



ST. LUKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epistle

GA 225: from Lament to Hope

“Now faith is assurance of things hoped for,
a conviction of things not seen.” HEBREWS 11:1

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will make history this summer with the denomination’s first hybrid General Assembly. Some of the sessions will be online and others will be on location in Louisville, Kentucky. If you have never seen worship at the GA, this is a great time for you to experience it! Find out how you might enjoy some of the online opportunities at <https://ga-pcusa.org>. Our presbytery has submitted two Overtures, and they are included here for your perusal. (Continued in Pastor **Kati**’s column on page 2.) PASTOR KATI

Picnic Returns!

Please join us for a barbeque cookout and games at our Friends and Family Picnic on Sunday, June 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the area northwest of the church. The Fellowship Committee will supply everything needed for hamburgers and hot dogs. The congregation is asked to bring 1) food to share as follows: desserts (last names starting with A-G) and side dishes (last names starting with H-Z), 2) lawn chairs, 3) fun outdoor games, 4) yourselves, your family, your friends. Our friends at Johnson Chapel AME will be invited to join us as well, so bring lots of food!

Holiday Observed

Church offices will be closed, and there will be no adult piano class on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

YA Bible Study

Young Adult Bible Study will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1 and continue weekly through June 22. **Tim** and **Kim Lacey** will host the study and supper in their home, . The group will dive into the book of James.

Pastor’s Hours

Pastor **Kati** has increased her office time and in-person community visits. She would love to meet with you during the week. Feel free to drop by during the “walk-in” hours or set up an appointment to be sure that she is available. She will be taking a vacation day on Tuesday, May 31.

LET’S STAY CONNECTED!



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Find Pastor Kati’s blog:
www.revkaticollins.com



Pastor Kati’s podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



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Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

For more details about the 225th General Assembly, stay tuned to our Facebook page over the summer!

The following Overtures will be submitted by Palo Duro Presbytery at General Assembly. Complete documents including documentation can be found in the narthex.

Overture: On Responding to the Human Needs of Those Affected by The Violence in Cameroon

RECOMMENDATION

The Presbytery of Palo Duro overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to respond to the violence and civil unrest in Cameroon by:

1. Focusing the attention of the PCUSA on the Cameroon crisis, by endorsing:
 - a. H.Res. 1 111 (October 2018), a bi-partisan Resolution to the U.S. House of Representatives dated Oct 2, 2018, calling for the Cameroonian government, armed separatist groups, and all Cameroonian citizens to "respect human rights and adopt nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution;" , and
 - b. The December 7, 2018, letter from ten U.S. Senators to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, citing the rule of law; political instead of violent solutions; the importance of free, transparent elections; and endorsing US offers to assist in mediating the conflict.
2. Urging the United States government to encourage Cameroonians to decide on a Cameroonian peaceful solution through inclusive listening, restorative actions, and mediated dialogue.
3. Supporting a peaceful solution to the conflict by urging a mediated dialogue with a mediator acceptable to all sides.

Rationale:

There is a difficult and violent conflict currently underway in Cameroon where the Francophone majority has undermined the terms of the reunification agreement of 1961 and the Constitution of 1996, leading to resistance, a call for a return to federalism, and a push among some Anglophones for nationhood (Ambazonia). Several observers reported on the crisis, for example:

- Dionne Searcey of the New York Times cites violence and abuses by government and separatist forces in Cameroon that came about because of the marginalization of the Anglophone areas and people. The article asks if the UN Charter includes the right to exist of Ambazonia (the independent state called for by some Anglophone separatists).
- Mircea Lazar of the Washington Post (3/25/19) notes shifts in opinions about the Cameroonian government since the Francophone crackdown and the Anglophone response. Opinions indicate some abandonment of "belief in the country's unity" but also the need for "time and skilled inclusive leadership to mend".
- Cornelius Fontem Esua, Archbishop of Bamenda & Michael Miabesue Bibi, Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda, in

Continued on page 8.

Plan Ahead for Summer

Summer is a busy time that often takes us out of town, but just as you can listen to sermons while you are away, you can continue your giving even when you can't be physically present! If you haven't already done so, setting up bill pay with your bank or giving online are convenient ways to make sure you don't miss a beat.

If you estimated your giving for 2022 (or maybe set an unofficial goal for yourself) but aren't quite sure if you are on track, now is a good time to pause and check your Giving Statement. The reports will go out by email to all givers the first week of June. (Call for a printed copy.)

