THE PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS

The Presbytery of Tres Rios

1201 Wall St. · Midland, Texas, 79701 Office: 432-682-5297

November 5, 2026

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I want to take this opportunity to invite your youth and other adults that may be interested from your congregation to our 2027 TRYC Winter Retreat. TRYC, also known as Tres Rios Youth Connection, puts on a retreat every year. We gather at Circle 6 Baptist Camp outside of Stanton, Texas, the first full weekend in January. This year it will take place on January 8-10, 2027. We do not start until Friday evening about 9 pm so that those from longer distances have time to get there – especially if their local schools have already started – and we finish up before noon on Sunday.

Please see the enclosed information to learn more about activities for this year's retreat. If you have joined us in the past, this year we will have a bit of a different program as our annual mission project will take center stage. The First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring is allowing the Synod PDA to create a PDA collection site within an area of their building that has not been used in some time. This is why we also want to invite and encourage adults to come as we will spend several hours deep cleaning and organizing the space, putting up shelving, etc. There are some activities that will be best for adults to lead or do instead of our youth.

This new collection site will allow supplies to be located closer to the presbyteries located in the western portion of the Synod - something that would have been helpful with the recent weather-related emergencies including fires in Palo Duro and Tres Rios, as well as flooding in Tres Rios and Mission.

We still plan to have plenty of energizers, music, games, snacks, small groups, and plenary sessions about the importance of being rooted in God's love and nourished through the stream of God's grace and mercy. I have included a flyer you can put up in your church or send out in your newsletters. There is also a document with more details about the fantastic leadership coming, including a past GA Co-Moderator and a current GA Co-Moderator! We will also have our Synod PDA leader and possibly the Synod Leader in attendance.

Plan to come out west and join us! Instructions for registering are in the packet as well as forms that need to be filled out and sent to our administrative assistance Theresa. **Circle 6 needs registrations to them by DECEMBER 11th!** If you have questions, call me – 830 459-7950 or Theresa at 432 528-7317.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Laurie H. Barker, Pastoral Presbyter

Administrative Assistant – Theresa Wright
Pastoral Presbyter – Rev. Laurie Barker
Administrative Presbyter – Kay Long
Vision and Outreach Presbyter – Rev. Matt Miles

TRYC Winter Retreat 2027: ROOTED

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord... he is like a tree planted by water that sends out its roots by the stream."
— Jeremiah 17:7–8

Youth/Sponsor Cost - $25 per person

AT A GLANCE

- **Dates:** January 8–10, 2027
- **Location:** Circle 6 Camp, Stanton, Texas
- **Who:** Youth, adult sponsors, and anyone across our presbyteries!
- **Schedule:** Starts Friday at 9:30 PM (eat dinner beforehand); wraps up Sunday before noon after worship.

SPECIAL GUESTS & LEADERSHIP

- **Rev. Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri** – Keynote Speaker (Former GA Co-Moderator, visiting from Puerto Rico)
- **Rev. Marta Pumroy Cordero** – Current GA Moderator & Tres Rios Border Ministry Coordinator
- **Rev. Libby Janes** – Synod PDA Director, co-leading our weekend mission

FEATURED MISSION PROJECT: NEW PDA COLLECTION SITE

On Saturday, our community will travel to First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring to clear and establish a brand-new Synod of the Sun collection site for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). This fills a massive geographic gap for western presbyteries, making it much easier to supply hygiene kits, cleanup buckets, and relief supplies.

REGISTRATION & HOUSING

- **Deadline:** December 11 (Online registration required for everyone, especially youth)
- **Youth and Sponsor Housing:** Dorm-style housing at Circle 6
- **Adult Options:** Stay overnight in Circle 6 hotel-style rooms for ~$60/night, or join us just for the day on Saturday!

Next Steps to Register:

1. Fill out "The Presbytery of Tres Rios – Registration Form" that includes liability waver, medical info, and covenant.
2. Return it to Theresa Wright (Office Manager) via email (twright@tresrios.org) or mail (1201 Wall Street, Midland, TX 79701).
3. Questions? Call Theresa at (432) 682-5297.

WHAT TO BRING VS. WHAT'S PROVIDED

What to Bring	Provided for You
• Bible, sleeping bag, & pillow	• Dorm lodging & all meals/snacks
• Towel & toiletries	• Programming & leadership
• Weather-appropriate clothing	• Transportation to Big Spring for mission work
• Water bottle/cup with lid	• Work supplies

We can't wait to see what God grows in us this January, rooted together by the stream of grace and love.

