

The Pelican



The Presbytery of Florida is called to serve God
 using our gifts and skills to Excite, Encourage, Equip and Empower
 our Congregations and Clergy in Mission and Ministry.

Spring 2013

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New Presbytery Leadership Team and team chairs begin their work



Recently-elected Presbytery Leadership Team members and team chairs participated in a retreat at Dogwood Acres Feb. 8 and 9 to get acquainted with each other and the responsibilities of their new roles. The PLT and chairs were elected at the Jan. 26, 2013, Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting according to the Transition Team recommendations the presbytery adopted in 2012. This action

participants read *The Travail of the Presbytery*, a 2008 address by Dr. Joseph Small, former longtime director of the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship and author of several books. They also perused the 2012 Report of the Mid-Council Commission to the 220th General Assembly and reviewed the Framework. Their reading informed their discussion of how the PLT and

Shown above, from left, seated, are retreat facilitator Pam Billbrey, Associate Executive Presbyter Jean Silva and PLT members Debbie Layton, Joan Wooten, Ruth White and Sharon Schuler. Standing are Budget, Finance and Stewardship Team chair Joe Dobson, PLT member Jae Wan Chung, Stated Clerk Stephen Yates, Preparation for Ministry Team chair Mary Vance, PLT member Sandra Macon, Dogwood Acres Program Team chair Anghaarad Dees, PLT member Bill Kerrell, Personnel Team chair John Schuler, Moderator-Elect Hugh Hamilton, Ministry Team chair Mark Broadhead, Moderator John Lown, PLT members Andy Jackson and Bill Bess, Congregational Mission Support Team chair Gerry Yandle and Disaster Preparedness and Response Team chair Michael Moore.

other teams can work together to foster a presbytery of healthy, thriving churches.

Pam Billbrey, a Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, member, facilitated the discussion. executive leader oversight of strategic direction and operational excellence for existing businesses and start-ups, she has authored three books and dozens of articles on organizational effectiveness.

She is now a leadership consultant to clients throughout the country.

The PLT met again Feb. 18 to further refine the vision and goals set forth at the retreat and to prioritize these goals. The PLT adopted as its core purpose, a vision of ministry by discerning the will of God for the Presbytery to build a community that serves Christ. The PLT will next meet May 11.

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Team players

The PLT also comprises 12 at-large members, four from each of the four presbytery teams. The at-large members include both teaching and ruling elders. The at-large members of the PLT will meet at least four times annually, after each presbytery meeting, but may schedule additional meetings, as needed. In fact, the PLT already has gathered twice since its members were elected at the Jan. 26 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting.

