



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – October 27, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

I invite you to respond to the appeal and call of 221st General Assembly Moderator, Heath Rada, for a national conversation on the “*State of the Church – Who and what we need to be as a denomination and who God is calling us to be?*” Below is the formal letter from Moderator Heath Rada inviting us into the dialogue. Here are some important links:

- to watch the presentation the Moderator made to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) [click here](#) – This is an honest, forthright, compelling and timely presentation - for which I am grateful!
- to participate in an online form/survey sharing your perspectives on the PCUSA - [click here](#).
- to “Join the Conversation” via a conference call with the G.A. Moderator or Vice-Moderator – [click here](#). The calls will be on: Friday, October 30, 10–11 a.m. (EDT); Wednesday, November 4, 3–4 p.m. (EST); Monday, November 9, 8–9 p.m. (EST)--- Use call in [\(800\) 231-0316](#),
- to download the study guide for the phone conversations – [click here](#).

Additionally, if you want to share your thoughts with me, about our national church or Peace River Presbytery, I would love to hear from you ([click here](#)), as well as encourage you to share your ideas through the conversations and surveys that will be occurring.

I am grateful for this effort and for the leadership of Moderator Rada to help us find a vehicle to talk about our life together as a national church called the PCUSA.

With gratitude that I, along with you, have been called to serve in this church, even as I am grateful that we can have a long overdue conversation on what God is calling and wanting us to be as the PCUSA!

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org



Dear members and friends of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),

Recently I issued a call to our denomination about issues that have been raised with me since my election as Moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014) in June of 2014. There is widespread concern, shared by many places in our church that our denomination is in significant need of refinement. A number of people believe that we have been trying to operate as we did in the past when our membership was many times greater and our resources reflected those numbers. But even more importantly, I hear and believe that God's Spirit is calling us to be a new church in the 21st century.

So what do we do? How do we proceed as faithful servants?

We need you to share your thinking and discernment with the broader church. My Call to the Church has been received by many as a catalyst to help us move forward. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) has been engaged in a conversation for a long time about what is needed to make a difference, and they are taking the unprecedented step of developing a system to gather, assimilate, and convey to the church a process for listening to your call for a new day. They are also seriously considering committing part of next June's assembly in Portland to help us make some decisions. The NEXT Church and the Presbyterian Mission Agency also are doing survey work to determine future directions. Accompanying this letter is the COGA initiative to hear from the denomination.

In order to emerge as a healthy, vital denomination we need to hear from you concerning your own hopes, visions, and concerns about the PC(USA). Each congregation, each organization, each presbytery, each advocacy group, each individual member is critical to providing the kind of input that can help us deal with the realities we are facing in ways that might enable us to restore trust, be transparent, and most of all be faithful to the Lord and Savior we all adore and whom we wish to serve.

Do not respond just one time. If you are on a session, or a committee, or in a group that is different from your local church, fill out one of these forms there too. As an individual, do the same while also participating in your presbytery's response or some other group. Because we will be coordinating the information rather than merely quantifying it, it does not skew the responses if you have input in a number of different ways. In fact, the more our voices are heard the better will be our understanding of reality as we offer information so commissioners can make responsible decisions.

Please trust the process one more time. Please participate. If you don't, we may not hear some very important facts or opinions that need to be placed on the table. Many people feel that God is giving us a Kairos moment. But it is up to us to accept it and do something with it.

My Call to the Church is [on video](#) and [in print](#). Our moment in time is now. We do not have the luxury to discern and debate these matters for years. Our membership and our world are saying we need to get our act together in new and important ways right now.

I have more hope and faith than I ever have that God is leading our church. God is calling the church to be a community formed, shaped, and led by the Risen Christ. You are key in helping us decide how that can happen. With God's help we have the opportunity to be a witness and force for Jesus Christ in ways beyond our imagination.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for participating, and please join me in intentional prayer as we seek God's will and guidance through these critical endeavors.

