presbytery meeting: **2024 Terms of Call**

COM made no changes to the 2024 minimum Terms of Call.

Betania Presbyterian Church

On August 5, 2023, with great sadness, COM asked the General Council to call a presbytery meeting for the purpose of dissolving Betania PC, McAllen. GC called a meeting for September 9, 2023, at FPC, Kingsville, at 10:00 a.m. The presbytery met and voted to dissolve Betania and relinquish the property to Betania. The Trustees of Mission Presbytery secured a real estate lawyer to help with all legal matters.

E-votes

June 27, 2023: Approved the examination of Chuck Robison, retired; transferred from Western Colorado Presbytery

July 17, 2023: The examination of Carter Grant (UPC, Austin, Associate Pastor) for ordination was sustained. She will be examined on the floor of the presbytery meeting on October 20-21, 2023.

September 2, 2023: Approved Ken Ritchie's examination; Ken is called to Island PC, Corpus Christi, and transferred from Grace Presbytery

Moderate session meetings

Jane Pettit for Parkway, Corpus Christi, beginning August 1, 2023.

Diana Circelli, FPC, Yorktown, as they transfer to ECO. Diana is on the AC.

Dick Powell for Memorial, San Marcos, on August 13, 2023.

Harry Brown, South Louisiana Presbytery, to moderate the session of FPC, Georgetown
Carla Mathews, June 21, 2023, UPC, SA

Permission to administer sacraments

RE Raquel Ybarra, Communion, Northminster, SA, on September 9, 2023

RE Dan Bautista, Baptism, San Pablo, Weslaco

Susan Liljestrand officiated Communion for Parkway PC, CC, at its retreat at Mo-Ranch on 9/3/2023.

Ruling Elders trained

On May 8, 2023, Kathy Escandell trained the following ruling elders to serve Communion: Bob Dymond, Linda Davis, and Terri Ericson.

Permission to elect Pastor Nominating Committees

FPC, Victoria; FPC, Palacios; FPC, Georgetown; Covenant, Austin, for an Associate Pastor; FPC, Giddings; New Braunfels PC, New Braunfels

Permission to labor outside the bounds of Mission Presbytery

David McCann, to officiate his son's wedding in Norman, OK, in October 2023.

Permission to labor within the bounds of Mission Presbytery

Harry Brown, South Louisiana Presbytery, to moderate the session at FPC, Georgetown until an interim is hired.

Transfer to another presbytery

San Williams to Santa Fe Presbytery

Richard (Dick) Lavender to Pueblo Presbytery

Rachel Watson to Shenandoah Presbytery

Jonathon Wasson to Chicago Presbytery

Karla Lara Maldonado to Denver Presbytery

Move to Member-at-Large

Bobby Hulme-Lippert

Rachael McConnell

Charlie Hornes

Retirements

Josyph Andrews, Burnet, effective 9/24/2023

Malcolm McQueen, effective 2/29/2024

Chris Harrison, effective 10/2/2023

Approved a validated position

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: Director of Writing and Academic Skills Development

Examinations and transfers into Mission Presbytery

Approved sustaining the examination for ordination of Alan Constant, to be examined on the floor of the presbytery at the October 20-21, 2023 meeting.

Approved sustaining the examinations and transfers of Tom Tickner, retired, Grace Presbytery; Debbie Parsons, retired, National Capital Presbytery; and Margaret Yochum, Chaplain, University Health, Scioto Valley Presbytery

See E-votes above for other examinations and transfers.

Commissioned Pastor

COM gave Dan Bautista permission to serve in the RGV "at-large" with the congregations he serves. He may lead worship, officiate sacraments, and moderate sessions when needed and without asking permission whenever he is requested. He will report his actions to the COM.