TRYC (Tres Rios Youth Connection) Winter Retreat 2027: Rooted

January 8-10*, Circle* 6 *Camp, Stanton, Texas*

Mark your calendars: Tres Rios Youth Connection returns this January with a retreat centered on the theme "Rooted," drawn from Jeremiah 17:7-8: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord...he is like a tree planted by water that sends out its roots by the stream." We're once again grateful to welcome back Rev. Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri, former GA Co-Moderator from Puerto Rico as our keynote speaker. We will also have in attendance this weekend one of the current GA Moderators, Rev. Marta Pumroy Cordero, who also serves as the Boarder Ministry Coordinator of our own Tres Rios Boarder Foundation.

The weekend will carry the rhythms you've come to expect: music, games, small groups, and plenaries woven through Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. But this year, our mission project takes center stage in a new way.

A New Collection Site for PDA

On Saturday, much of our time together will be spent at First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring, where we'll begin clearing out an unused space to become a Synod of the Sun collection site for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Right now, the only other PDA collection site in our synod, which stretches across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, sits at Camp Ferncliff on the far eastern edge in Arkansas. This new site in Big Spring will give churches across our western presbyteries a much closer place to send hygiene kits, cleanup buckets, and other disaster relief supplies.

Our Synod PDA director, Rev. Libby Janes, will be with us all weekend, helping coordinate the mission work and joining in the rest of the TRYC activities as well.

All Are Welcome, Not Just Youth

This year we're hoping to draw more than our usual youth crowd. Adults from Tres Rios and from other presbyteries across the synod are warmly invited to come help launch this new site and take part in the weekend. Youth will stay in our usual dorm-style housing at Circle 6. Adults who'd like to help at the mission site and stay overnight can book one of the hotel-style rooms at Circle 6 retreat center for about $60 a night. Contact Theresa at the presbytery office to make your reservation. You may also just come for the day. If you are not staying at Circle 6, the only payment needed is possibly a donation to help offset the cost of lunch Saturday in Big Spring.

Registration: What's Different This Year

Please take note: all registration, especially for youth, must now be completed online, and it must be done by **December 11.** In past years, group leaders could give us a rough headcount in early December and then bring signed forms with them to the retreat. That won't work this year. There's still a little flexibility for last-minute changes, but youth need to make firmer commitments earlier than before, so please get your students registered well ahead of the deadline.

****Each student and adult sponsor needs to fill out "The Presbytery of Tres Rios – Registration Form" attached as soon as possible and return it to Theresa Wright, Tres Rios Office Manager.** You can mail them or scan and email them to her. **Mail: The Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 Wall Street, Midland, Texas, 79701. Email:** twright@tresrios.org

Theresa is planning to enter all the needed info into the Circle 6 registration site for each person, but is still checking if we can do it that way. Many of the Circle 6 staff has turned over and they now have some new policies in place. We are still working to get their exact needs and timing for these forms communicated to us.

The other forms attached from Tres Rios including the liability/medical release, consent for treatment, publicity release, and youth covenant can be brought when you come.

We can't wait to see what God grows in us this January, rooted together by the stream of grace and love.

What to bring:

Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries, warm and cold weather clothing, spending money.

What we (and/or Cirlce 6) provide:

Dorm-style lodging together (boys in one half of lodge, girls in the other half) all meals, lots of snacks, supplies, transportation to Big Spring for mission work, great leadership and programming

Presbytery of Tres Rios – Registration Form
TRYC Youth Retreat
January 8-10, 2027

Name: _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address: _____ M/F: _____

_____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church: _____ Sponsor Name: _____

Send registration information to Theresa at the presbytery office by December 11, 2026.

Photo Release

I am aware of the fact that photos of myself or my minor may be taken during the week by staff, which may appear. By signing this, I give permission to use these photos.

Release of Liability:

I am aware that during my participation certain risks and dangers may occur. These include the ropes course, paintball and other recreation activities. I do hereby release Tres Rios Presbytery, Circle 6 Retreat Center and/or the sponsors of the trip from any and all liability in the event of sickness or injury during the duration of the event.