With gratitude for your love of the church,
Heath

Heath K. Rada
Moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014)

STATED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Thursday, November 19

Hosted by: Community Presbyterian Church

405 S. McCall Road | Englewood, 34223

Key Note Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA
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8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins

\* 9:00 a.m. ~ Finance Forum\* with the Presbytery's Board of Trustees and Treasurer

9:30 a.m. ~ Stated Meeting Begins  
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**** Lunch Reservations are required NO LATER than Friday, November 13.**

\$10.00 per person, payable at registration, covers lunch and morning refreshments.

Submit reservations to Lori Doyal, lori@peacriverpresbytery.org or 941-426-8421

Include the name for each reservation, church, and a contact phone number or email.
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\*All are invited to this forum and are welcome to ask questions about the Presbytery's budget and finances.

### **Articles of Interest:**

[Who won? Who lost? 5 points on the contentious Vatican summit](#)

Religion News Service: While the delegates made hundreds of suggestions on a host of issues, two took center stage, in part because they represented a barometer for the whole question of change: Could the church be more welcoming to gays, and was there a way divorced and remarried Catholics could receive Communion without an annulment?

The Guardian: [Pope Francis warns Catholic bishops against sticking too rigidly to doctrine](#)

America magazine: [The Pope's strong words for those who seek to block change in the church](#)

[From myths to ministry](#)

The Lutheran: Here are five myths about young adults and giving, and suggested ways to engage in ministry with them.

[‘Disruptive innovation’ theory comes under scrutiny](#)

The Boston Globe: Some of Clay Christensen’s findings and conclusions have been questioned in both popular and academic publications, most recently the MIT Sloan Management Review.

[A ‘family-friendly’ shift in debate over work-life balance](#)

NPR: This past week, two of this country’s most powerful men -- who work in a city where power is everything and work is king -- both made career decisions with personal and family needs at the center.

[Religion and science](#)

Pew Research Center: Highly religious Americans are less likely than others to see conflict between faith and science.

[Are smartphones making Christianity too convenient?](#)

Christianity Today’s Hermeneutics: Innovation has come through again and again on its promise to make our lives more efficient. But with our high-tech expectations, has convenience become an idol?

[How friendships change in adulthood](#)

The Atlantic: The voluntary nature of friendship makes it subject to life’s whims in a way more formal relationships aren’t. In adulthood, as people grow up and go away, friendships are the relationships most likely to take a hit.

[Don’t believe the hype about finding ‘one cool trick’ to productivity](#)

The Chronicle of Higher Education’s Vitae: Except believe this one: Limit the number of things you have “in flight” at any given moment.



**To all Pastors, Retired Pastors, Teaching Elders, and Treasurers and Business Managers:**

Dear colleagues in ministry and service,

Greetings! I hope this message finds each of you doing well and in good spirits.

Board University – the educational program of the Board of Pensions – is pleased to partner with Peace River Presbytery to offer three of our education seminars at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church (Sarasota, FL) in mid-January 2016:

January 12-13: Growing Into Tomorrow...Today (pre-retirement planning for lay and clergy members)

January 14: Render Unto Caesar (terms of call and clergy tax issues for treasurers and administrators, and active clergy)

January 15: Post-Retirement Seminar (retirement living matters for lay and clergy retirees and surviving covered partners)

**We opened registration for the seminars on our website today.** If you have any general questions or concerns about the seminars, please feel free to contact [Board University](#). For registration assistance, individuals may call the Board weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., ET, and speak with the first available service representative at 800-PRESPLAN ([800-773-7752](tel:800-773-7752)).

Blessings and peace,

**Nadine L. Monn | Design Specialist**

Organizational Training & Development

**The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** | 2000 Market St., 4th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298

**P:** [800-773-7752](tel:800-773-7752), ext. 7457 / [215-587-7457](tel:215-587-7457) | **F:** [215-587-7129](tel:215-587-7129) | [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

**Also from the Board of Pensions - Check Your Benefits Coverage**

Annual enrollment, **now through November 13**, is the chance for employees to review, choose, and change benefits coverage. During this time, employees may:

- change their level of medical coverage;
- enroll in or make changes to dental coverage; and
- apply for or change supplemental death benefits coverage.

