

Postlude

Here are some of the highlights from the March stated meeting of Mission Presbytery:

- 376 members and guests received greetings from the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; and the Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Editor and Publisher of the Presbyterian Outlook.
- Two pre-presbytery and four in-presbytery workshops were presented, which included:
 - Faithful Alternatives to Fossil Fuel - Jim Allison and Abby Mohaupt
 - Mission Engagement for Local Congregations - Ellen Sherby
 - Suicide Prevention Training - Nicole Talkington and Merily Keller
 - Un-natural Disasters - Laurie Kraus
 - Mental Health Awareness and Mission Presbytery's Overture - Dan Milford and Josh Robinson
 - "What do we Mean When We Say Church" - Paul Hooker
- A lively and rich worship service, featuring Allen Mosiman preaching and celebration of the Eucharist, officiated by Claire Berry and Bill Poe. The offering, designated for scholarships for John Knox Ranch, was \$3,023.90.
- The following were successfully examined for ordination: Cindy Mood, serving a validated ministry at Walnut Hills Nursing Center in Austin; Molly Hatchell, serving a validated ministry with Ascension Seton in Austin; Kris Brown, serving as Stated Supply at Smithville First; Jim Dement, serving as Interim Pastor at Victoria First; Holly Swift, serving a validated ministry with Brookdale Hospice in Austin; and Meg Vail, examined on behalf of Utah Presbytery to serve Logan First there.
- The following new members of Presbytery were welcomed: Josyph Andrews, Pastor of the Burnet church; Andries Coetzee, Pastor of San Antonio University; Trey Haddon, Pastor of Austin St. John's; and Bruce Glover, temporary Interim Pastor for the Canyon Lake church.
- Ruling Elder Rita Livingston presented the 2018 operating budget, with total income and expenses at \$592,600. All congregations were encouraged to increase their benevolence giving in order to make this budget possible.
- Christopher Holmes, Director of John Knox Ranch, made a thorough presentation on the current activities at the ranch, the increase in the number of campers, and the need for both volunteers and cash to continue strengthening the ranch's ministry.
- The Presbytery received a full report of the Administrative Commission working with the former Robstown First property. At the request of the Commission and the direction of General Council, the Presbytery in June 2018 will take part in a period of confession and mourning to appropriately acknowledge its sins of commission and omission in its care for this part of its body.
- It was noted that the third Sunday of October will be celebrated as Mission Co-worker Sunday in Mission Presbytery.
- All are also invited to take part in Synod Sunday, this year recognizing the Synod of the Sun on August 26.
- A few members were elected to fill committee vacancies within the Presbytery.
- Inquirers Elias Cabarcas-Arroyo, Jasiel Hernandez, and Edmond Sackett were received with enthusiasm as Candidates for Minister of Word and Sacrament!

- The Presbytery enjoyed a video presentation from Nancy Reeves on the ongoing work of Church Development and Evangelism.
- Many tributes were made to Ruling Elder Lita Simpson, recently retired as Youth and Young Adult Director for Mission Presbytery after 31 years! Several young people made a video tribute, and the Presbytery contributed about \$1600 in Lita's honor to Mo-Ranch's "Mo in the Valley" program. Dick Powell also announced that from now, the end-of-the-week camping award would be called the "Lita Simpson award."
- Many and several overtures and/or concurrence to overtures for General Assembly were considered by the body. The voting results have been detailed elsewhere by the Stated Clerk, and will also be in the meeting's minutes.
- Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly (2018) were Commissioned by the Presbytery.