



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ August 3, 2017

Rev. Brad Rogers
Vice Moderator, Committee on Preparation for Ministry

COMMITTEE on PREPARATION for MINISTRY

Leadership has always been a challenge, but it has become increasingly difficult in the world today. The complexity of leadership is palpable in politics, business, and especially the church. The accelerating pace of change, advancements in technology, pluralism, and secularism, are among the factors that create complications for leaders today. It's precisely in this context that God has called future leaders of the church to minister. Preparation for ministry in this ever-changing religious and cultural landscape is of vital importance.

The purpose of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is two-fold: 1) to help individuals discern and fulfill their Christian vocation, and 2) to provide the best possible leaders for the church. CPM accomplishes this goal by preparing individuals who feel called to be Teaching Elders both personally and professionally.

The role of CPM is to walk with a person, not simply uphold a process. However, there is nonetheless a process by which CPM seeks to prepare individuals for ministry. By necessity, this process is marked by standards and flexibility. No one person has all the gifts necessary for the ministry of Jesus Christ. However, there are five key areas that are assessed during the process: Education, Spiritual Development, Interpersonal Relationships, Personal Growth, and Professional Development.

There are two parallel tracks designed to assess the five key areas of ministry. The first track is the educational track in which an individual pursues a Masters of Divinity through a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. The parallel track belongs to the CPM, which engages with an individual sensing a call to ministry by entering into covenant relationship that enables the individual to explore his/her call, evaluate his/her gifts, and support his/her theological education. The book of order summarizes the purpose and process of this covenant relationship in this way:

It is important that those who are to be ordained as teaching elders receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become teaching elders and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy.

2015-2017 Book of Order, G-2.0601

CPM requires at least one year of inquiry, the purpose of which is to enable the church and the individual to begin discerning God's call to ordained pastoral ministry. Following a year of inquiry, an individual then moves into candidacy, the purpose of which is to ensure that an individual is prepared for the role of Teaching Elder. Following candidacy, the individual pursuing ordained ministry receives a final examination, which is comprised

of an examination of the individual's "wisdom, maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment".

It is God who calls to ministry. The role of CPM is to affirm that call and become a part of nurturing those whom God has called into the exciting and challenging role of pastoral leadership.

Rev. Brad Rogers

SPECIAL MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

(Registration will begin at 12:15 p.m.)

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
5550 Sumter Blvd., North Port, FL 34287

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***Per Article IV, 4.3 in the Standing Rules of Peace River Presbytery,  
I, Douglas Pratt, call a special meeting of Peace River Presbytery  
at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at  
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in North Port, FL,  
to act on the contract to sell Presbytery owned property to  
First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda (ECO) negotiated  
by Peace River Presbytery Trustees.***

***Rev. Dr. Douglas Pratt, Moderator  
Peace River Presbytery***

***Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk  
Peace River Presbytery***

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Reminder: Members of Presbytery who cannot attend are required
to request an excused absence from the Stated Clerk.

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An opportunity will be provided for questions and answers regarding this subject,  
through a Conference Call Open Forum with the Board of Trustees,  
on Thursday, August 10, at 11:00 a.m.  
If you wish to join the Q&A Forum, at 11:00 a.m. on that day,  
dial 1-605-475-3220; when prompted, dial the access code: 905431# (you must include the # sign).

## **REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

**TOPIC: Radical Generosity**

**PRESENTER: Robert Hay, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation**

**Tuesday, September 12 - Wintergarden Presbyterian Church**

**1:00-4:00 p.m.**

***Smaller Sized Congregations***

(Wintergarden Address: 18305 Wintergarden Avenue / Port Charlotte, 33948)

(Lunch Reservations to Beckie: 941-743-5335)

**Wednesday, September 13 – First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte**

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

***Medium Sized Congregations***

and

**1:00-4:00 p.m.**

***Larger Sized Congregations***

(First, Port Charlotte Address: 2230 Harriet Street / Port Charlotte, 33962)

(Lunch Reservations to Tanga: 941-625-5045)

**Lunch is scheduled for 12:00-1:00 p.m. each day. Lunch Cost: \$10.00.**

**Reservations: Required by Wednesday, September 6. Call the Church Office, not the Presbytery Office.**

Letters with additional information, including suggested gathering dates and times for each church, were mailed to all Clerks of Session and Pastors at the end of June. Please check with those individuals for the details.

Churches are welcome to attend any and all sessions.

**[STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE 2017](#)**

**Deadline to register: August 1**

**[OVERVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE](#)**

**ARTICLES of INTEREST**

(selected by Graham Hart)

**[A Bible study led by 92-year-old Jimmy Carter is a sight to behold](#)**

Religion News Service: Everyone has come for the same reason -- to see 92-year-old Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, conduct Bible study at Maranatha Baptist Church.

**[The 7,150 nuns who fought against Trumpcare](#)**

The Washington Post: Nuns' plea was a reminder that religious witness in politics is not confined to the political right, says E.J. Dionne Jr.