Overall, giving this year from all sources (members, visitors, and groups) is more than the amount St. Luke had received last year at this time. **Thanks go to all our members, friends, and visitors who continue to faithfully give and to those who have recently begun giving as an act of worship.**

The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber, but joyful, not fanatical but liberating. When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers. — Unknown

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to **Jude Robinson** and **Hadlee Shields**, who both graduated from Amarillo High School. St. Luke has watched both of them grow up, and we are very proud of them. Jude will attend Amarillo College in the fall, to transfer to a four-year school to be decided. Hadlee will attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Best wishes and prayers go with them.

Men's Breakfast

The men are invited to breakfast on Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The morning includes breakfast provided by **Wesley Wingo** and a short devotional. Watch future bulletins to see if a July event is planned at that time.

Young at Heart Lunch

Young at Heart will meet on Wednesday, June 15 at noon in the fellowship hall. The speaker will be Amarillo College astronomer professor **Art Schneider**. The group will also meet on July 20, same time and location. **Margaret Heyde** will share resources about Parkinson's Disease. If you plan to attend, RSVP by calling the church office by noon the day before. A small fee of \$8 will cover the cost. See you there!

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch

The Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet on June 23 and July 28 at noon under the trees south of the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch and join us for fellowship.

SESSION REPORT:

May 2022

Clerk's Report:

1. April 2022 average attendance for worship – 60
2. Active membership as of April 30, 2022 – 148
3. Communion was celebrated on Sunday, May 1, 2022
4. New members:

Michele Sivets was welcomed into active membership at St. Luke by letter of transfer on April 24, 2022. **Taytum Agrella, Raji Bolton,** and **Kiran Bolton** were welcomed into active membership on April 24; awaiting membership information on these members as well as **Aaron Parker**.

Doug Tanner and **Ann Hefner** served as delegates to the April 29

Palo Duro Presbytery meeting. Two overtures are being taken from presbytery to General Assembly - support for Cameroon and lay pastor commission implementation.

A permanent Seminar Committee is being formed, to be voted on at next month's Session meeting.

Commendations:

- ★ **Ann Hefner** for the food donation for the Session meeting.
- ★ Congregational Care and Fellowship Committees for all their work for **Jim Hefner's** service.
- ★ **Alice Cooke** and **Mila Abbasova** for their music contribution for

- Jim Hefner's service.
- ★ **Hadlee Shields** for providing nursery care for Jim Hefner's service.
- ★ **Kendra Jones, Julie Cathey, Ashley Denham, Camille Hoy, Barbara Taylor,** and **Kaci Jones** for their work for the Easter egg hunt.
- ★ **Jude Robinson** and the St. Luke Youth for the Youth Sunday service.
- ★ **Delma Wingo** for the many prayer shawls she made and gave to Threads of Love.
- ★ Endowment Committee for hosting the Texas Presbyterian Foundation education event in May.
- ★ St. Luke Women for sharing delicious salads and desserts for the Finance Committee meal.
- ★ **Krista Bryan** and **Stacy Clopton** for their work with the Mesa Verde committee.
- ★ **Ross, Donna,** and **Stacy Clopton** for their organization and willingness to provide an all-church lunch that was well attended on April 24.

- ★ **Jennifer** and **Ashley Denham** and **Nicole Payne** for setting up and running the booths for St. Luke and OAC for Celebration of the Queer Kind event in Canyon on April 16.
- ★ **Wesley Wingo, Kary Wingo, Helen Thorsheim,** and the entire LOGOS Committee that made Youth Sunday possible. The service was so meaningful for so many.

Epistles

Thank you for the recognition of seniors this Sunday [May 8] and for including me in that. The brunch was fantastic, and I appreciate the compact Bible for college.

—Hadlee Shields

I want all of you to know how much my family and I appreciate all the efforts that were made on our behalf as we celebrated **Jim's** life and the memories we have of him. We were all touched by your love for him and for us. Our sorrows are easier to bear when we know that others are standing beside us, and I truly felt God's presence in your tender care. Thank you for everything you did to make that time so special.

—Ann Hefner

Assistance Funds Available

St. Luke has a Family Assistance Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you may mark a designation (FAF) on your offering. If you or someone you know could benefit from this mission, please contact Pastor **Kati** or the church office.

Wear red for Pentecost!

Peanut Butter Sunday

The first Sunday of each month is Peanut Butter Sunday. Please consider bringing a jar on June 5 and July 3. You may leave your jars of peanut butter, non-perishable grocery items, empty egg cartons, and paper sacks in the baskets in the fellowship hall. If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift directly to the food bank, visit its website: www.hpfb.org.



- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 3 • Travis* | 1 • Sara |
| 4 • Louise | 2 • Dona |
| 7 • JoAnn | 2 • David |
| 8 • Ruth | 7 • Katelynn |
| 9 • Alex | 12 • Becca |
| 10 • Gary | 12 • Kary |
| 16 • Robert | 20 • Courtney |
| 18 • Dannette | 21 • Sallie |
| 21 • Sam | 30 • Jonathon |
| 23 • Elizabeth* | 30 • Janet |
| 26 • Lilly | 31 • Delma |
| 27 • Dale* | *Friend of St. Luke |
| 30 • Celinda | |

If your birthday is not listed or if there is an error, please call the church office.

Denham Awarded Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee and St. Luke Session have the honor of awarding the St. Luke Scholarship to **Ashley Denham**, officially recognized on Sunday May 15. Ashley not only presented as a qualified candidate due to her outstanding grades and academic performance in her welding program, but she has also been a valuable and active member of St. Luke and the Presbyterian Church as a whole. Ashley will be graduating in December 2022, and this scholarship will help not only to pay for tuition, but to pay for the many welding supplies that will be needed in finishing out her welding program. Congratulations, Ashley!

WESLEY WINGO

Mission Happenings

The Mission Committee wishes all of you a happy summer, full of new adventures and family fun. We will lighten our mission activities, but we will still be working on several projects. For instance, on May 24, we helped with the Mesa Verde Elementary School Sixth Grade Field Trip to Wonderland Park. We hope to be able to schedule a workday with the High Plains Food Bank, and we will continue to hold our Laundry Love events every third Saturday during the summer. Watch for further notices about these events and plan to join us if you can.

We will continue to support the Kind House Ukraine Bakery with our donations of baking goods. **Glenda Moore** has asked especially for donations of butter, coconut, and powdered sugar. Think of her when you make your grocery list each week. Guyon Saunders Resource Center has let us know that they are no longer accepting used clothing donations, at least until after they move to their new facility. In August, we will be asking for ready-to-eat foods for Amarillo College Food Pantry, so plan ahead. We are grateful for your support, and we ask that you continue to pray for us and the people whose lives are touched by our mission efforts.

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

Detailed financial reports are always available for review by church members. Stop by the church office during regular hours and request to examine the previous month's financial documents.

APRIL

YEAR-TO-DATE

JOIN US FOR A
party

Louise 's 90th Birthday

Saturday, June 4, 2 to 4 p.m.
St. Luke Presbyterian Church

RSVP to Laura,

Please, no gifts,
but cards are welcome!

Outreach News

The Outreach Committee has several things going on for you to get involved with this summer. St. Luke is one of the congregations of OAC (Open and Affirming Congregations) and participates in activities throughout the community. The Juneteenth parade will happen June 18, and St. Luke will walk as part of OAC. If you would like to attend, the lineup for the parade begins at 8 a.m. Panhandle PRIDE is one of those events happening June 25 at Starlight Ranch. St. Luke and OAC will have booths and activities for the event.

St. Luke will also begin a marketing campaign to include members who are interested in being videoed. Watch the Sunday bulletin for further information. Please be sure to *like* and *share* on Facebook and Instagram since we can reach thousands of people not just in Amarillo but all over the U.S. and beyond. Using social media is one way we have people involved watching our church services and interacting with activities in the community.

JENNIFER DENHAM



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
EACH SUNDAY 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class Varies Choir Rehearsal (See schedule on 7.) 11:00 am In-Person Worship and Service will stream Live on Facebook			1 6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	2 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:15 pm Outreach Com. Mtg. (Zoom) 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	3 2:00 - 4:00 pm 90th Birthday Celebration for Louise George in the fellowship hall 10:30 am - ACA	4
5 Day of Pentecost Communion will be celebrated. Peanut Butter Sunday	6 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 2:00 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. (if needed) 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg. 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	7 10:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg. 6:00 pm Fellowship Com. Mtg.	8 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg. 6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	9 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	10	11 10:30 am - ACA
12 Trinity Sunday	13 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	14 Flag Day 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Exercise Group 5:30 pm Property Com. Mtg. 5:45 pm Warship Com. Mtg.	15 12:00 noon Young at Heart 6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	16 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	17 9:00 - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke	18 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry 8:00 am Line up for the Juneteenth Parade 9:00 - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke 10:30 am - ACA
19 Father's Day Juneteenth 12:00 noon Stated Session Mtg.	20 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	21 Summer begins 10:00 am Exercise Group	22 6:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	23 10:00 am Exercise Group 12:00 noon Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	24	25 TBA PRIDE Event @ Starlight Ranch 10:30 am - ACA
26 5:30 pm Friends & Family Church Picnic	27 PC(USA) World AIDS Day 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	28 10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group	29	30 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non		



