



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – February 4, 2016  
Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

## 2016 Goals and Trends and Roadblocks Part II - 2016 Trends

So what will 2016 bring? Are we ready?

In the Pastoral Letter the first week of January some of the potential roadblocks to the health and ministry of a congregation ([click here for link](#)) in this coming year were lifted up. Several of you sent some fascinating responses. Thanks!

Today, in Part II – “2016 Trends”, we will look at the issues and challenges that the following pastors, authors, consultants, or religious journals believe the church must face and address in the coming year. Without editing or commenting, the following is a summary of what each of them see. I would love to hear, as well as post, what you see. What is it that we (i.e. your congregation, Peace River Presbytery, the PCUSA, or the church ecumenical) would be well and wise to address in 2016? ([click here to send me your reflections](#))



**Thom Rainer, Lifeway Church Consultant, and Director of Christian Resources, identified 16 trends for 2016.** ([Click here for fuller detail on each of the 16 trends](#)) ([Click here for a podcast](#))

- Church security as the fastest growing ministry.
- Decrease in worship center size and capacity.
- Increase in successfully revitalized churches.
- Rapid growth of coaching ministries for pastors and church staff.
- Increase in the numbers of churches in gentrified communities.
- Increased emphasis on practical ministry training.
- Increasing emphasis on groups in churches.

Fewer segregated churches.

The rise of the mini-denomination church.

Increased pastoral tenure.

Rise of alternative ministry placement organizations.

Increase in the number of Millennials who are Christians.

Accelerated decline of 100,000 American congregations.

Churches no longer viewed favorably by many governmental units.

More bivocational pastors and staff.

Dramatic changes in senior adult ministries.

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**From the perspective of the magazine, The Christian Century, here are “Eleven Critical Factors/Issues for Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Each of these is an article that appeared in the magazine. ([click here for link](#)) (or click on each title below to link that that particular article.)**

[Cultivating a holy imagination](#)

[Fusing justice and holiness](#)

[Urban experiments](#)

[Training in Jesus’ way](#)

[A foundation for relationships](#)

[Pastor as witness](#)

[Faithful reinvention](#)

[Organizing for communion](#)

[Entrepreneurial idealism](#)

[Bearing testimony](#)

[Deeper history](#)

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**Heath Rada, PC(USA) Moderator issues “nine challenges to Presbyterians for the coming year.”** He was appealing to the church to: HOPE, STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS AND LISTEN. To read a transcript of his appeal - [Click Here](#) -

**In a fascinating conversation on the weekly NPR Broadcast “Religion and Ethics”, three journalists discuss the top religion stories they will be keeping an eye on in 2016. This list is a summary, quoting from this broadcast, of the issues they think will be impactful for religion in 2016:**

- “Black lives matter will continue to gain a force. I don’t see the youth of today stepping back from taking up the challenges of creating a better society.”
- “The terrorism issue and then the blowback or fallout related to civil liberties, Muslims, immigration and refugees.”
- “The Syrian refugee crisis and how we can balance the nation’s concern for safety with what we feel is our call to be compassionate to our neighbor and to care for everyone.”
- “The marriage debate—what is the nature of marriage? And how that unfolds in the various American denominations.”
- “The Israel and Palestine conflict and the feeling that solutions seem farther and farther away rather than closer.”
- “What’s going to happen to persecuted religious minorities around the world?”
- “Are religious communities and their traditions going to be mobilized for good or for evil? And how do we participate in the movement for good?”
- The Presidential election and civil conversation and the church’s place.

[\(Click here for the podcast as well as link to the transcript\)](#)

**Author and pastor Tim Keller has identified the following “Big Issues Facing the Western Church in 2016 ([click here for details](#)):**

**The opportunity for extensive culture making in the U.S.**

**The rise of Islam**

**The new non-Western Global Christianity**

**The growing cultural remoteness of the gospel**

**The end of prosperity?**

**In a new book, *The Future of Our Faith*, two leaders forty years apart in age discuss some of the biggest issues challenging Christianity today and into the future.** The chapter headings speak for themselves as to issues these 2 church leaders believe the church needs to address in the coming years:

Part 1: Why This Conversation

Will You Remember Evangelism?

Will You Reaffirm Truth as You Learn from Postmodernism?

Will You Keep Your Marriage Vows Better Than My Generation?

Will You Lead the Church to a Better Stance on Homosexuality?

Part 2:

Will We Live More Like Jesus?

Will We Renew Our Political Witness?

Will We Reconcile Our Divisions Better?

Will We Recover Our Responsibility for God's Creation?

Conclusion: Jesus at the Center

So what do you see? And how is God calling and sending us to live in this exciting moment with all the challenges and possibilities that 2016 will bring?

So as we look ahead, in good Reformed fashion, I am...

*Grateful to our God...*

*Who is the Wind in our Sails...*

*and the Rudder to Guide us along the Way!*

*Graham*

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

Peace River Presbytery

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## **THANK YOU!**

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers,  
for hosting the January 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Presbytery.  
Your volunteers and staff were gracious, helpful, and hospitable,  
and helped to make a very rainy day enjoyable!

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

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

Summer will be here before you know it! Beth-El has numerous mission opportunities for adults and youth. From leading Vacation Bible School, to work groups helping out in our community, to scholarships for kids to go to camp at Cedarkirk, there are many ways your church can help support this valuable mission. Call Javier today at 813-633-1548 ext. 228, or email him at [Javier@beth-el.org](mailto:Javier@beth-el.org) to learn more.

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[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)  
[February Newsletter](#)

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

### **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/](http://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](#))

## **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

NPR: ['I'm not electing a pastor in chief' -- How Iowa's evangelicals are deciding](#)

['I'm gay and I'm a priest, period.'](#)

Washington Post: At a time when the phrase "coming out" is starting to sound almost quaint, the Catholic priesthood may be one of the last remaining closets -- and it's a crowded one.

[In Iowa, campaign season finds Muslims caught in a harsh spotlight](#)

NPR: Amid a political climate in which presidential candidate Donald Trump has said that Muslims should be temporarily barred from entering the country, Cedar Rapids imam offers some sobering advice to his congregation.

[Israel approves mixed-gender Jewish prayer site at Western Wall](#)

Reuters: The Israeli government approved the creation of a mixed-gender plaza at Jerusalem's Western Wall to accommodate Jews who contest Orthodox curbs on worship by women there.

[7 things your pastor might be too scared to admit \(link is external\)](#)

Christian Today: Here are seven things your pastor might be too scared to admit, but really wants to tell you.

[Pope Francis: World's powerful are 'slaves to sin' who risk hell by ignoring the poor \(link is external\)](#)

Religion News Service: Pope Francis is taking direct aim at the wealthy and powerful of the world in his message for Lent.

[Along the edges of faith: the many sectors of American chaplains \(link is external\)](#)

Religion & Politics: It's unclear that the many types of chaplains share much beyond the title. But they might do their best work as people who care and can go between multiple constituencies, facilitating understanding and, in some cases, even hope.

[From the collection basket to the bank: Lax practices mean lost money \(link is external\)](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Sin and the Trinity are two elementary points of Catholic theology in the work of Michael W. Ryan, a retired U.S. Postal security specialist, who has spent more than two decades alerting church authorities to fixing accounting lapses in parish collections.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Employment Positions](#) – Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach

[Part-Time Bookkeeper / Accounting Clerk](#) – Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

## **PRAYER NEEDS:**

### **Please continue to pray for:**

- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – the mission's bus was stolen and their van vandalized. The bus was recovered, but the mission is relying on rentals while both vehicles are in the shop for repairs.
- The family of Ron Slagle – cousin of Wayne Blaser's (former pastor of First, Bradenton) wife – passed away this week.
- 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
- 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

**CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: FEBRUARY 2016:**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 7  | <u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody<br>email: <a href="mailto:bpcpastor@comcast.net">bpcpastor@comcast.net</a>                   |
| February 14 | <u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jdeyoe@covpccfm.com">jdeyoe@covpccfm.com</a>                          |
| February 21 | <u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell<br>Email: <a href="mailto:clint@clpc.us">clint@clpc.us</a>                              |
| February 28 | <u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris<br>email: <a href="mailto:hopechurch@hopeunitedchurch.net">hopechurch@hopeunitedchurch.net</a> |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2016**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

**February 1**

Planning Committee

**February 9**

Committee On Ministry

**February 11**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

**February 14**

Installation Service for Rev. Craig Goodrich  
(at First P.C., Naples)

**February 17**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry

**February 18**

Steering Committee

**February 21**

Installation Service for Rev. Jaci Smith Patman  
(at The Moorings P.C., Naples)

**February 25**

Mision Peniel Task Force  
(at Covenant Presbyterian Church)



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

|                                                                |                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                            |
| <a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton     | <a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                       |
| <a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton  | Palmetto Presbyterian Church,<br>Palmetto – <a href="mailto:office@ppcfl.org">office@ppcfl.org</a> |
| <a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a><br>Longboat Key  | <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lakewood Ranch                                       |
| <a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota     | <a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a><br>Sarasota                                                   |

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



