



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC - AUGUST 2021

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR



Greetings Presbyterian Women!

It looks like the repeat button has been clicked on the pandemic. With the new Delta variant running rapid in the United States and abroad, we are beginning to watch numbers increase day by day. However, the good news is that Presbyterian Women (PW) in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC), Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and Churchwide have been busy doing the business of PW.

Sue Hyde, 2nd Vice Moderator of the Presbytery Coordinating Team (CT), is in the final stages of planning the 2021 PW-PWNC Fall Gathering. We are currently planning for the gathering to be in person at Tryon Presbyterian Church (PC), on Saturday, October 23rd. However, we realize pandemic guidelines may dictate it be changed to virtual, but it is our prayer for us to meet in person. Registration information, directions, and workshops are included in this newsletter. Rita Nichols, Moderator for the Tryon PW, and the ladies of Tryon PC are excited to host the gathering and looking forward to you being there.

Save the date for the 2022 Spring Gathering to be held on April 9, 2022, at Montreat's Upper Anderson Auditorium. Corise Gambrell, 1st Vice Moderator of the coordinating team, has received confirmation from Carol Bechtel, author of the 2022-2023 *Horizons* Bible Study, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*, will be with us to give an overview of the study.

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic met virtually on June 19th for the 32nd Annual Synod Business Meeting. New officers were installed including Michele Simmons of First Presbyterian Asheville as the Moderator of the Search Committee. Plans are underway for the Synod Summer Gathering, scheduled for June 9-12, 2022, at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The Churchwide Business Meeting for the PW Board of Directors and the voting reps was held virtually August 4-5. Speakers for the business meeting were the Reverend Rashell Hunter, Director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries at the Presbyterian Mission Agency; Nancy Taylor, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society-the national archive for PC(USA); and the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA).

Two major items of business at the meeting were to update language regarding and preferred by people of color and to replace the word 'kingdom' in the PW Purpose. For the purposes of PW, Inc., the terms "women of color," "community or communities of color," "constituents of color," and "people of color" include Indigenous/Native American; Black/African American/African; Hispanic/Latina/Latino/Latinx; Asian/Asian American; Middle Eastern/North African; and Korean/Korean American. In addition, racial ethnic will no longer be used with the Member-at-large position. The voting reps voted to approve the changes.

Presbyterian Women, Inc. also wanted to replace 'kingdom' in the PW Purpose with 'kin-dom' to support PW's commitment to inclusive and expansive language that doesn't exclude anyone. The term kin-dom was explored through Bible Study at the 223rd General Assembly in 2018. However, the PW voting reps voted against the change leaving kingdom in the purpose.

Reports were given by Jo Ann Burrell, Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships; Joy Durrant, Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace concerns; and Jyungin Lee, Moderator. Jo Ann's report pertained to the July 2019 USA Mission Experience (USAME) held in the Finger Lakes Region of New York state with 13 Synods participating. The committee encourages all PW groups to share their mission stories and the desire to have a mission experience in our respective areas with Cheri Harper (cheri.harper@pcusa.org), PW Associate for Missions.

Joy reported on the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the process PW went through to attain consultative status with the (UN). Our consultative status was approved in 2018 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and it allows PW to participate, using its own voice, at the UN. It also affords PW its own twenty UN grounds passes for PW CSW delegates. After gaining consultative status, PW partnered with the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN (PMUN) and was able to join Ecumenical Women (EW) as a member and serve on its CSW Planning Team.

Jyungin explained Churchwide's process in the development of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Group. The advisory group will "provide focused attention on short- and long-term strategies that impact structural racism, including education/training, culture, policy, procedure, participation, and leader recruitment." If you would be interested in being a part of the DEI Advisory Group, access the job description and application form using the buttons at the end of this letter.

