



July, 2023

Volume XLIX, No. 7

Presbytery of the Cascades

Summer Presbytery Recap

On June 23, 2023, 137 elders and ministers gathered for the presbytery's summer stated meeting on Zoom. Actions Taken by Presbytery:

Elections

The presbytery elected a new moderator-elect - Rev. Chris Murphy (First, Newberg) and other officers, board, commission and committee members. Incoming moderator Rev. Jennifer Martin (Central, Eugene) and Rev. Murphy will be installed to these offices at the November stated meeting.

Endowment Fund Created

A reserve fund to be managed like an endowment was established with \$1,000,000 in proceeds from the Northminster, Portland property sale in order to provide another funding stream to pay presbytery personnel. Since the fund was created by the presbytery for the presbytery, it is not a true endowment but will be invested and managed like an endowment with the principle preserved over time. The earnings of the fund will be used towards paying for the Missional Resource Manager position starting in 2025.

Minimum Terms of Call

The Commission on Ministry, having the necessary salary data from the Board of Pensions announced that the Minimum Terms of Call for 2024 remains \$56,129 in compensation according to rule. A 4.1% COLA is recommended for all ministers in 2024.

Beth Putney to be Ordained

Candidate Beth Putney passed her examination for ordination and will be ordained at 5 p.m., July 9, 2023, at Columbia, Vancouver in order to serve as Pastoral Resident at San Marino Community Church, San Marino, CA.

Climate Action Vigil

The presbytery joined the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon in endorsing the Climate Action Vigil which will take place next year on Friday, April 26, 2024, in Salem, Oregon. More information on ways to participate in the vigil will be circulated as we approach the event.



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Omnibus

Omnibus is published twelve times a year by the Presbytery of the Cascades for distribution to churches and individuals.

Omnibus welcomes news and views of all the churches of Presbytery and all its readers. Send all communications to Kathleen Waugh, *Omnibus* editor, Presbytery of the Cascades, 245 S. Bancroft St., Suite D, Portland, Oregon. Email: kwaugh8@outlook.com

Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The Presbytery “Communications and Technology Team” (CATT) is the editorial board.



Ask the Clerk

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

Q: I’ve heard that all the 2022 proposed amendments to the PC(USA) Book of Order have been affirmed by a majority of presbyteries and that there are more policies that our session needs to adopt. What policies do we need to adopt?

A: The Book of Order amendments come into force on July 9, 2023 and with them two new policies required for sessions. These policies are a **Harassment Policy** and an **Antiracism Policy**. These policies are also required for the presbytery so we will be working to draft them for approval at our November presbytery meeting. Since we are on the topic of policies, the session should have already adopted a **Sexual Misconduct Policy** and a **Child and Youth Protection Policy**.

While the session will want to tailor the policies it adopts to its local context, here is the link to the [PC\(USA\)’s Antiracism Policy](#). The antiracism policy is best seen as part of an effort by the church to take positive steps to reckon with racism. Rather than simply adopting a policy this requirement is also the opportunity for learning and transformation. The PC(USA) has a study that the session and congregation can use in this effort: [Facing Racism](#) which includes a six-lesson study guide for adults and teens.

When it comes to an Anti-Harassment Policy, you will want to make sure that the policy addresses harassment according to the law of your state. In Oregon, employers are already required to have an anti-harassment policy. In Washington, that is not yet the case but the Washington civil statutes should inform the policy of any church in Washington. The presbytery has worked with our attorney to come up with the legal bones of a policy for our Oregon churches and we are reaching out to presbyteries in Washington to see how we can partner in similar work for our Washington churches.

As always, the stated clerk is happy to be a resource when it comes to policies and other polity matters.

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The End of the Church?

By Rev. Clark Scalera, Advocate for Congregations and Clergy

“Do not be afraid!” This often-repeated greeting of Jesus and other messengers of the divine is an admonition which, for me, is jumping off the page right now seemingly every time I crack open my Bible. All around us, whenever we turn on our screens, answer our phones, or open our doors, we are bombarded by news of terrible things: wars, environmental calamities, violence, famines, rancor, and yes, even the dwindling numbers of churchgoers across our land. Is this the end of days? Will the forces of chaos overwhelm us? Indeed, there are legitimate causes for fear, lurking around every corner and hiding under every rock. Perhaps it is for this reason that this Biblical phrase keeps echoing in the back of my mind.