Administrative Commission to Install Pastors and dismiss them

FPC, Del Rio, and Maria Vargas: August 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at FPC, Del Rio

Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, preside over the AC, constitutional questions of the pastor; Rev. Jim Barker, installation prayer; Rev. Rob Mueller, charge the pastor; RE Fred Gamble, congregational constitutional questions; RE Laura Dabney; RE Alyssa Quiz Rodriguez. Guests: Rev. Doug Dalglish, to preach the sermon; Rev. Jesus Juan Gonzalez, to charge the congregation

FPC, Cuero, and Kevin Boyd, Sunday, September 10, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at FPC, Cuero

Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, charge the pastor; Rev. Erin McGee, congregational constitutional questions; Rev. Cheryl Homsher, installation prayer; RE Fred Gamble, FPC, Kerrville, preside the AC, constitutional questions of the pastor; RE David Scott, FPC, Cuero, charge the congregation; RE Bruce McKee, Gonzales, Gonzales. Guests: Rev. Jim DeMent, to preach; RE Jenny Cashion, St. Mark, Boerne

Contracts, numbers rounded

FPC, New Braunfels and CP Jose Munoz; part-time, continuation

Lead worship and preach 45 weeks per year; \$275 per week.

Travel reimbursement: \$1,000; Continuing education 400

UPC, SA, and David Meriwether, Interim Pastor, beginning July 2, 2023.

Salary 40,000; Housing 34,512; BOP 9,001 post-retirement dues; 1/2 SECA 5,739;

Auto 4,435; CE/Bks 3,000; Professional 1,200

FPC, Kingsville, and Daryl Johnson, full-time Stated Supply, continuation

Salary 38,000; Housing 12,000; BOP 5,000 post-retirement dues; 1/2 SECA 3,825;

Auto 300; CE/Bks 200; Professional 200; Other 360

FPC, Karnes City, and Dave Dierksen, full-time interim pastor, continuation

Salary 36,850; Housing 19,150; BOP 20,720; 1/2 SECA 3,943; Auto 12,000

Cont Ed/Bks 500; Professional Exp 500;

Madison Square, SATX, and Peter Haas, full-time interim pastor

Salary 55,725; Housing 27,725; Other Allowance 2,000; BOP 33,326

1/2 SECA 6,537; Cont Ed/Bks 2,000; Professional Exp 4,000

Parkway, Corpus Christ, and Jane Pettit, full-time interim pastor

Salary 42,099; Housing 60,800; BOP 12,348, post-retirement dues;

1/2 SECA 7,872; Auto 1,000; Cont Ed/Bks 1,500

Giddings, FPC, and David Jones

Stated Supply contract, full-time; August-December 2023, continuation
Salary 5,125; Housing 26,250; FICA 339; Other 125; Professional 700

Gonzales, Gonzales, and Cheryl Homsher; Interim Pastor, 30 hours/week
Salary 47,650; BOP 5,718, post-retirement dues; 1/2 SECA 3,645
Auto 1,776; Cont Ed/Bks 1,750 Professional: 1,875

Sinton, Sinton, and Kris Bair, part-time Stated Supply
Per worship service 175; Moderate session: after worship, 35; if not, \$175
Administrative: 35/hour; Auto, 100

CC, Jackson Woods, and Kris Bair, part-time CP
Salary 20,000; Funeral and wedding preparation with families 35/hr;
Funerals/weddings 175

Terms of Call, numbers rounded

Island, Corpus Christi, and Kenneth Ritchie
Salary 77,500; BOP 30,225; Cont Ed 2,000; Other 2,000; Moving exp up to \$6,000

FPC, Cuero, and Kevin Boyd
Salary 48,800; Housing/Utilities 10,200; Manse 18,000; BOP 30,030;
Other 10,030; Auto 4,800; Other 10,946

PC(USA) and Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo: Salary 67,161; Housing 29,000; BOP 37,503

RIO GRANDE VALLEY EVANGELIST REPORT, CARLOS BALADEZ

Carlos presented Rev. Ezequiel Herrera's report, including information and pictures from recent events.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM), BECCA LONGINO

For Information

With the presbytery's approval at the June 2023 presbytery meeting, an alternate exegesis exam was given to candidate Rick Carlson. A four-person sub-committee read and evaluated three exegesis papers and three sermons based on the exegetical work. The sub-committee unanimously agreed that Mr. Carlson passed the alternative exam satisfactorily and requested the full CPM to approve the sub-committee's conclusion. The full committee agreed and made a motion and a second that Rick Carlson satisfactorily passed the exegesis ordination exam. The motion passed.

