



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – June 7, 2016 Rev. Graham P. Hart – General Presbyter

Speaking from the Hart – The 222nd General Assembly: Helpful Tools, and an Overview

Note - included in this email are links to all committees and major reports.

In 10 days (June 18-25), the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. will be meeting in Portland, Oregon. Commissioners (7 from Peace River) and advisory delegates from all 171 PC(USA) presbyteries, along with other participants and observers from around the world, will gather at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) in downtown Portland for celebrations, deliberations, prayer and inspiration. The theme of this General Assembly is, “The Hope in Our Calling”, from Ephesians 1:18.



At the April 28th Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery, our General Assembly commissioners were commissioned. Please pray for them:

Teaching Elders:

- Hmingi Browne, Church of the Palms, Sarasota
- Christopher Carlson, Northminster, Sarasota
- India Dennis, Palma Sola, Bradenton

Ruling Elders:

- Claudia George, Pine Shores, Sarasota
- Jerry Fox, Christ Church, Longboat Key
- Lil Rea, Hope United, Fort Myers

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

- Rebecca Deibert, Peace, Lakewood Ranch

In our respective roles as General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Randy and I attend, as do others in the same roles from other presbyteries. We are there as observers of the process, so we can:

- interpret the actions of each Assembly,
- support our commissioners (i.e. on occasion we have assisted our commissioners with medical or personal emergencies),


- be available to our commissioners if they have questions about the background for some of the issues with which they are deliberating,
- help them with process issues related to how the Assembly does its work,
- act as prayer partners in the Assembly's discernment process.

However, we do not advise or instruct any commissioners. As is always the case for any church council (i.e. session or presbytery), each commissioner must seek the will of Christ as the act on their conscience and conviction.

We also spend time networking with others in our roles, as well as learning of new programs and resources that may be available to our presbytery.



Helpful Tools – In order to reduce some of the complexity, and make it easier for you to understand the issues, our polity and processes, I have included the following links.

- So... what is a General Assembly ([click here](#))
- Home page of the Office of General Assembly – ([click here](#))
- PCbiz – follow the business of GA, docket and work of each committee – ([click here](#)).
- [live streaming \(click here\)](#) – on the home page of GA – opening worship can be viewed here at 2:00pm June 19, 2016
- Social media – [follow GA on Facebook](#) - 
- [Litany for the Opening Worship Service](#) –
- [Booklet containing the information for all the worship services including Opening Worship](#)
- <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/liturgy-opening-worship-ga222/>

There will be 14 assembly committees this year. Click on the name of the committee (when available) to read a press release giving an overview of their work; and click on the second hyperlink to go to PCbiz to view all items of business that this particular committee will address and need to take some action.

- 1 - Business Referrals ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 2 - Bill and Overtures ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 3 - [GA procedures](#) – ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 4 - [The Way Forward](#) - [Preview](#) - (click here for business coming before this committee) ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 5 - [Mid Councils](#) - ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 6 - [Church polity/ordered ministry](#) ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 7 - [Ecumenical and interfaith relations](#) -[Preview](#) - ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 8 - [Middle East issues](#) - ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 9 - [Immigration/environmental issues](#) - ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 10 - [Mission coordination](#) - ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 11 - [Social justice issues](#)- ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 12 - [Peacemaking and international issues](#) ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 13 - Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing House, Presbyterian Foundation ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)
- 14 - [Theological and church growth issues and institutions](#) - ([click here](#) for business coming before this committee)

Happy reading as you follow some of these links and the work of the 222nd General Assembly.

I offer a final scriptural affirmation as the PCUSA get ready for this biennial family conversation and gathering. This is from the Apostle Pauls' letter to the church of Ephesus which is where the scripture passage that is the theme of the 222nd GA is found.

*¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[e] toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, **you may know what is the hope to which he has called you**, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^[i] put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

Grateful to our God...

**Who is the wind in our sails
and the rudder to guide us along the Way!**

Graham Hart
General Presbyter
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

*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 to learn more.

*Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is planning its 40th anniversary celebration for the week of November 5th-6th. In preparation, we are seeking individuals willing to donate their air miles to help support national speakers who will be traveling to Beth-El to speak at the event. For more information, or to donate, please contact Kathy Dain at 813-633-1548.