In conjunction herewith, I grant to Tres Rios Presbytery and/or the sponsors of the trip, or each of them, the power to authorize any and all medical treatment deemed necessary for my child to include but not be limited to the authorization by said sponsor(s) to the physician of his/her choice for any treatment necessary, to any hospitalization deemed necessary and the power to authorize any procedures necessary to the care of said child to include, but not be limited to any surgical and/or anesthesia procedures. I authorize for a doctor to be called and/or other medical services to be provided at my expense should an emergency arise.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Medical Information

Medical Condition(s) _____

Medication taken _____

Allergies _____

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Medical Insurance _____ Policy # _____

Insurance Phone _____ Policy Holder Name _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Youth Covenant

During each and every youth activity sponsored by Tres Rios Presbytery, participants are required to adhere to these simple steps to enhance the quality of the activity and to build a community characterized by respect, trust, concern, and dignity:

1. I understand the importance of always representing myself and my youth group as ambassadors of the high standards of our faith. I will conduct myself as a representative of my family, church and Christians everywhere. I will lead our group in stellar behavior.
2. I covenant to respect God, respect myself, respect other people, and respect property. I understand that my continued participation in activities depends on my support.
3. I covenant to be responsible to the adults attending on behalf of Tres Rios Presbytery.
4. I covenant to respect those we travel with and the local community by not damaging the bus or any other property.
5. I covenant to respect the privacy of others by not entering into areas assigned to females if I am a male, or areas assigned to males if I am female.
6. I covenant to respect those around me by not engaging in reckless behavior that could cause harm to myself or others.
7. I covenant not to bring fireworks, firearms, illegal drugs, and alcohol or tobacco products.
8. I covenant to abstain from inappropriate sexual behavior toward other participants.

The above agreement has been developed to enhance the quality of the Tres Rios community. Participants accept the responsibilities in this covenant in order to build a community characterized by respect, trust, concern, and dignity.

It is assumed that all participants and their parents/guardians will sign, accept and abide by this covenant. I understand that any failure on my part in abiding by this covenant may result in my being dismissed from the event and returned home at my parent's expense.

_____ Participant Signature

_____ Parent / Guardian Signature

Policy for Volunteers and Paid Staff

1. Retreat is for youth ages 6-12 grades.
2. As often as practicable, two adults will be assigned to supervise or lead all activities involving children or youth.
3. No person will serve as a teacher or volunteer leader of children or youth activities until an information form is submitted and security background checks have been completed.
4. As often as practicable, all teenage workers or volunteers will be supervised by adults.
5. No fewer than two leaders will be required for all trips and outings.
6. To ensure an adequate level of adult leadership, sponsors for retreats must be at least 21 years of age.
7. To ensure an adequate level of supervision, each group must have one adult sponsor for every six youth. Also each group must have sponsors for both male and female youth, regardless of how many youth in the group. (i.e. if your group has three girls and two boys for the total of five campers, you must have at least two sponsors, one male and one female.) In the event that you do not have the required number of sponsors, it may be possible to combine with another group, as long as arrangements are made before the retreat.
8. Private one-on-one contact between adults and children under the age of 18, and between minors is not permitted. If a personal conference between an adult and child is required, the meeting shall take place in view of other teachers or volunteers.
9. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes or taking showers on church trips and retreats. Adults should intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. They should also protect their own privacy in similar situations.
10. On trips and presbytery outings adults are not permitted to sleep in the same bed with youth, other than their own child.
11. Appropriate clothing for children, youth and leaders, as determined by the Event Leader, is required for all activities.
12. Discipline used in activities should be constructive and reflect Christian values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
13. Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any activity.
14. Written parental or guardian permission is required for all overnight outings and trips.

Two Adult Rule

In so much as possible, it is our goal that a minimum of two unrelated adult workers will be in attendance at all times when children are being supervised during our programs, activities and travel to and from events. Some youth classes may have only one adult teacher in attendance during the class session; in these instances, doors to the classroom should remain open and there should be no fewer than three students with the adult teacher. We do not allow minors to be alone with one adult on our premises or in any sponsored activity unless in a counseling situation.

Keynote:





Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri. Vilmarie is an educator, Presbyterian ruling elder, and a Global Ecumenical Liaison with the Presbyterian Church (USA) national office. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she has dedicated most of her adult life to education and training in Puerto Rico and Miami, Florida. She holds a BA in Education and a master's degree in Curriculum and Teaching. Vilmarie has served the PC(USA) at all levels of denomination in various local and church-wide groups and committees. Along with the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, she served as Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (USA}, the highest elected position in the denomination. Vilmarie was the first Hispanic Latina and first Puerto Rican person to be elected to this office. A few years ago, began exploring art as a form of prayer, and since 2020, watercolor painting has become a preferred prayer practice. You'll often find her with a watercolor kit and a journal, enjoying a good cup of Puerto Rican coffee with her husband of 28 years, Jose Manuel.