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God,” the Lord proclaims through the prophet Isaiah to the exiled Israelites living in the land of Babylon. “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God,” the angel declares to Mary, promising the life-altering birth of the Messiah. “Do not be afraid, it is I,” Jesus says, walking across the water to the disciples who are covered in a wave-battered boat. “Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid,” Jesus instructs his disciples during his final teaching to them before he is betrayed.

The list goes on – Google tells me that this directive to not be afraid appears 365 times in the pages of scripture, enough for a unique reminder every single day of the year! As it did thousands of years ago, the need for this message of faith and hope is apparent today. Even in our church context, I regularly come across invitations to fear. How will we make the budget next year? Can we afford a new pastor? Where are the children and young families? Is this the end of the church?

Fear would have us believe so. The statistics both nationally and closer to home in our presbytery are not terribly encouraging. The decline of our institutions and challenges to our ways of organizing ourselves are ever more apparent and are ever more at the forefront of our collective consciousness.

And yet, beyond these fear-inducing circumstances, if we look with the eyes of our hearts, if we dwell on the biblical admonition to not fear, if we lean into the hope to which we have been called, a new picture starts to emerge. We may still see as through a glass, dimly, but the outlines of something profound can just be made out. Our perceptions start to change. What in fear looked like the end of the church, its conclusion and its closing, suddenly can look like the start of an unanticipated transformation.

In faith, our working definition of “end” shifts back to its classic ecclesial sense, and we are reminded that “end” can also mean our destination, our goal, our intended purpose. What is the chief end of humanity, the old catechism asks? And we recall that it is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. And there are also the “great ends” of our church which remain ever before us to strive for and to live out in our communities of faith.

**So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my
righteous right hand.**

Isaiah 41:10



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I do not mean to take away from the pain and challenge of this time. Over the past few years, our presbytery has had to close multiple churches and has buried more members than we've added. We've seen the loss of beloved sanctuaries and grieved the loss of clear witnesses in distinct communities and towns. And there is not some magic rabbit to pull out of a hat that takes away our grief, our loss, or even our fear. The way of Christian discipleship remains the way of the cross. But we can also take heart - the end of the Christian journey has never been the tomb. Rather its end - its destination and intended purpose - is resurrection and new life with Christ.

Even amongst our loss and grief, signs of this new life breaking into our fear-wracked world were beautifully displayed at our most recent presbytery meeting. There we heard stories from around the presbytery, stories of how former church properties, closed in grief, are now being used to facilitate healing with native communities and to shelter the vulnerable. We heard of churches, struggling with membership decline, finding new ways to serve their communities by offering safe spaces for recovery. We heard of new ministries taking root that foster creative expression and that build up community in places our traditional churches have failed to reach. Indeed, looking with the eyes of our hearts we can see through our loss and fear to Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. This is and ever shall be God's world. This has and always will be God's church, and I don't believe God is through with us yet!

So take heart, and be not afraid – perhaps God is about to do a new thing, making a way even where we can see no way. Perhaps God is about to do a new thing, using even us in its creation. Perhaps even now, God is at work equipping the church to fulfill its rightful end – to be the very body of Christ on this earth.

May God's grace, peace, and presence be with us all on this journey, and may God grant us courage!



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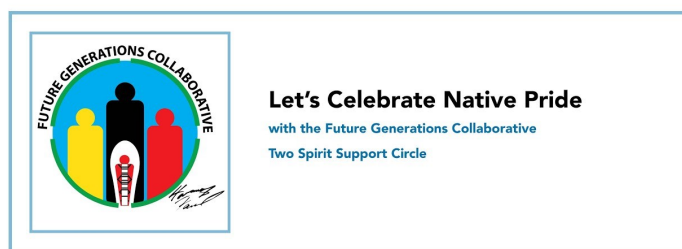
Beyond the decisions, the presbytery celebrated and learned through the following presentations:

Honorable Retirement

The presbytery gave thanks for and celebrated the honorable retirement of Rev. Peter Blank.

