2023 PW Grand Canyon Presbytery Report

Dorene (Dodie) Weiland - Moderator

On March 25, 2023, at the Spring Gathering the PWPGC installed a new slate of leaders and appointed CT members, as well as the 2023 budget, at Desert Palms Presbyterian Church in Sun City West, AZ. Our theme was “Celebrating Our Caring Community” which focused on what all the churches in our PWP were doing to show support for their communities at local, regional, national and international. In planning for this gathering, the CT focused on the need to improve communication and participation in gatherings. All churches were encouraged to have tables to present their projects and to send electronic pictures/videos in advance to be included in videos shown on-line and on the big screen, highlighting what we were celebrating. A change was made to roll call granting all churches time to share their successes or learnings with the attendees. A break-out session was also dedicated to this sharing. Churches not able to attend in person were encouraged to join via Live Streaming/Zoom, as well as to send in their pictures/videos for inclusion in our content also.

Breakfast snacks were provided, and time was allotted to gather and view tables and distribute communication materials. A sit-down lunch, served family style by Desert Palms PW, created a fun, friendly and interactive environment and was followed by multiple break-out sessions and a closing worship led by Rev. Linda Bailey.

120 women attended in person, representing 14 churches with more attending on Zoom. The first ONLINE registration, with payment collection, was initiated for this gathering using a temporary DPPC web page.

Throughout the summer the CT met periodically in person and via Zoom to plan the Fall Gathering, and we began planning for a new web page on the Presbytery website that could be a permanent home for storage of key PWP documents and used to improve communications on PWC activities. Dodie Weiland was honored as a PW Synod of the SW representative to the 2023 USA Mission Experience, and she was instrumental in working with our Synod Moderator, Chris Casanova, to help national plan events while in Phoenix.

The Fall Gathering was held October 7, 2023, this time on the east side of Phoenix, at First Mesa Presbyterian Church with the theme “Mission Possible”. First Mesa, with the help of Church of the Master, provided a wonderful breakfast and day filled with hands-on missions, donations, 8 break-out sessions and a wonderful worship with Rev. David Hodgson and Rev. Angie Wuysang, our International Peacemaker from Indonesia.

The Fall Gathering was attended by 110 women in person, representing 11 churches with more attending on zoom. Collections also included blankets for Native Americans and Hygiene Kits & Encouragement Cards for Migrant shelters and detentions. Natalie Horne designed, printed and distributed our PWP Grand Canyon 2023 – 2024 Yearbook to attendees and mailed it to other PWC’s. This yearbook featured names and contact information for all PWCs as well as our PWP by-laws, listings of key dates and other critical PWP information.

We hosted USAME, 18 representatives from Synods around the nation, in Arizona Oct. 13 -21, with Dodie Weiland both planning, participating and reporting back to the PWs in our Synod. Funds were raised and donated to USAME Mission Partners. A new “Amazon Wish List” was created, and over $1725 worth of gifts were donated in 2023 to Frontera de Cristo’s Children’s Enrichment Ministry (PW 2021 Birthday Grant recipient).

November 11, 2023, we launched our new web page at www.azpresbyteries.org/gc-presbyterian-women. This page promotes our focus on “Staying Connected” to people and events happening at PW churches, presbytery, synod and national levels. It provides videos and documents from past and current gatherings, a repository for pictures and announcements on church PW events, and links that instantly connect to ONLINE registration and payments and key documents. This web page, as well as promotion of PW, was presented at the Grand Canyon and De Cristo combined Presbyteries meeting on January 17, 2024.