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>EACH SUNDAY</p> <p>9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class Varies Choir Rehearsal (See schedule on 7.) 11:00 am In-Person Worship and Service will stream Live on Facebook</p>					1	2
<i>July</i>						
3 Peanut Butter Sunday	4 Independence Day Church offices will be closed. 10:30 am No Piano Class 2:00 pm CE Com. Mtg. (if needed) 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	5 10:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg.	6	7 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love No Outreach Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	8	9 10:30 am - ACA
10 Communion will be celebrated.	11 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	12 6:30 am Men's Breakfast TBA 10:00 am Exercise Group No Property Com. Mtg. No Worship Com. Mtg.	13	14 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	15	16 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry 10:30 am - ACA
17 12:00 noon Stated Session Mtg.	18 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	19 10:00 am Exercise Group	20 12:00 noon Young at Heart	21 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	22 9:00 - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke	23 9:00 - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke 10:30 am - ACA
24 Epistle deadline	25 10:30 am Adult Piano Class	26 10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group	27	28 10:00 am Exercise Group 12:00 noon Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non	29	30
31 6 EPISTLE	8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non			6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non		10:30 am - ACA

Library News

Below is taken from *The First Texas Cook Book*, which was first published in 1883 by the women of the First Presbyterian Church of Houston. It's for "cornfield peas," which we would call field or black-eyed peas:

Go to the pea-patch early in the morning and gather the peas, take them home in a split basket. Take them in the left hand and gouge them out with your right thumb until it gets sore, then reverse hands. Look the pea well in the eye to see its color, but cook them anyway, as no color exempts the pea from domestic service, still the grey eye and white lips and cheeks are to be preferred. Throw the shelled peas mercilessly into hot water and boil them until they 'cave in.' When you see they are well subdued, take them out and fry them about ten minutes in gravy - plenty of gravy, good fat meat gravy, and try to induce the gravy to marry and become social with the peas. When you see that the union is complete, so that no man can put them asunder, and would not wish to if he could, put them in a dish and eat them all.

As a more recent chef would say: Bon appetit!
DOUG TANNER

Recent additions to the St. Luke library:

- Aronson, Louise, *Elderhood: Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Re-imagining Life* (2021).
Bigelow, Christopher Kimball, *Temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (2018).
First Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX, Ladies Association, *The First Texas Cook Book, a Thorough Treatise on the Art of Cookery* (1986; originally published 1883).
Greenblatt, Stephen, *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve* (2017), signed copy.
Pakaluk, Michael, *The Memoirs of St. Peter: A New Translation of the Gospel According to Mark* (2019).

Music Program Notes

Choir will meet at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays except June 19, July 10, July 31, and August 21, when they will meet at 10:45 a.m. On the Sundays just mentioned, a bell choir will meet at 10:00 a.m. and rehearse to ring that Sunday. Who's in the bell choir? Any choir member or congregational member who wants to join is welcome. No experience required! Let **Bob Hansen** know if you would like to participate in worship in this way.

Buffalo Gap 2022 Camp Dates

- ★ Mini Camp | June 7-10 | Completed grades 1-3
- ★ Elementary Camp | June 12-17 | Grades 4 & 5
- ★ Middle School Camp | June 19-24 | Grades 6-8
- ★ High School Retreat | June 26-July 1 | Grades 9-12

Mini-Camp is \$175, other camps are \$285. Scholarships are available. To register, go to <https://www.buffalogapcamp.org/summer-camps>.

Joys & Concerns

Recent prayer requests:

Continue to remember those with COVID-19 and

; the St. Luke Session; the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; the people of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** and Kind House Ukraine Bakery; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Security Taskforce Update

The St. Luke Security Taskforce has received approval on the environmental and historic aspects of our project and is awaiting approval of the budget reallocation request before the contractors can start ordering supplies. We hope that the approval will come in a month or so, and we can begin installing some smaller aspects of the grant (exterior lighting and film on some windows) later this summer. It will likely be a good bit longer before we are able to start work on doors, locks, and the security system.

We also hosted a training session in May that included the video linked below. This video presents some options to consider in the case of a shooter. <https://www.cisa.gov/options-consideration-active-shooter-preparedness-video> As the very recent shooting at Geneva Presbyterian Church in California reminds us, each of us is responsible for being aware of our surroundings and evaluating possible responses (and ways of escaping) should a dangerous situation occur. We hope you will watch the announcements for future trainings and join us so that we can work together to keep our church both welcoming and safe.

