

DENVER PRESBYTERY

MINISTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Jan | Feb | Mar
Report to April
Assembly



Meeting was opened by Moderator Sheri Fry with prayer at 9:30am, and minutes from December 13, 2023 were approved.

Attendance - Don Shrumm, Bill Sanders, Beth Hewlett, Joanna Douglass, Jordan Warntjes, Sheri Fry, Dee Cooper, Fernando Rodríguez, gretchen Sausville

MRC Business

New Hope - Motion: *to approve the Administrative Commission* for Rev. Caressa Murray's installation at New Hope on February 4, 2024 at 4PM.* - **Approved**

* Administrative Commission for Caressa Murray
Elder Pat Queen, Presbytery Moderator
Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper, Lead Presbyter Denver Presbytery
Rev. Sheri Fry, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Wayne Darbonne, St. James Presbyterian Church
Elder Rick Young, New Hope Presbyterian Church
Rev. Jonathan Murray, First Presbyterian Church, Littleton
Rev. Jordan Warntjes, New Hope Presbyterian Church

Byers Community Church - Motion: *to approve Bill Sanders to moderate Session until after Easter.* - **Approved**
An exit interview with Sandy Safford will be scheduled.

Core Team Information

Update on MRC Team Members -Pastoral Care Team - Will be equipped on February 13, 2024.

Lead Presbyter Report- Dee shared about the Special Called Assembly Shade Trees program March 1-2, 2024. The program will satisfy the anti-racism training requirement per the Book of Order for the presbytery. There will also be additional offerings to satisfy the requirement throughout the year. Updates were given about Pastor Leadership Revitalization through Omaha Seminary Foundation.

EMI (Ecumenical Ministries Inc.) - Annual Meeting will be on February 4, 2024 at 1pm at Berkeley United Church of Christ in Denver. gretchen will represent the Denver Presbytery with a report.

New Worshiping Communities

Divino Salvador- **Motion:** *to approve the investment grant application for Divino Salvador.* **Approved**

Reframe- Grant application has been resubmitted

NWC Retreat- 20 people attended a retreat at the beginning of January with 12-14 NWC groups represented.

Transitions –“ DP Churches in Transition”

Don Shrumm reported on the congregations in transition.

Resource & Discovery

Joanna Douglass shared about the congregations she is working with.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. gretchen Sausville - Stated Clerk

Meeting was opened by Vice-Moderator Sandy Safford with the poem *Beloved Is Where We Begin* by Jan Richardson at 9:30am. The minutes from January 23, 2024 were approved.

Attendance - Don Shrumm, Bill Sanders, Beth Hewlett, Joanna Douglass, Jordan Warntjes, Sheri Fry, Sandy Safford, Dee Cooper, Fernando Rodríguez, gretchen Sausville

MRC Business

New Hope - Motion: *to approve the Administrative Commission* for Rev. Dr. Becca Jordan-Irwin's installation at Elizabeth Presbyterian Church on April 14, 2024 at 2PM.* - **Approved**

* Administrative Commission for Becca Jordan-Irwin
Elder Pat Queen, Presbytery Moderator
Rev. Ruth McCollum Huff, Vice Moderator
Elder Scott Chandler, New Hope Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Wayne Darbonne, St. James Presbyterian Church
Elder CJ Biewenga, Elizabeth Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. David Jordan-Irwin, Honorably Retired Pueblo Presbytery
Elder Pat Russell, Elizabeth Presbyterian Church

Core Team Information

Pulpit Supply - Motion: *to add Cindy Moorman and Sandy Safford to Pulpit Supply List.* - **Approved**

Commissioned Pastors to serve the Denver Presbytery- gretchen discussed the need for congregations to have more pastors with the ability to moderate session and congregational meetings and administer the Sacraments, in addition to supply preaching. Many Presbyteries commission their already Commissioned Pastors to such a role. The MRC explored the ministry of Commissioned Pastors who are “commission ready” and have already served under a covenant agreement and their capacity to be commissioned to the Presbytery to administer sacraments, moderate session and congregational meetings, in addition to supply preaching. Pay would be per the pulpit supply and moderating guidelines, and those commissioned to the Denver Presbytery would not be considered presbytery staff. Names of those who are eligible and who would like to be Commissioned to this role would be brought forth for a formal motion in March.

Shade Trees Update - March 1 & 2, 2024 at Wellshire Presbyterian Church. 100 people have registered.