For Presbytery Action:

1. On behalf of CPM, Becca moved that David Angulo (First, Kerrville) be enrolled as an Inquirer. Fred asked if there was any discussion and then called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

2. On behalf of CPM, Becca moved that Mission Presbytery approve Inquirer Carlos Baladez (Holy Trinity, San Antonio) to be enrolled as a Candidate.

Carlos gave a statement. The Moderator opened the floor for questions about Carlos's Christian faith, forms of Christian service, and motives for seeking the ministry. Once done, Fred called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

The Moderator recessed the meeting until Saturday morning (10/21/23) at 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

The Moderator called the meeting of Mission Presbytery to order on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The presbytery moved into a time of worship.

Worship Leadership: Rev. Laurie Kraus, Director, Humanitarian & Global Ecumenical Engagement PC (USA), preached the sermon; Rev. Sallie Watson and RE Fred Gamble served Communion; Rev. Brian Diebold presented the Necrology. The offering was designated for the Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville. RE Jo Ann Currie and Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia gave the offering interpretation.

After a break, the Moderator called the meeting back to order.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER, SALLIE WATSON

We have lived into our new design for Mission Presbytery for a year. Tweaks have been and will be made, and we expected that. Sallie invited the presbytery to read the mission statement together:

As Mission Presbytery, we connect diverse leaders and congregations by providing opportunities for worship, learning, and service so that we can flourish through God's grace.

She asked if that's still who we are. The presbytery affirmed it.

Sallie invited the presbytery to read the vision statement:

We live out our connection with intention, respect, support, and challenge so that 100% of our congregations and leaders are engaged in some way.

We search out strangers in our midst so everyone has a welcome seat in our presbytery.

We are a generous worshiping, and welcoming presbytery, and others want to join us and learn from us because of the way we live out the Great Commandment.

Sallie asked how it sounded. The presbytery affirmed that it is still good.

Four words emerged when the Mission Forward Team worked on the re-design: Connect, Learn, Serve, and Flourish. Three committees grew from that: Connect, Learn, and Serve.

The Connect Committee is charged to do as it says, to connect us. They'll come with a recommendation today about a new Administrative Commission for Congregational Development and Vitality. More information will be in the General Council report.

The Learn Committee is planning a new pastor orientation at JKR. Alan Constant will have more to say about this in his report.

The Serve Committee planned the service projects in San Antonio before the June 2023 presbytery meeting. They will nurture various international partnerships, including current relationships with Cuba and Guatemala, and churches with other alliances, including Africa. Serve plans another outreach project in Brownsville at the October 18-19, 2024, presbytery meeting.

We're a work in progress. A survey will go out seeking your suggestions and input. Ideas are always welcomed!

Sallie invited Tom O'Meara forward to introduce the Rev. Enala Chavula, a Synod of Livingstone, Church of Central Africa member, and a student at APTS.

Rev. Chavula spoke to the presbytery.

GENERAL COUNCIL (GC), NANCY MCCRANIE

For Presbytery Action

1. **Motion: At the request of the Connect Committee, GC moved the formation of an Administrative Commission for Congregational Development and Vitality.**

Jo Ann Currie and Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson, co-chairs of the Connect Committee, gave the rationale for forming an Administrative Commission. After discussion, the Moderator called for the vote, **and the motion passed.**

2. First Presbyterian Church, Yorktown

A. **Motion: GC moved that Mission Presbytery approve FPC's severance of \$10,000 for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Mission Presbytery.** They will pay Per Capita, \$916.05. The Moderator asked if there was discussion, and hearing none called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

B. **Motion: GC moved that Mission Presbytery dismisses FPC, Yorktown, to ECO (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians).**

The Moderator asked if there was any discussion, and hearing none called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

C. **Motion: GC moved that Mission Presbytery dismisses the Administrative Commission for Yorktown with its gratitude.** Members are RE Dennis Whitely, RE Susan Rodrigues, and Rev. Diana Circelli. The Moderator asked if there was discussion, and hearing none called for the vote. **The motion passed.**

3. Book of Order changes—Mission Presbytery and churches

General Council moved Book of Order G-3.0106 to be added to Mission Presbytery's Bylaws under Article 5: Rules and Procedures, c.

Nancy called the Stated Clerk forward for the rationale.

On July 9, 2023, new changes were made to the Book of Order. This was a result of voting on the proposed amendments across the denomination. One, in particular, stands out: G-3.0106 All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child and youth protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

The updated bylaws were in the meeting's packet. Mission Presbytery will vote again at the March 2024 meeting to approve the updated bylaws, as per *Mission Presbytery Bylaws: Section 1. By-Laws: These Bylaws may be amended or revised by a majority vote at any two successive stated meetings.*

Churches are included in the G-3.0106 requirement. The Stated Clerk will bring anti-racism and anti-harassment policies to the March 2024 meeting for a first reading. We will vote on them at the June 2024 presbytery meeting. Your congregations can adapt these policies as you see fit.

The Moderator asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote, and **the motion passed.**

4. Motion: GC moved that Human Resources, at its own request, moves from a Task Force to a Committee, and that change be reflected in Mission Presbytery's Bylaws and Manual of Operations.

Rationale: The Committee on Representation and Participation nominates all committee members. It nominates chairs for task forces, and task forces can enlist their own members. Human Resources prefers that Mission Presbytery nominate and elect the members of Human Resources.

The Moderator asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote, and **the motion passed.**

For information per Mission Presbytery Bylaws: A majority vote may amend the Manual of Operations at any stated meeting.

5. Motion: GC moved that the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, at its own request, increase its membership from nine to 12 and that change be reflected in the bylaws and manual of operations.

The Moderator asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote, and **the motion passed.**

For Information:

Action taken on behalf of Mission Presbytery: General Council approved the 2024 budget on September 28, 2023. The 2024 budget is in the packet. Nancy called upon Mike Day, chair of Fiscal Oversight, to review it and field questions.

SERVE COMMITTEE, GIN COURTNEY

Gin gave Serve grants to the following recipients:

Cross Roads, SA, \$2,000 for an on-site food bank

Divine Redeemer, SA, and Texas Impact, \$1,000 for a gun violence memorial and education

FPC, Elgin, \$3,000 for an on-site food bank

FPC, Llano, \$3,000 for hygiene and cleaning products for seniors

Hyde Park, Austin, \$3,000 for an on-site food bank

Mo-Ranch, \$6,000 for camp in the Rio Grande Valley

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, 6,000 for family programs

St. Andrews, Austin, \$3,000 for an on-site food bank

Westlake Hills, Austin, \$6,000 for resources for Afghan families

University, Austin, \$3,000 for utility and rent help

Canyon Lake, \$3,000 for food for a mental health program

Shepherd of the Hills, Austin, \$3,000 for mobile loaves and fishes

FISCAL OVERSIGHT, BRYAN STAMPER

Bryan made a stewardship presentation specific to churches' benevolence giving to Mission Presbytery. A stewardship letter for presbyters is included in the Addendum.

Jack Haberer moved that the Presbytery directs one another to take copies of the Presbytery stewardship letter to their next stated session meeting, engage their partner elders in a discussion, agree to take some positive action, and that the meeting minutes report the same. The Moderator asked if there was any discussion, and hearing none called for the vote. **The Motion passed.**

LEARN COMMITTEE, ALAN CONSTANT

Alan lifted up an Advent resource called "Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality" by Kara Eidson. It can be purchased from the PC(USA) STORE on the PC(USA) website. <https://www.pcusastore.com/>

Alan announced that the New Pastor Orientation will occur at John Knox Ranch on November 6-7, 2023. Pastors who have transferred into Mission Presbytery since 2020 are invited, as are others who are interested.