Congratulation, Quentin!

On May 15, **Quentin Smith** stepped down as Dean of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's School of Pharmacy, a position he held for ten years. Under his leadership the school expanded to a four-year program in Dallas, established a new department based in Abilene, expanded two graduate programs, conducted a curriculum revision, advanced graduate residency placement levels, doubled the level of NIH grant funding, and achieved full accreditation of the School from ACPE with an eight-year cycle. He will continue at the school as a University Distinguished and Grover E. Murray Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Congratulations, Quentin!

Continued from page 2: On Responding to the Human Needs of Those Affected by the Violence in Cameroon

a 3/6/19 pastoral letter, positions the Cameroonian situation within a Biblical foundation of sacredness and dignity of human life. The letter calls for the parties to put down arms, to refrain from communications that further exacerbate the situation, and to engage in meaningful dialogue.

- Jon Lunn & Louisa Brooke-Holland 4/17/19 provides a British view in a House of Commons briefing update. They note that some Anglophones support secession, others support the restoration of Federalism but that it is impossible to know how many supports these positions. They indicate that the Catholic Church mediation efforts have "led nowhere". There is a need for French efforts.
- In an interview on TV station Canal 2 International with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy, March 19, 2019, Mr. Nagy indicated that inclusive dialogue without preconditions is needed and that it is for Cameroonians to decide on a Cameroonian solution.

As well, there has been agitation from Boko Haram with dislocations into and out of Cameroon:

- Boko Haram incursions. Alexis Arieff 4/6/19 reports on the instability and uncertain future of Cameroon because of the crackdown on Anglophone areas and the incursions of Boko Haram into Cameroon.
- Boko Haram & CAR refugees
Nigerian and Central Africa Republic refugees are entering Cameroon.
- Cameroonian refugees fleeing to Nigeria.

This overture originated in Covenant Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, Texas, a Congregation of concerned Presbyterians whose membership includes several Cameroonian families who are US citizens. They and their relatives and friends in Cameroon are deeply affected by the conflicts and violence. For example, a West Texas Purpose Medical Mission (Covenant Hospital, University Medical Center, Grace Clinic of Lubbock) for the past four years have been unable to continue to operate the formerly successful and only English-speaking clinic.

HELP FILL EMPTY PULPITS
In Small Churches, Small Towns
and Rural Churches

Why?

- Fills empty pulpits based on mission, location, and cost
 - More nimble approach to weekly emergent needs
- No change in role status with accountability to presbytery built-in

Concurrences:

Grand Canyon Presbytery
Mission Presbytery
Synod of the Sun
Utica Presbytery

Overture: Regarding Clarifying the Intent of G-2.1001 on Use of Commissioned Pastors

RECOMMENDATION

The Presbytery of Palo Duro overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

To clarify the intent of G-2.1001 on the use of commissioned pastors by amending G-2.1001, Book of Order to read:

G-2.1001 Functions

When the presbytery, in consultation with a session or ~~different sessions~~ ~~or other responsible committee~~, determines that its strategy for mission requires it, the presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service as a "CP or Commissioned Pastor" as assigned to the presbytery. A ruling elder so designated may be commissioned to serve in a one or more validated ministries ~~a validated ministry~~ of the presbytery. Presbytery, in its commission, may authorize the ruling elder to moderate the session of the congregation or congregations to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. In geographically large presbyteries with hard-to-reach churches, a Commissioned Pastor may be assigned on behalf of the presbytery to any validated ministry as presbytery needs arise.

This commission shall also specify the term of service, which shall not exceed three years but shall be renewable. The presbytery shall review the commission at least annually. A Commissioned ruling elder may be authorized to one long-term agreement or serve the entire presbytery in multiple assignments or a one-time event.

Rationale:

This overture originated in Palo Duro Presbytery, a presbytery in the PC(USA) covering seventy-two counties in Northwest Texas and comprising forty congregations. The use of Commissioned Pastors ("CP") in ministry has become more common and more needed, especially in geographically large presbyteries like Palo Duro. Five churches in our presbytery now have a CRE/CP instead of a minister leading worship, serving communion, and performing other duties as commissioned by the presbytery. Other churches serve small communities which are greatly distanced from more populated areas. Due to that isolation, untenable financial limitations, or both, calling a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament is often not a possibility. Of our churches with an installed minister, the majority are solo positions. For those congregations, it is difficult to find a substitute if their regular minister is not available. It would be beneficial in all these situations if a presbytery could have CREs (CPs) that were commissioned to more than one church, or even to a group of churches or to the presbytery.

2022 WORKDAY