**[Shane Claiborne challenges Jerry Falwell to debate Trump and Jesus](#)**

Christian Today: Radical Christian Shane Claiborne has challenged Liberty University president Jerry Falwell Jr. to a public debate following the defeat in the Senate of a bill aimed at repealing Obamacare.

**[When do moviegoers become pilgrims?](#)**

The Conversation: Film-induced travels can turn into something more than merely tourism: Distinctions between tourism and pilgrimage, on-screen reality and off-screen reality, and the secular and sacred grow blurry.

**[Cabinet members study Bible together weekly](#)**

Religion News Service: Members of President Trump's Cabinet attend a weekly Bible study, according to a new report.

**[Breaking the Ten Commandments: A short history of the contentious American monuments](#)**

Religion & Politics: Where once the Decalogue had been an anchor of the nation's identity as well as a source of comity, it has now become the stuff of controversy and even rupture.

**[Serving God by suing others: Inside the Christian conservative legal movement](#)**

Deseret News: Liberty Counsel is part of the Christian legal movement, a collection of advocacy groups working to advance and protect conservative Christian moral values. Together, these firms have turned the courts into key battlefields in the culture wars.

[Churches must improve treatment of singles or risk losing them, author says](#)

Baptist News Global: It's high time churches wake up and smell the coffee when it comes to the single adults in their pews - and for the even bigger number of singles who aren't there. [Outlaw pastor Rob Bell shakes up the Bible Belt\(link is external\)](#)

CNN: Going to hear a pastor preach on a Sunday afternoon is considered an act of piety. But when that pastor is Rob Bell and he's speaking in the heart of the Bible Belt, it's subversive.

[Study: Clergywomen close gender pay gap to 7 cents on the dollar\(link is external\)](#)

ARDA: Women ministers are making dramatic strides in achieving equal pay with male clergy. But that's not to say they still do not face significant obstacles to equal pay.

## CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

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

### **2017 Events:**

- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Family Retreat - *Our annual family retreat and reunion event! Come and reconnect!* Sept. 1-3
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Falltastic - *A special fall event designed for our elementary friends.* Sept. 29-30
- Senior Adults Retreat - *A day-event designed just for our senior friends.* Oct. 11
- Fusion - *A Cedarkirk event for middle and high school youth!* Nov. 10-12 & 17-19
- Christmas Retreat – *A little bit of summer camp at Christmas time!* Dec. 22-23

*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.  
We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!*

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

## BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

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

The worshipping community of Beth-El would like to add Christian banners to its worship space. If your church or congregation has a banner, vestments or other worship supplies that you would like to donate, please contact [Kathy@beth-el.org](mailto:Kathy@beth-el.org). Gracias!



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[July Newsletter](#)

**\*\*\* Beth-El Farmworker Ministry needs your help!** Every year the mission distributes over 500 backpacks and back to school supplies to children and youth in our community, but we cannot provide this service without your help. Right now our resources are very low and time is running out. All donations must be received by July 31st to insure students get their backpacks in time. To learn more, call Beth-El at 813-633-1548 ext. 227.

Gracias!

The *Back to School Supplies Wish List* is included in the newsletter.

**MISION PENIEL**

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

[www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Please be sure to contact us to schedule your next visit and reserve a date to volunteer at Misión Peniel! Thank you for your ongoing partnership with this mission!

**Staff Contacts:**

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [miguestrada@hotmail.com](mailto:miguestrada@hotmail.com)
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)
- General Email: [misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com)

**Addresses:**

- Facility Address: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142 (not for mailing)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153
- Mailing Address for Contributions\*: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287

**\*Contributions to Mision Peniel:**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

**Other Information:**

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

**PRAYER NEEDS**

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father. Hospitalized in PA from an apparent stroke
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor of Cypress Lake P.C.) - health
- Nathan Hart (Graham’s son) and his family – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – health
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list

- 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

### **PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: AUGUST 2017:**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 6  | Daniell & Elizabeth Turk<br>PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Serving in Madagascar<br>Web: <a href="http://www.pcusa.org/dan-elizabeth-turk">http://www.pcusa.org/dan-elizabeth-turk</a>    |
| August 13 | <u>Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto</u><br>Pastor: Rev. John Foulkrod<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org">jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org</a>                                  |
| August 20 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Terri Jo Crego<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastor@fpcpc.com">pastor@fpcpc.com</a>                   |
| August 27 | <u>Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Devon Beisser Andrews<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revdev08@gmail.com">revdev08@gmail.com</a> |

### **CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

[Director of Christian Education – Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers](#)

[Administrative Secretary \(Part Time\) – Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers](#)

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: AUGUST 2017**

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

All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.

#### **Tuesday, August 8**

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

Brown Bag Lunch with Interim and Transitional Pastors (12:30 p.m.)

#### **Wednesday, August 9**

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

#### **Thursday, August 10**

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

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m. at Mission Location in Immokalee)

Presbytery Wide Conference Call with Board of Trustees (11:00 a.m.)

**Monday, August 14**

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

Planning Team (1:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, August 17**

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Special Meeting of Peace River Presbytery (1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church)

**Thursday, August 24**

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.)

**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.