PUNTES DE CRISTO, CALY FERNANDEZ

Aurora Valley Colonia Outreach: Puentes de Cristo and Texas A&M University Colonias Program met with Precinct leaders and Mr. Manny Vela, Vice President of Texas A&M University on October 5, 2023, to discuss community outreach at Aurora Valley Colonia in Donna. On September 7, 2023, Caly and Texas A&M University staff met with the sheriff of Hidalgo County to discuss vandalism at the Aurora Valley Colonia park. A security tower was installed to monitor the park's activities. The Colonias have been gifted with 15 laptops by AVCO.

University of Texas RGV – Human Mobility Institute: Puentes de Cristo has a new partnership with UT-RGV School of Social Work. A master's level social worker will work with Caly in the Colonias and visit shelters in Reynosa and Matamoros, Mexico. We visited three shelters in Reynosa on September 20, 2023, to deliver supplies and met with leadership to identify critical needs.

Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force: Puentes de Cristo meets with city and county leaders biweekly to address poverty in Hidalgo County. Transportation has been identified as the greatest need in surrounding Colonias. A public forum was held with colonia residents on September 28, 2023, to address transportation needs. The mission statement is: "To provide a strong safety net for our residents most in need and to move a percentage of our low-income residents out of poverty." Judge Cortez reported that one million residents, 40% of the population in Hidalgo County live in poverty.

Presbyterian Borderlands Ministries (PBM): PBM is updating its website to include information about all seven PBM programs. <https://presbyterianborder.org>

Global Ministries through St. Charles PC, New Orleans, sent 12 boxes of backpacks with supplies for the migrant camp in Matamoros.

Five mission trips to the border are already planned for 2024.

Caly and Rev. Abraham Barberi from One Mission Ministries participated in a community forum called Compassionate Justice for Immigrants in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 14, 2023.

Health Education and Promotion Pachanga, November 17, 2023, at the Edinburg Endowment Community Center.

Puentes de Cristo will host Schreiner University staff and students for a Borderlands educational trip from December 3-9, 2023.

YOUTH CONNECTION TASK FORCE (YCTF), CAITLIN SUPCOFF

Recent events:

June 2023: Youth at Presbytery—Youth had a good experience and learned how Mission Presbytery operates. YCTF will reevaluate how they recruit Youth at Presbytery and how to include youth in Presbytery meetings before next summer.

Main Event Youth Conference was held at John Knox Ranch on September 22-24, 2023.

Looking to the future:

Austin and San Antonio/Hill Country regions have planned their Mega Youth Group calendars for the year. They'll use their "Better Together" grants for events where youth can serve in leadership roles.

With the regional gatherings in place in Austin and San Antonio/Hill Country regions, YCTF will ensure that all areas within the presbytery are represented. YCTF, under the direction of the Youth and Young Adult Advocate, will develop a plan to reach out to and build relationships with potential partners in the other areas of the presbytery. They will focus on the Rio Grande Valley and the Gulf Coast.

Upcoming Events:

January 12-14 and 19-21, 2024 – Midwinter Youth Conferences at Mo-Ranch.

2023-2024 Mission Presbytery Calendar

November 2023: 11/5: Playland Skate Center | 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Austin Area)

December 2023

Souper Bowl of Caring promoting begins

12/10: Movie Night (Alamo Draffthouse)--Time, location, & movie TBA (Austin)

12/15-12/16: Progressive Lockout (San Antonio/Hill Country Area)

January 2024

Souper Bowl of Caring kicks off

1/12-1/14: Midwinters Week 1 at Mo-Ranch; 1/19-1/21: Midwinters Week 2 at Mo-Ranch

February 2024

2/10: Food-related mission project (Presbytery-wide—at your own church/setting)

2/11: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

2/18 (tentative) Dodgeball tournament at FPC Kerrville (SA/HC area)

March 2024

3/17: Blazer Tag (Austin Area)

April 2024

4/20: JKR Service Day (presbytery-wide)

Josh Robinson will be the keynoter for the 2024 Synod Youth Workshop.