Kathy

Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

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

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

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

**Summer is here!** This summer's theme, FEARLESS FAITH, will help campers focus on how they become part of, gain support from, and build their own Christ-centered communities. By looking at leaders from the Bible who used communities given to them by God, campers will be empowered to draw courage from friends, family, and community, stand up to injustice and help change attitudes, forgive others, and connect to and welcome all people. Please help

Cedarkirk by letting the children and youth of your church or community know about the unique opportunities available this summer. We are also looking for volunteer nurses and worship leaders for the week-long sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

## MISION PENIEL

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

The Mision Peniel Team 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 that have come across my desk or been sent to me (Graham):

### [Letting go of the illusion of superhero pastor](#)

Baptist News Global: Two months after making a spreadsheet for a cost analysis of commercial rolls of toilet paper and paper towels, Elizabeth Mangham has let go of the illusion of being a superhero pastor.

### [Evangelicals must not bear the mark of Trump](#)

The Washington Post: Evangelical Christians are not merely choosing a certain political outcome. They are determining their public character, Michael Gerson says.

### [The radical theology that could make religious freedom a thing of the past](#)

Texas Observer: Though it's seldom mentioned by name, it's one of the major forces in Texas politics today: dominion theology, or dominionism.

### [3 church methods that need to change](#)

Christianity Today: In light of modern cultural realities, Ed Stetzer offers three methodological shifts churches should consider to more effectively make disciples and reach our communities.

### [It's not every young person's dream, but I plan to be a vicar](#)

The (London) Guardian: Statistics about the aging crisis in the Anglican church don't tell the whole story, says Simon Watkinson, one of many younger people keen to join the ministry.

### [Seminaries squeezed](#)

Inside Higher Ed: Mainline Protestant theological schools are exploring mergers and campus sales as they feel a prolonged enrollment and financial pinch, but experts see smaller institutions bubbling up under different faiths.

### [Pope Francis insists that 'greater politics' is realm of the Church](#)

Crux: Defying those who claim politics is not the province of the Church, Pope Francis on Friday said that the institution has "the duty to get involved with the 'greater' politics."

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Pastoral Intern – Overview](#) – [Position Description](#) – Siesta Key Chapel
- [Finance Secretary \(part time\)](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

## PRAYER NEEDS:

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Will & Hmingi Browne – loss of Will’s sister two weeks ago, in Seattle, WA.
- Bill Setchel (former Financial Secretary for PRP) – loss of his mother, Virginia Setchel, on May 18.
- Jim & Becky Beckwith - health
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- 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: JUNE 2016:**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 5  | <u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart<br>email: <a href="mailto:sunburn1320@mac.com">sunburn1320@mac.com</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Cassie Todd<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastorcassie@bspconline.org">pastorcassie@bspconline.org</a>                            |
| June 12 | <u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Karl Kling<br>email: <a href="mailto:KarlKlingdmin@gmail.com">KarlKlingdmin@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
| June 19 | <u>Church of the Palms, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen McConnell<br>email: <a href="mailto:smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org">smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hmingi Browne<br>email: <a href="mailto:hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org">hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org</a>     |
| June 26 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell<br>email: <a href="mailto:GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org">GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org</a><br>Interim Associate Pastor: Rev. Margaret Torrence<br>Email: <a href="mailto:MTorrence@FirstPresSarasota.org">MTorrence@FirstPresSarasota.org</a> |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 2016**

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

**June 8**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

**June 9**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Congregation & Community Blessing Grants Initiative (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Church Vitality and Growth Team (3:00-4:45 p.m.)

**June 14**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)

**June 15**

Cuba Partnership Team (time TBD)

**June 18-25**

222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (in Portland, OR)

**June 20**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

**June 23**

Committee on Ministry Records Review Subcommittee (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)



**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> |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u></a><br>Longboat Key                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Peace Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lakewood Ranch                            |
| <a href="#"><u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                      | <a href="#"><u>Church of the Palms,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                        |
| <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,</u></a> Sarasota |
| <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 |