Proposal for Laurelhurst, Portland Property

The Barbie's Village Task Force, led by Rev. Chris Dela Cruz (Westminster, Portland) presented their proposal to transfer the Laurelhurst, Portland property to the Future Generations Collaborative in November of 2023 so that it may be used as a community wellness center and the site of a tiny home village for Native American families. The task force plans to bring a motion to transfer the land to the Future Generations Collaborative at the November meeting.



New Ministries

Two new worshiping communities, The Roseway Recovery Café at Calvary Portland and Makers PDX, Portland presented reports on their ministries.

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Neighbors offer Support to **Community, Moro**

By Pat Berger, North Regions Reporter

What have you heard recently from the **Community, Moro**. A great conversation with their wonderful Clerk of Session, Patty Burnet, helped to bring this writer up-to-date. Here's hoping it will do the same for you.

Moro is a small church whose members are primarily older. When their pastor retired in December of 2021 (think: height of pandemic), it occurred to Clerk Burnet that, in her words, she, "was in charge!" Some of the gifts of that church are that everyone knows everyone, members support each other -- these were all helpful to the Clerk as she was thrust into worship leadership. (Also thrust into plumbing repairs, and most other things... **and** everyone else was willing to be helpful.)



Before the pastor retired, he did the worship part of the bulletin and she did the remainder of the content. In addition, she prepared the bulletin, duplicated it, and made it ready for worship. Suddenly, she did all of the content and production of the bulletin, and led the worship service. One thing she learned is that it all took a lot more time than she had imagined.

Since Moro is a small town, it didn't take long before the other churches heard about their circumstances. Men from the Baptist Bible study who meet in Grass Valley, a neighboring town, came to them and offered to each lead worship twice a month. Patty also compiled a list of 12 volunteers who could be counted on to share a message when asked. They were doing okay. Easter was approaching, though, and her prayer was that the congregation might have "a real pastor" for Easter. And then, she said, "Tim Clemenson showed up." He is not a Presbyterian pastor, but he is "a real pastor." She asked about their Easter service, and he said, "OK!" They all thought that he was very good, and he started coming most Sundays.

He and his wife Vickie live in The Dalles, but he had been to Moro umpiring baseball games, so many in the church recognized him right away. Now he has been at the church for a year. A group from the church met and decided that he would be a fine person to have for a halftime supply pastor. They talked with him, and he was agreeable to staying. An official group from the Presbytery will be coming out soon to see how things are going, and if this arrangement will be able to work temporarily.

In the meantime, Pastor Tim has come to the Senior Center for lunch. Lunch is served daily at the Moro Senior Center, and Pastor Tim was popularly received the first time he came, so he will be coming again! Patty and the entire congregation are grateful for the constant prayer support of the Sherman County Prayer Group, of other churches in the county, and the Sherman County Praise Band. Her summation: "God has been faithful!" People of the Moro Church, we wish you all the best in this difficult time; blessings for your ministries!



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~ *Transitions* ~

New Pastors

- Paul Davidson, from Heartland Presbytery, is the new pastor at Astoria, First starting July 17.
- Amy Delaney has transferred her membership from Northwest Coast Presbytery
- Colin Eversmann has been welcomed into Cascades. He's a Clinical Bioethicist at PeaceHealth in Vancouver

Installations

- The Rev. Dr. Joyce Emery was installed at East Woods PC, Vancouver, on June 4, 2023
- The Rev. Laurie Sponaule was installed at Emmanuel PC, West Linn on May 28, 2023

Pastoral Changes:

- The Rev. Chris Murphy is now the called pastor at First PC, Newberg
- The Rev. Matt Overton is now the called pastor at Columbia PC, Vancouver
- The Rev. Linda Stewart-Kalen has transferred her membership to Northwest Coast Presbytery.
- The Rev. Brett Webb-Mitchell is serving a church now in New Mexico
- The Rev. Carmen Goetschius is now Assoc. Stated Supply at First PC, Portland
- The Rev. Ken Hood is now ministering at Nestucca Valley in Pacific City.