JOHN KNOX RANCH (JKR), HENRY OWEN

JKR will soon break ground on three tiny cottages. This will open more space for campers.

The conservation easement, which has long been in process, will hopefully close by the end of the year, netting JKR 3.5 million. The conservation easement will protect land, give financial stability, and provide an endowment for camp ministry and facility upgrades.

Summer Camp 2023: 932 campers attended the day or resident camp program. Almost all of the sessions were full; 287 campers were on wait lists. To add more campers, JKR needs to build new facilities and hire more summer staff.

Bereavement Camps: JKR partners with three Hospice organizations (Austin, San Marcos, New Braunfels) to host these camps for kids who have lost a loved one. The hospice organization plans and leads therapy activities. JKR provides a fun, inclusive, and loving camp setting. Camp Braveheart (Hospice Austin) has partnered with JKR for over 20 years!

School Programs: JKR's Field Trip program has exploded! In the 2022-2023 school year, it hosted 2,283 student field trips. Last school year, every student in every grade from Wimberley ISD (closest town to JKR) attended a field trip to JKR. The camp has a long-standing relationship with Mendez Elementary in San Marcos ISD (thank you,

FPC, San Marcos!). This relationship helped encourage several more schools from San Marcos ISD to attend.

Family Camps: Enjoy all the summer camp favorites: swimming, singing, hiking, canoeing, archery, s'mores around the campfire, chaplain time, arts and crafts, and more. Families are responsible for their children while they are at camp. They stay together as they participate in camp activities. Each family stays on either a side of one of the duplex cabins with a bathroom and air conditioning or in one of the rustic screened cabins with a shared shower house. This is a great opportunity for churches to encourage their families to spend time building relationships in a Christian community. **Next Family Camps:** March 15-17, 2024, and Aug 23-25, 2024.

Church Retreats: JKR loves to host church retreats, especially for Mission Presbytery churches. The retreat and rental calendar is filling up fast! Contact JKR soon for a date and to discuss options. If needed, scholarships are available for churches.

Funding Opportunities: JKR's strategic plan includes several building improvement projects, including new cabins, adding a solar array, and adding rainwater collection. For more information on each project and to help fund a project, visit the JKR website <https://johnknoxranch.org/fundingopportunities>.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW), LORI BLACK

The Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery organized and/or executed Fall Cluster Gatherings. PW thanked Sallie Watson and Liz Anzaldua for speaking at two of the Gatherings.

Offerings at the various gatherings were collected for BIG—The Brookwood Community in Georgetown is a vocational community for adults with special needs; Presbyterian Homes and Services; Palacios Community Hub, whose mission is to improve the quality of life and strengthen the Palacios community; Mercedes Food Pantry; and Puentes de Cristo. This year, the Coordinating Team gave an additional \$200 to each cluster offering recipient.

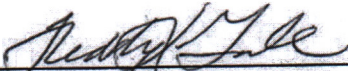
The 2024 Spring Gathering "Walk in the Light" will be held Mo-Ranch on March 15-17, 2024. The women in the Hill Country Cluster will host. The keynoter will be Rev. Jeanie Stanley, and the music leader will be Shannon Gallinger. The registration form is in the meeting packet.

PW of Mission Presbytery is hosting a ZOOM "Sacred Encounters" Horizons Bible Study on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (September through May). PW's goal is to bring people together throughout Mission Presbytery and cross-communicate and collaborate among regions. PW hopes to reach women who cannot attend an in-person bible study or be used as a resource for those hosting bible studies in their churches. Information is in the meeting packet.

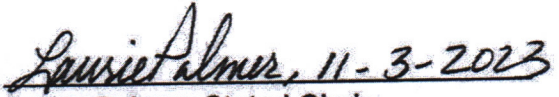
Outgoing Moderator Fred Gamble installed CP Sheri Dittman as Moderator of Mission Presbytery.

There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed.** Sheri Dittman closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes submitted by the Stated Clerk, Laurie Palmer



Fred Gamble, Moderator



Laurie Palmer, Stated Clerk