After the business meeting concluded on August 5th, the Churchwide Plenary and worship service was held for all PW. The gathering theme was *Rejoice in*

Hope. Plenary speakers included the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Bible Study writers: the Reverend Dr. Merryl Blair, the Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel, and the Reverend Dr. Olive Mahabir, respectively, each giving an overview of the upcoming Bible studies. The keynote speaker for the Churchwide Worship Service was the Reverend Irene Pak Lee, and the worship leader was the Reverend Dr. Diane Moffett, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The gathering concluded with all of us celebrating communion and a reminder to *Rejoice in Hope* even when we are discouraged, frustrated and/or overwhelmed.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not share with you our loss of a member of the PWP-CT, Betsy Rhodes, who was to be the Cluster Leader of Cluster B. However, Betsy became sick around the time of the Spring Gathering and installation of officers, so we never had the pleasure of meeting her. On behalf of all PW in the Presbytery of WNC a donation was made to Manna Food Bank in Betsy's memory.

In addition, please be in prayer for Patricia Clark, former Moderator of our Presbytery PW-CT; the Presbytery General Council; and the Synod PW-CT. Patricia suffered a stroke on August 1st. After she completes rehab, she will be returning to Assisted Living at Hope Ridge, 3491 Crestwood Drive, Morganton, NC 28655. I feel sure she would appreciate receiving cards from her PW friends.

I would like to thank all of you for all that you have done and continue to do to help those in need in your communities. There are still those facing food insecurity, unemployment, COVID and other illnesses, grief, mental health issues, eviction, and the list goes on and on. Let us remember as we continue to navigate difficult days – *“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”* (Romans 12:12-13 NRSV).

*Tina Joyner, Interim Moderator
PW-PWNC*

**APPLICATION FOR THE DEI
ADVISORY GROUP**

**JOB DESCRIPTION FOR DEI
ADVISORY GROUP**

PW FALL GATHERING

The PW of PWNC Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at Tryon Presbyterian Church in Tryon, North Carolina. The theme is What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. Please use the two buttons below for registration forms and directions.

**FALL GATHERING 2021
REGISTRATION**

**DIRECTIONS TO TRYON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2022 SPRING GATHERING WITH HORIZONS' BIBLE STUDY AUTHOR CAROL BECHTEL

Our 2022 Spring Gathering is scheduled for April 9, 2022 in Upper Anderson, Montreat, North Carolina. We look forward to Gathering in the spring at Montreat and to hearing from Carol Bechtel, who is the author of the 2022-2023 Horizons Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight.

Carol is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary. Prior to joining Western's faculty, she taught at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. She has also been a teaching fellow at Yale Divinity School. She is a General Synod Professor of Theology in the Reformed Church of America. Dr. Bechtel grew up in Fulton, Illinois. She attended Hope College, Western Theological Seminary, and received her doctoral degree from Yale University in 1992. She is also the Executive Director of the American Waldensian Society. She lives in Holland, Michigan with her husband, Tom Mullens. She enjoys her children, grandchildren, singing, cooking, gardening, and the Celtic harp.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2022 Spring Gathering.

Corise Gambrell, Moderator-Elect

GUATEMALA MICROLOAN UPDATE



Please click on the image to the left to access the latest Guatemalan Microloan Report.

Don't forget that you can even support Presbyterian Women when you shop Amazon Smile. Visit Smile.Amazon.com and search for "Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc," or visit (and bookmark!) Smile.Amazon.com/ch/80-0473061. Shop as you normally would through "regular" Amazon, and a portion of the purchase of eligible items will be donated to PW at no extra cost to you.



In other words: you shop, Amazon gives, PW receives. Prepare to smile: to date, more than \$3,000 has supported PW's many ministries through the AmazonSmile program.

Questions? Contact Rhonda Martin, rhonda.martin@pcusa.org or 844-797-2872, ext. 5596.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 23, 2021 - PW-PWNC Fall Gathering
Tryon Presbyterian Church, Tryon, NC

April 9, 2022 - 2022 PW-PWNC Spring Gathering
Upper Anderson Auditorium, Montreat, NC

June 9-12, 2022 - Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering
Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA

Click on the PW icon to visit the
Presbytery of Western North
Carolina's Presbyterian Women's
page



EMAIL BETH TAYLOR