There's a Place for You!

The nominating committee encourages your participation on presbytery committees. Please take this opportunity to suggest yourself or someone you would recommend for service on a committee or taskforce in the presbytery. We will use this information to update our committee and nomination database. Interested? Click [here](#) to nominate yourself or someone you know.

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Cascades Educator on the Oversight team for Columbia Theological Seminary program

In the mid-1990s Roberta Schlechter entered the PC(USA) Educator Certification program. For the next 14 years, she was often mentored by Dr. Kathy Dawson, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Ed at Columbia Theological Seminary. Since then, Dawson has extended several opportunities to Roberta. The latest is serving on the Oversight Team for a 5-year Lilly Foundation grant to help establish “Wonder of Worship,” known as WOW. The initiative will partner with congregations to engage with children and families in corporate worship, and thereby nurture their faith. The initiative will also prepare Christian leaders in the Seminary’s degree programs.



Roberta Schlechter

Presently oversight team members are coordinating Zoom conversations with church representatives. Questions cover children’s involvement in worship, staff and volunteer connections with families, and resources to help with spirituality and prayer at home. Roberta is reaching out to small congregation leaders in the Synod of the Northwest.

The program will draw on research related to best practices and ideas for nurturing children’s faith. Plans call for developing new resources in a variety of media platforms. Some will equip congregations toward more generationally inclusive corporate worship practices. Another focus is assisting congregations as they craft worship elements specific to church culture. Columbia Seminary is one of 26 organizations taking part in the initiative.

Lilly Foundation launched the Nurturing Children initiative in 2022 as part of its commitment to support efforts that strengthen the religious education and faith formation of children – all to enhance the vitality of Christian congregations.

For more information, contact Roberta at rrschlechter@gmail.com.



Creative Arts Community at Menucha

Week 1: July 30 - August 5, 2023

Week 2: August 6 - 12, 2023

Since 1966, the Creative Arts Community has provided unique residential workshops at Menucha. Imagine... summer in the Pacific Northwest... a whole week to focus on art, make new friends, continue friendships, take your art to a new level and rejuvenate your spirit ... that's what happens during Creative Arts @ Menucha.

Menucha is thankful for the diligent work of the Creative Arts Community Board that works in partnership with us to offer this program.

Registration is now open.

Click [here](#) for more information

It looks like room availability in both workshops and lodging is running low, so check out opportunities soon!

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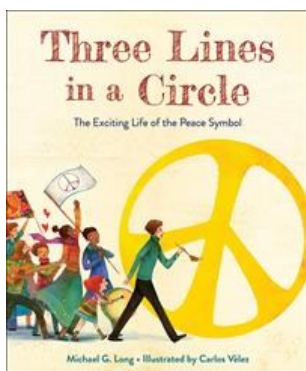
Resources help Ministry and Mission



Digital Guides

With digital resource guides from PC(USA) Store, you can easily compare products, click through directly to product pages, and read excerpts. Guides include: Matthew 25, Preaching, Group Study, Presbyterian, Advent, and Lent. You can also email or print these to use for personal research or with committees.

I checked out the guide for gift books for children, adults and leaders – quite extensive and very helpful center to browse for possible gifts for children, family and those with whom you work.



Three Lines in a Circle
The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol

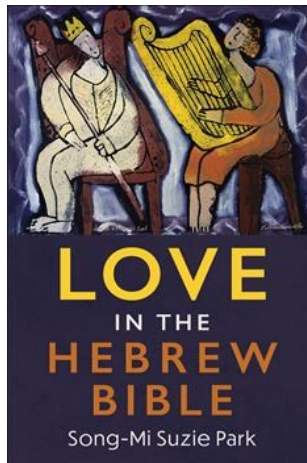
By Michael G. Long

One line straight down. One line to the right. One line to the left, then a circle. That was all—just three lines in a circle.

This bold picture book tells the story of the peace symbol—designed in 1958 by a London activist protesting nuclear weapons—and how it inspired people all over the world.

