



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – June 21, 2016  
Rev. Graham P. Hart, General Presbyter

## Speaking from the Hart – The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly: In Action from Portland

The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly has begun. So far the commissioners and advisory delegates (as well as the several thousands of other participants and guests) have gathered for worship, elected moderators, gotten organized, had the opportunity to meet Presbyterians from around the country, heard of the work of the church around the world, worshipped on Sunday in Presbyterian Congregations around the Portland area, and begun their work in one of 14 committees.

Each commissioner, months before the Assembly began, was assigned to a committee. For the past several months, commissioners have been at work reading up on the issues and overtures that have been assigned to their committee. In the first four days of the Assembly, most of the work of the assembly is being done in committee. On Wednesday afternoon the Assembly will reconvene in Plenary Sessions to begin their deliberations. This year the Plenary Sessions of the General Assembly will be available to watch via live-streaming ([click here](#) or the logo below). Also, if you want to get some of the news updates from the Assembly ([click here](#)).



While serving as a commissioner is an honor, it is also a lot of work, as they are discovering this week. Please pray for all the commissioners and especially those from Peace River.

### 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, LBK  
Lil Rea, Hope United, Fort Myers

### Young Adult Advisory Delegate

Rebecca Deibert, Peace, Lakewood Ranch

## Helpful Links –

- Up to the minute news and Press Releases from the 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 of the Plenary Session \(click here\)](#)
- Social media – [follow GA on Facebook](#) - 
- [Booklet containing the information for all the worship services including Opening Worship](#)



Below is the list of the committees, and if you click on the link it will take you to PCbiz and you can view both the business coming before this committee and any actions or recommendation they are making:

- Business Referrals ([click here](#))
- Bill and Overtures ([click here](#))
- GA procedures – ([click here](#))
- The Way Forward ([click here](#))
- Mid Councils - ([click here](#))
- Church polity/ordered ministry ([click here](#))
- Ecumenical and interfaith relations - ([click here](#))
- Middle East issues - ([click here](#))
- Immigration/environmental issues - ([click here](#))
- Mission coordination - ([click here](#))
- Social justice issues- ([click here](#))
- Peacemaking and international issues ([click here](#))
- Board of Pension, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing house, Presbyterian Foundation ([click here](#))
- Theological and church growth issues and institutions - ([click here](#))

***As always, you and I may not agree with every action of this Assembly (or session or presbytery), but...***

- ***I am grateful for witness we as Presbyterians have had in our country since our nation's founding,***
- ***I am thankful for our Presbyterian Polity and the deliberate -discerning process whereby ruling and teaching elders from our congregations and presbyteries across the country seek the will of Christ,***
- ***I deeply appreciate all the commissioners and especially Hmingi, Chris, India, Claudia, Jerry, Lil, and Rebecca;***
- ***and I am grateful for the Hope to which we have been Called (which is the theme of the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly).***

*Graham Hart*

General Presbyter

[graham@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:graham@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

## Articles of Interest:

[A year after the Charleston church shooting, what has changed?](#)

Religion News Service: In the wake of the shooting at Emanuel, congregations in the AME and other black churches have ratcheted up security and much has changed in Charleston and South Carolina.

[Southern Baptists decline as Assemblies of God grow](#)

Religion News Service: The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant denomination in the country, but it continues to lose members and baptize fewer people each year.

[How to talk to "Nones" and influence people: Rob Bell's transrational experience](#)

Religion Dispatches: Whether lectures or workshops or books, it's all part of the Rob Bell Experience.

[Methodist General Conference has lessons for Christianity's other branches](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Now that a bit of time has passed since the end of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, it's worth the time of both Protestants and Catholics to ponder what happened there, Bill Tammeus says.

[Archbishop of Canterbury: To understand the world, we must understand religion](#)

Christian Today: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby says religion needs to be seen as more than "an exercise in private piety" that needs to be covered by organizations such as the BBC in order to keep some strange people happy.

**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](mailto: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](#))

## 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:**

- Amy Dunn (daughter of Joyce Dunn, Administrator of St. Paul’s Presbyterian) – 38 years old; in Hospice care in Port Charlotte with stage 4 cancer; 3 children
- Joyce Geary (member of Committee on Ministry) – loss of her father on June 9.
- 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>                                                                                                                            |

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|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 18-25**

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

**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> |
| <a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a><br>Longboat Key  | <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</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                                     |

[Moorings Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples

[Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples