



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – June 29, 2016 Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk of Peace River Presbytery

222nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met June 18-25 in Portland, OR, including 594 Commissioners, 141 Young Adult Advisory Delegates, 20 Theological Student Advisory Delegates, 8 Missionary Advisory Delegates, and 14 Ecumenical Advisory Delegates, plus Mid-Council Staff Members from the 171 presbyteries and hundreds of additional observers, to do the business of our denomination of more than one and a half million members. Peace River Presbytery participants at GA this year were Jeff DeYoe, Bill Teng, Gene & Claudia George, Jerry Fox, India Dennis, Lil Rea, Hmingi & Will Browne, Chris Carlson, Rebecca Deibert, Jack Haberer, Graham Hart, and Randy Moody. Highlights of the GA are listed in the following paragraphs.

Saturday: The Opening Worship featured organ, piano, hand bell choir and a combined choir from the host presbytery congregations in addition to a praise band. We remembered our Baptism, we called for Grace and Reconciliation, and we celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Worship is the highlight of General Assembly! In the evening session, Co-Moderators were elected for the first time in the history of the PCUSA: Jan Edmiston (Teaching Elder, Chicago Presbytery) and Denise Anderson (Teaching Elder, National Capital Presbytery).

Sunday: Transportation to area PCUSA congregations for worship was provided. The afternoon plenary session received the report of Stated Clerk Nominating Committee, during which J. Herbert Nelson (Teaching Elder, Mid-South) and Dave Baker (Teaching Elder, Tampa Bay) were nominated. The GA committees began their deliberations in the evening and concluded their work Tuesday.

Monday and Tuesday began with Bible study in each committee and the work of the committees continued morning, afternoon, and night each day!

Wednesday: Committees began reporting back to the plenary sessions. Leanne Van Dyk was confirmed as President of Columbia Theological Seminary and David Esterline as President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Referred an amendment to the Directory for Worship for a vote by the presbyteries to make the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper more welcoming. A revised Directory for Worship in the Book of Order was referred to the presbyteries for a vote; it may be accessed here: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000018> The revised Directory for Worship began in 2006 and was referred by the 221st General Assembly in 2014 for study and comment leading to the current proposal. Approved the Belhar Confession to be added to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, Part 1, The Book of Confessions; this was the final step, having been approved by the 221st General Assembly and two-thirds of the presbyteries, so it is now a part of our Constitution. After approving the Presbyterian Church (USA) Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures, a public apology was made on behalf of the denomination by Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons to Teaching Elder Kris Schondelmeyer for the sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of a Lay Pastor in 2001 on a youth trip.

Thursday: Affirmed the work of the Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and the Presbyterian Foundation. Alice Ridgill preached a wonderful sermon titled "Difference Makers", encouraging everyone, even those from different theological perspectives, to align our passion for serving God together; during the worship the Memorial Roll of Teaching Elders who graduated this life since the last General Assembly was displayed. The GA Commissioned 9 Mission Co-Workers for work around the globe; thanked 11 retiring Mission Co-Workers who offered 358 years total service. GA also recognized 85 Young Adult Volunteer Program

participants who dedicated a year of their lives to mission work. A 2020 Vision Team was established and charged to develop a guiding statement for the denomination to help us name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future. Also, a Way Forward Commission was established to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC (USA).

Friday: The General Assembly elected J. Herbert Nelson to a four year term as Stated Clerk. The worship this day focused on being reconciled to God. Created a Task Force to revise the Rules of Discipline in the Book of Order. Called for the protection of children in Israel and Palestine and reaffirmed the PC(USA) position encouraging a two state solution. GA requested the Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, and the Presbyterian Foundation to invest in potentially profitable alternative energy companies diversifying their energy investments as well as directing MRTI (Mission Responsibility Through Investment) to pursue corporate engagement on climate change issues. Affirmed Cuban and U.S. Mission Goals for the future.

Saturday: Approved a per capita budget for 2017 of \$12,735,784.00 and established per capita of \$7.33 for 2017 and per capita of \$7.55 for 2018. Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice-Moderator of the 221st General Assembly, preached the closing worship service.

Please forgive the format of this article, but due to the volume of information included I attempted to be as brief as possible with the prose. All the actions of the General Assembly and past assemblies can be accessed at <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/> Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the General Assembly, but remember it is not “them”, the General Assembly is “us” as we had 6 voting Commissioners and 1 Young Adult Advisory Delegate at the table.

~ Randy

Email: prpstatedclerk@peacriverpresbytery.org

Education Advocates Needed for Faith Place Safety

The Committee on Ministry is creating an initiative for promoting safe worship places and spaces, healthy relationship boundaries, healing, hope and welcome through education awareness, prevention and resources.

Two members of COM are providing leadership to the effort but need to add specific skills to the work team. Those skills are:

- *someone who is involved with children or youth and has an interest in evaluating the educational/training resources available in this field
- *someone who is media savvy and could assist with videography, DVD production, or web site links

The time commitment will be limited to 90 days and primarily consisting of teleconference meetings, working/evaluating/planning in the convenience of your ‘home’ office.

If you feel called to serve, please contact Cynthia Brasher at cynthia.brasher@leememorial.org

FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS

All are invited to attend any of the following gatherings. These are not Presbytery Stated Meetings, but rather a chance to gather with other PRP churches in your region and share, encourage, and be encouraged. More details to come.

The Fall Regional Gatherings held last year (2015) were well received and the attendees were excited and encouraged to have had the opportunity to gather with others from their area.

Thursday, September 1: South Region

Location: Hope United Presbyterian Church
7470 Hickory Rd SE, Fort Myers, 33912
Time: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Reservation: Yes ... by Thursday, August 25. Contact church office at 239-267-3331.
Meal: Breakfast - \$5.00 per person

Wednesday, September 7: Central Region

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
5550 Sumter Blvd., North Port, 34287
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Reservation: Yes ... by Wednesday, August 31. Contact church office at 941-426-2552.
Meal: Breakfast - \$5.00 per person

Thursday, September 8: North Region

Location: Oak Pointe Church (*formerly Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church*)
1215 Bayshore Gardens Pkwy., Bradenton, 34207
Time: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Reservation: Yes ... by Thursday, September 1. Contact church office at 941-355-0440.
Meals: Light morning refreshments & light lunch - \$10.00 per person

Mark your calendars and save the dates! Remember to call the church office with your reservation by the deadline listed for that location.

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](#))

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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

## **PRAYER NEEDS**

### **Please pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health

### **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. Please pray for Joyce and the family also.
- 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: JULY 2016:**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 3  | <u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christopher Carlson<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastorchris@npcsarasota.org">pastorchris@npcsarasota.org</a>                                                                                                       |
| July 10 | <u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Co-Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer<br>email: <a href="mailto:bruce@pineshorespres.org">bruce@pineshorespres.org</a><br>Co-Pastor: Rev. Karen Wismer<br>email: <a href="mailto:karen@pineshorespres.org">karen@pineshorespres.org</a> |
| July 17 | <u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger<br>email: <a href="mailto:covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net">covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net</a>                                                                                             |
| July 24 | <u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathleen (Kathi) Wiggins<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastork@comcast.net">pastork@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                                                 |
| July 31 | <u>Oak Pointe Church (formerly Whitfield Estates), Bradenton</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris<br>email: <a href="mailto:jjn7416@gmail.com">jjn7416@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                 |

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JULY 2016

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

### **July 4**

Independence Day – Happy Birthday U.S.A!  
Presbytery Offices Closed

### **July 12**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

### **July 13**

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

### **July 14**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

### **July 18**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

### **July 20**

Committee on Ministry Subcommittee (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)  
Mision Peniel Team – Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

### **July 21**

Steering Committee (9:30 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="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota         | <a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a><br>Sarasota                                                   |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota             | <a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota                                      |
| <a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota       | <a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the<br/>Covenant, Sarasota</a>                                  |
| <a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota | <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a><br>Sarasota                                                     |
| <a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice             | <a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice                                              |
| <a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Englewood        | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Arcadia                                              |
| <a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Port      | <a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Punta Gorda                                    |

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br/> Port Charlotte<br/> <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Port Charlotte</p> |
| <p><a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> North Fort Myers</p>                                                             |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a><br/> Cape Coral</p>                                                                           | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Lehigh Acres</p>   |
| <p><a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                     | <p><a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>  |
| <p><a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                   |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">Hope United Church (PCUSA),</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                         | <p><a href="#">Chapel by the Sea,</a><br/> Fort Myers Beach</p>       |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Bonita Springs</p>                                                                      |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                                                              | <p><a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>          |
| <p><a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                                                           | <p><a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>    |