Depicting the symbol’s travels from peace marches and liberation movements to the end of apartheid and the fall of the Berlin Wall, *Three Lines in a Circle* offers a message of inspiration to today’s children and adults who are working to create social change. An author’s note provides historical background and a timeline of late twentieth-century peace movements.

For more information, click [here](#).



Love in the Hebrew Bible

By Song-Mi Suzie Park

Christians insist that love stands at the heart of who God is. Yet, when we talk about love in the Hebrew Bible, how much do we really know?

Possessing such a belief alone does not mean that we possess a clear understanding of what love is.

Are we aware of how often divine and human love are tied up with the idea of preference for one individual or group over another? Do we know how often descriptions of love involve questions of power, authority, and gender? Do we see that love is connected to suffering, betrayal, and sometimes death in the Hebrew Scriptures?

In *Love in the Hebrew Bible*, one of the first book-length studies of its kind, Suzie Park provides fascinating and essential insights into these questions, refreshing our understanding of the meaning of love in the *Hebrew Bible*. Pushing against characterizations of the loving God of the New Testament narrative universe versus the wrathful God of the Old Testament, Park shows that love is integral to the ways in which relationships, both among people and also between humanity and God, are imagined in the Hebrew text. Reflecting matrices of meaning and associations, love thus is a vital component of the ideology and theology of the Hebrew Scriptures, and an understanding of it remains fundamental to our knowledge of the biblical text.

Do you have a book, a Bible Study, a resource that has helped you in your ministry? Please share. Send to editor,

Kathleen Waugh at

omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org

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Saturday, July 1

Ann Bowersox, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2010
David Morelli, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2014
Lawrence Porter, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2011

Sunday, July 2

David Mote, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2004

Monday, July 3

Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk -- Presbytery of the Cascades, ordained July, 2004

Tuesday, July 4

Pray for our country, its leaders and people

Wednesday, July 5

First Presbyterian Church, Central Point - chartered this day in 1908
First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove -- chartered this day, 1855

Thursday, July 6

John Neal, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2004.

Friday, July 7

Donald Gibbs, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1991

Saturday, July 8

Cascades Presbyterian Church, Vancouver -- chartered this day, 1979

Sunday, July 9

Michael McCall, Ordained this day in 1978 & now Honorably Retired
Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1909

Monday, July 10

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, Waltherville -- chartered this day, 1988
Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church -- chartered this day, 1988

Tuesday, July 11

John A. Hubbard, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2012

Wednesday, July 12

Community Presbyterian Church, Moro -- chartered this day, 1887
First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville -- chartered this day, 1851
Judy Marshall, ordained this day, 1981

Thursday, July 13

Michial Hubbard, CRE at Medford, First

Friday, July 14

John Weisinger, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2008

Saturday, July 15

Thomas Young Retired this month in 2019

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Sunday, July 16

Springwater Presbyterian Church, Estacada -- chartered this day, 1889

Monday, July 17

Mark Duntley, ordained this day, 1983, Honorably Retired August, 2021

Paul Davidson starts at Astoria, First -- Welcome!

Tuesday, July 18

Mark & Wendy Olson, Serving in Lincoln City and Waldport

Wednesday, July 19

Warm Springs Presbyterian Church -- chartered this day, 1874

Thursday, July 20

First Presbyterian Church, Bend -- chartered this day, 1903

Steven Mabry, ordained this day, 1980, now Honorably Retired.

Friday, July 21

Terri Sutton, ordained this day, 1991

Saturday, July 22

Donald Krug, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1986

Sunday, July 23

David Hampton, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2016

Monday, July 24

John Harland, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1986

Tuesday, July 25

Cynthia King-Guffey, ordained this day, 1993

Wednesday, July 26

Montee Kennedy, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2013

Thursday, July 27

Seung Kyu Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1989

Friday, July 28

First Presbyterian Church, Gold Beach -- chartered this day, 1912

Mark Smith, ordained this day, 1982 and HR in November, 2021

Saturday, July 29

Michael Rinkin, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2005

Sunday, July 30

Kenneth Campbell, Honorably Retired from St. John's PC, Camas

Monday, July 31

Jeff Sievert, Honorably Retired this day in 2022

Zane Buxton, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2012 now serving at Creswell, First

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