Equipping for MRC Core Teams Update - Doodle polls have been sent for Transitions and Resource & Discovery.

Church Safety Training- First Presbyterian Church, Golden is having a church safety training. Information and details will go in e-news.

New Worshipping Communities

NWC Hays Requests - **All Approved** from the MRC to go to the VLC for approval.

NWC Incubator Request

Motion: *The Ministry Relations Committee approves a request to distribute \$147,256.46 from the Hays bequest to fund compensation for NWC Incubator Leaders. The \$147,256.46 should be taken from the interest up to \$147,256.46 and any remaining from the principal of account number 102262000003 – William and Jane C. Hays Crut Endowment Fund. - **Approved***

Rationale: This is the first full calendar year where we will have all 4 NWC Incubator Leaders on payroll, and all receiving a 301- Board of Pensions Grant. The amount requested covers compensation for a total of 6 months, which will allow us to make payments through July 2024. This request must go to the Visionary Leadership Commission because it surpasses the \$30,000 threshold set by the Presbytery's guidelines for Hays. The funds are part of the presbytery's commitment to fund the Incubator positions at 100% from Hays funds. The package breakdown and other supporting information is reflected in the chart below.

The Psalm Hays Request

Motion: *The Ministry Relations Committee approves a request to distribute \$30,000 from the Hays bequest to cover costs associated with supporting ministry staff at The Psalm. The \$30,000 should be taken from the interest up to \$30,000 and any remaining from the principal of account number 102262000003 – William and Jane C. Hays Crut Endowment Fund. - **Approved***

Rationale: At the end of 2023, The Psalm received funds for their approved \$30,000 Investment Grant from Presbyterian Mission Agency. In addition to the matching funds from the Presbytery's operating budget, this Hays request provides

critical funds to support the ministry and leadership of this New Worshiping Community. This ministry is led by Rev. John Yu.

Winds of Grace Hays Request

Motion: *The Ministry Relations Committee approves a request to distribute \$30,000 from the Hays bequest to cover costs associated with supporting ministry staff at Winds of Grace. The \$30,000 should be taken from the interest up to \$30,000 and any remaining from the principal of account number 102262000003 – William and Jane C. Hays Crut Endowment Fund.*

Rationale: At the end of 2023, Winds of Grace received funds for their approved \$30,000 Investment Grant from Presbyterian Mission Agency. In addition to the matching funds from the Presbytery's operating budget, this Hays request provides critical funds to support the ministry and leadership of this New Worshiping Community. This ministry is led by Rev. Dave Van Deren.

Transitions – “DP Churches in Transition”

Don Shrumm gave an update on all the churches in transition.

Community of Grace - Motion: *to approve the 12 questions for Community of Grace.- Approved*

Rev. David Hogue is the Transitions liaison for Community of Grace.

Peoples – Motion: *to approve the Temporary Stated Supply Covenant* for Rev. Olivia Hudson-Smith.- Approved*

Olivia's start date will be March 1, 2024 for a 1 year renewable contract.

* Effective Salary \$30,000. Continuing Education \$1000, SECA \$1147.50. Mileage reimbursement at 62.5 cents per mile. Total Compensation: for 20 hours per week \$32,147.50.

Motion: *for Scott Chandler to be asked if he would serve on Transitions. - Approved*

Pastoral Care

Equipping complete for the 4 folks serving. This team still needs more people for service.

Mediation

Motion: *for Cindy Cearly to serve on Meditation. - Approved.*
Jordan to confirm with her, and the mediation team will have a full slate.

Relations & Connections

Beth shared R & C folks have begun communicating and checking in with their congregations.

Resource & Discovery

Joanna Douglass gave an update on all the congregations working with Resources and Discovery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. gretchen Sausville - Stated Clerk

Meeting was opened by Moderator Sheri Fry at 9:30. Beth Hewlett led us in a devotional *Mostly What God Does*. The minutes from February 28, 2024 were approved.

Attendance - Don Shrumm, Bill Sanders, Beth Hewlett, Joanna Douglass, Sheri Fry, Sandy Safford, Fernando Rodríguez, gretchen Sausville

MRC Business

Commissioned Pastors Commissioned to the Denver Presbytery- In March, the MRC discussed the rationale for these motions. Those being Commissioned are “Commission Ready” and have previously served under a commissioned covenant with a congregation.

Motion: *to approve the *Covenant with a Commissioned Pastor Commissioned to the Denver Presbytery.* - **Approved**

Motion: *to commission CJ Biewenga, Beth Hewlett, Lyn Hull, Teddie McConnell, Cindy Mooman, and Sandy Safford for ministry and service to the Denver Presbytery under the *Covenant with a Commissioned Pastor Commissioned to the Denver Presbytery.* - **Approved**

***Covenant with a Commissioned Pastor Commissioned to the Denver Presbytery**

TERM OF SERVICE: Three Year Commission beginning April 23, 2024, to April 23, 2027. (Renewable in 3 year terms – BOO G.2.1001)

MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- May lead worship and preach within the bounds of Denver Presbytery as invited.
- Administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (As authorized by Denver Presbytery)
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism (As authorized by Denver Presbytery)
- Moderate session meetings (As authorized by Ministry Relations Committee)
- Moderate congregational meetings (as authorized by Ministry Relations Committee)
- Attend presbytery meetings with voice and vote (As authorized by Denver Presbytery)

COMPENSATION (paid by the inviting faith community)

\$175 for Pulpit Supply Preaching (as per current Denver Presbytery policy)

\$100 per Moderating Session (as per current Denver Presbytery policy)

Additional compensation may be negotiated between the session & Commissioned Pastor

Review of this Covenant prior to renewal or termination will be by the Commissioned Pastor, and the Presbytery’s Ministry Relations Committee.

Provision for termination of Covenant relationship by either party with at least 2 weeks’ notice by either party through the Ministry Relations Committee.

This is NOT a Denver Presbytery Staff position.

Providence: Rev. Dr. David Pettit will conclude his ministry on April 14, 2024. Rev. Rolf Granath will moderate the congregational meeting for the dissolution of the call on April 14.

MRC appointed Rev. Joanna Douglass to moderate Session on April 30, 2024.

Byers Community Church - Motion: *to approve Bill Sanders to moderate Session until June.* - **Approved**

Grace/Covenant: Danielle “Dani” Hillyer, a certified ready to receive a call candidate under care of Denver Presbytery, has been extended the call as the Associate Pastor for Cultivation and Innovation. This is a cooperative ministry between Church of the Covenant DTC and Grace Presbyterian. The calling church is Grace Presbyterian, which has a shared ministry agreement with Church of the Covenant DTC. MRC had a fit interview with Dani on March 8, 2024.

Motion: *to approve Terms of Call* for Danielle Hillyer.* - **Approved**

* Effective Salary \$60,000. Board of Pensions \$23,400. Continuing Education \$1500. Professional Expenses \$2000. Books \$500. Total Compensation: \$87,400.

Motion: *The Ministry Relations Committee recommends to the Presbytery the ordination of Danielle Hillyer to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament as the Associate Pastor for Cultivation and Innovation at Grace Presbyterian Church.* - **Approved, to go to Assembly.**

Board of Pensions Zoom: The Board of Pension will be unveiling the new medical/pension plans sometime in April. Rev. Kristin Leucht, the Denver Presbytery Board of Pensions representative, has already met with Dee, gretchen, and Fernando. A zoom meeting with her has been scheduled for April 11, 2024 at 11Am with MRC, MRC- Transitions, SRC Moderator, and Dee, Fernando, gretchen, and Sue. Fernando and gretchen will be traveling to the Board of Pension Mid-Council Leaders Gathering for education and conversation of the new Board of Pensions Plan in Philadelphia, April 29-May1, 2024.

New Worshiping Communities

The MRC reviewed and received the **NWC Annual Reports, NWC March Report,** and the **NWC Checklist.**

Motion: *MRC to create a standardized reporting template for NWC budget, spending, and activities.* - **Approved.**

Ruth PC Seed grant Application: The Ruth Presbyterian Church is the NWC led and cultivated by Incubator Pastor Rev. Karla Lara Maldonado.

Motion: *to approve the Ruth Presbyterian Church Seed Grant Application.* **Approved**

Resource & Discovery

Joanna Douglass gave an update on all the congregations working with Resources and Discovery. Joanna is meeting with members of Fiduciary Stewardship and staff to create guidelines and process for selling church property.

Transitions

Don Shrumm reported on the Churches in Transition. Rev. David Hogue is the liaison for Eagle River and Community of Grace. Rev. Pat Smith is the liaison for Montview Boulevard. Transitions Equipping will be on April 25, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. gretchen Sausville - Stated Clerk