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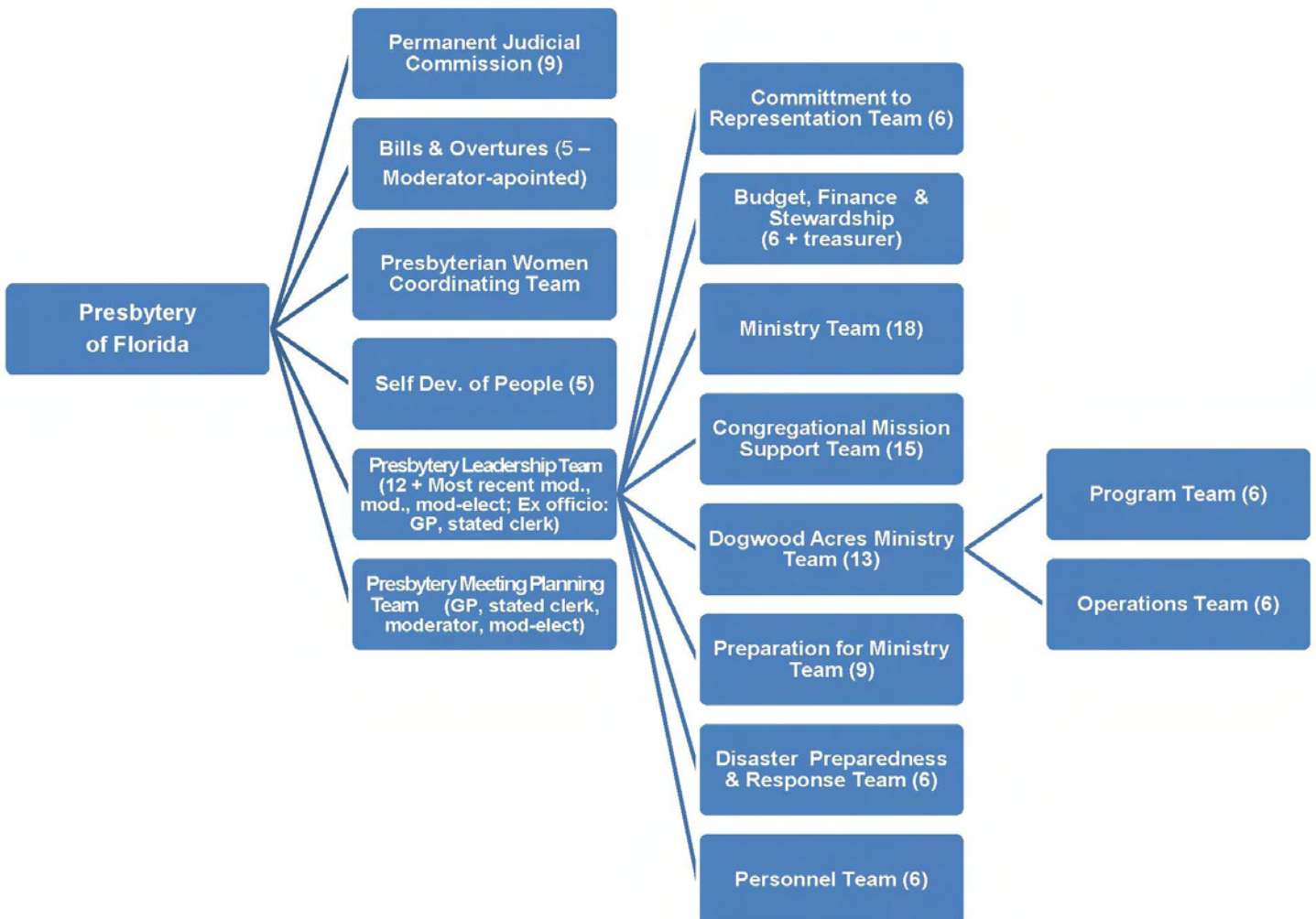
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Adoption of Transition Team recommendations last year brought about a Presbytery reorganization that streamlined and corresponding teams. Some

for instance, the Committee on Ministry became the Ministry Team while others were eliminated and their work absorbed by a new team. For example, the former Church

Development and Evangelism is part of the broader mission of the Congregational Mission Support Team. The chart below illustrates how the teams are organized.

Presbytery of Florida Organization



Take an APA

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By Nancy Fine, Florida Region President-Elect and Membership Chair, PC(USA) Administrative Personnel Association

The Administrative Personnel Association of the PC(USA) offers a conference in a given year without paying dues and without receiving credit towards certification as a Certified Church Administrator.

Payment for registration, hotel rooms and meals is required. But, if in the same year, you decide that the APA is an organization that excites you, and you recognize the value of being a member, classes taken will be credited towards your certification, as long as your membership dues and Level I certification fees (\$25) have been paid.

You have an opportunity to May in Jacksonville Beach. The conference, scheduled from May 15th through May 20th, affords an opportunity to partake in educational, spiritual and fellowship opportunities with others who understand the unique demands of working for a church entity.

The registration deadline is quickly approaching. Download the conference brochure on the www.floridaapa.org and see how can benefit you professionally and personally. Interested but still have questions? Contact Florida Region President Allyson Criminger, at allyson@allyson@staugpres.org or by phone at 904-733-8277.



Grand gala

First, Pensacola, Presbyterian Women hosted the 107th Presbytery PW Gathering Saturday, March 17. PW Moderator Sherl Morden welcomed women from 26 of the churches for worship and celebration of the many ministries and missions. An offering was taken to support the Coralie Wickersham Scholarship for those training for the ministry. In a memorial ceremony, the names of women who passed in the last year were called as flowers were presented for a bouquet that graced the altar for the afternoon meeting. Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch in the fellowship hall. Shown above, from left, are Fran Goodall, Mayrelizabeth Pryor, Barbara Fallin and Joanne Hamilton, all of First, Ft.



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Dogwood Acres readies for campers

As summer camp season at Dogwood Acres approaches, the Program Committee has written a new approach that society wants young people to live versus the life that Christ wants them to live.

Also new at DWA this summer schoolers who relish staying up later and sleeping in. Previously-popular camps that will return include two Hangout camps óDWA traditions ó will resume, as well..

The camp calendar, brochures and online registration and other information are now available at www.dogwoodacres.org. Visitors to the website also can find a retreat planning guide and online giving opportunities.

Camp director Kevin Veldhuisen recently reported that DWA is the fastest-growing camp in the U. S. and Canada. These are exciting times at Dogwood Acres!

Mark your calendar!

☞ [Missional Living: Reclaiming Evangelism, Discipleship & Justice](#)

Guest Speaker: Ray Jones, PC(USA) Coordinator for Evangelism Sat., April 13 9 a.m. CDT \$10 per person incl. breakfast/lunch

☞ [Laurel Hill Spring Arts Festival](#) Sat., April 13 11a.m. CDT brian_abroad@yahoo.com

☞ [115th anniversary celebration/ Homecoming Day](#) Sun, April 14 Worship 11 a.m., catered lunch

☞ [Inside Out: Open the Doors](#) Guest Speaker: Reggie McNeal Sat., April 27 8 a.m. CDT Spanish Ft. AL.; Presbyterian Church \$35 per person incl. lunch/book

☞ [Presbytery of Florida Spring Stated Meeting](#) Tues., April 30 9 a.m. CDT 1st Presbyterian Church of Destin

☞ [Synod of South Atlantic Association of Smaller Churches 26th Annual Conference](#) May 6-8 Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA www.presbyasc.org

☞ [7th Day prayer gathering](#) Tues., May 7 Noon CDT Red Bay Presbyterian Church

☞ [Memorial Day](#) Mon., May 27 Presbytery offices will be closed

Stewardship of Creation Notes

Should we worry about the Keystone XL Pipeline?

By Pam McVety,
Presbytery of Florida Stewardship of Creation Enabler

Surely you have read about the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, which will carry tar-sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to Texas. It is the most controversial environmental project in the United States, and the decision whether to proceed or not rests with President Obama.

February 17, 2013, the largest climate rally to date brought tens of thousands of people, from grandparents to students, to the front of the White House. Dozens purposely got arrested to make the point that this project should not be permitted. So, why are citizens willing to engage in civil disobedience, and should you worry about the pipeline?

This project would carry 700,000 barrels of tar-sands oil to Gulf Coast refineries, each and every day. If all the oil in these tar-sands is burned, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide would increase from its current 390 parts per million to nearly 600 parts per million.

Our global average temperature has increased (so far) seem like very much, but with it, 2012 saw more than 34,000 U.S. heat records shattered. Violent western wildfires, widespread drought, record melting of Arctic ice and many devastating storms were all the consequences of a rise in global heat of less than 1 degree Celsius over the past 100 years.

This kind of weather, which is nowhere near as extreme as it will get with rising CO2 levels, threatens each of us and the

stability of our planet. And there are staggering costs associated with extreme weather. Just ask the Governor of New Jersey about the \$37 billion in damages from a single storm this winter. To read more about how our changing climate is already

This has to be the
Exactly the wrong thing
to do.

affecting us, read the draft National Climate Assessment: <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/download/NCAJan11-2013-publicreviewdraft-chap1-execsum.pdf>

Approval of the pipeline would slam the door shut on our ability to avoid the worsening impacts of climate change. It means that we are so addicted to fossil fuels we are willing to buy the dirtiest stuff on the planet. We will do anything to feed our addiction, regardless of the consequences even when we have other options. This has to be Increasing production of fossil fuels is *exactly* the wrong thing to do.

Stopping the pipeline will give us time to come to our senses about climate change and take steps to slow and reduce our rising carbon emissions. It will



Shown above, Climate Rally and Protest against the Keystone Pipeline, February 17, 2013, Washington, DC

signal that our leadership understands the irreversibility of climate change and is putting the welfare of people and the planet over short-term company profits. Yes, we will need fossil fuels to transition to alternative energy, but we need the cleanest fossil fuel (natural gas), not the dirtiest.

So maybe you should consider spending some prayer time lamenting how a single decision can have such a devastating effect on all of mankind and life on this planet. How being able to buy cheap gas for our cars and low electric bills to heat and cool our homes has become so important that we fail to see the damage we are causing all of creation. How we mindlessly endanger the wellbeing of our grandchildren and future generations. How we have gotten ourselves into such a perilous position.

Pray hard and maybe ask for a miracle, because we are going to need one if this project is approved. I pray that our President will stop our insane addiction to fossil fuels by not approving this pipeline. You could also write the President.

As always feel free to contact me at pammcvety@hotmail.com.