Annual enrollment is the only time employees can enroll for, or make changes to, these benefits for 2016, unless they experience a qualifying life event during the year (such as marriage or the birth of a child). It's also a good time for employees to review their savings and investments in the Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (RSP) in preparation for a secure retirement.

**Look for the annual enrollment postcard in your mail soon, and visit [pensions.org/annualenrollment](http://pensions.org/annualenrollment) for additional information.**

**BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

**Beth-El Food Pantry** has an immediate need for canned goods, rice and pinto beans. Our regular deliveries have been down and the pantry is practically bare. If you can help, please call the mission at 813-633-1548 ext. 228.

iGracias!

*Kathy*

Kathleen Dain, Executive Director

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www.beth-el.org

[October Newsletter](#)

[Adopt A Family 2015 Program](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.

www.cedarkirk.org

Cedarkirk Youth Retreat

Calling all youth groups! On November 13th-15th, Cedarkirk is offering a new youth event called Fusion designed for both middle school and high school groups. Rev. Loli Reiter will be our keynote speaker and preacher as we explore how we can live boldly for God. You can find out more and even register your group at

www.cedarkirk.org/programs/youthretreat/.

Employment Opportunities at Cedarkirk

Cedarkirk is currently seeking to fill a variety of positions (part-time kitchen and housekeeping roles and a full-time Capital Campaign Director). Please visit www.cedarkirk.org/who-we-are/employment/ for more information.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

The Mision Peniel Task Force continues to meet and build the support and structure for continuing this vital ministry. If you want to make a donation to support this recovery effort you may send the check (marked *Mision Peniel*) to:
Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL. 34287

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Wednesday, November 18 ~ Three Locations

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA

[Informational Brochure with Times and Locations](#)

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Thursday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. ~ Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

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Saturday, January 23 ~ Church of the Palms

[The Soul of Caregivers: Nurturing and Reorienting Our Lives](#)

with Rev. Marjorie Thompson

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.
Click on the title for more information.

[Communications Coordinator](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please continue to pray for:

- Jim Beckwith - health
- Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller – healing of broken arm.
- Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner – recovery from hip revision surgery.
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues.
- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Lives in Arkansas.
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list. Greg is also diabetic and underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery in June 2013.
- Glenn Beisser (father of Rev. Devon Beisser Ducheneau, Stated Supply Pastor for Wintergarden P.C.) – lung cancer and heart issues

- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Misión Peniel
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh
- Pastors and Educators in transition
- Nations in crisis

CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: NOVEMBER 2015:

November 1	<u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger email: covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
November 8	<u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins email: pastork@comcast.net
November 15	<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris email: jjn7416@gmail.com
November 22	<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins email: cjw049@gmail.com
November 29	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig email: cromig@venicepresbyterian.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Lyn Olson Email: lolson@venicepresbyterian.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Todd Reinschmidt Email: treinschmidt@venicepresbyterian.org

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2015

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org

October 29

Nominations / Representation Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Steering Committee (1:30 p.m.)

November 2

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

November 5

Board of Trustees / Finance Team (9:30 a.m.)

November 10

Committee On Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

November 11

Committee On Preparation For Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

November 18

Regional Meetings with Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell

November 19

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

November 25-27

Presbytery Office Closed

November 26

Thanksgiving



CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

(click on church name to link to its web site)

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto – office@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

<u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Church of the Palms,</u> Sarasota
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota
<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Presbyterian Church of the</u> <u>Covenant,</u> Sarasota
<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u> Sarasota
<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice
<u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u> Englewood	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Arcadia
<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u> North Port	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u>	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Port Charlotte
<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> North Fort Myers	
<u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u> Cape Coral	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Lehigh Acres
<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u> Fort Myers	<u>Chapel by the Sea,</u> Fort Myers Beach
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Bonita Springs	
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples

[Moorings Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples

[Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples