



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ March 28, 2018



~ Happy Easter from the Presbytery Staff ~

Strategic Review Task Force Update

Brief History:

In 2010, a Guide Team was formed to consider the question: who is God calling us to be? In 2013, Peace River Presbytery adopted the following: **We believe God is calling us as a Presbytery: *to affirm congregations, *connect disciples in mission and *be the Body of Christ together.** In doing so we follow the guiding values of being a missional, relational, and learning community together centered in Christ. This new vision and strategy had ramifications for the structure of the organization and subsequent moves were made to utilize and deploy resources of both volunteers and staff to move from a model that was based on being a regional mission and program agency to one learning and deliberative body that exists to serve the mission of God in the world.

Time for Review:

In October 2017, the Steering Committee appointed Doug Pratt, Kelly Fitzgerald, Charmaine Ponkratz, Lil Rea and Craig Goodrich to the Strategic Review Task Force. Their job is to reflect on the accomplishments and shortcomings of the five years since adoption, and then make recommendation for the next chapter in the life of Peace River Presbytery.

The task force interviewed members of the original Guide Team related to 12 benchmarks that were laid out in 2012 that would be evidence of success. Also, the task force received feed-back from the Steering Committee. A **preliminary report was** shared at the February 22 Presbytery meeting, and a survey instrument was created, based on the 12 benchmarks, so that Members of Presbytery could give us their feed-back ([click here to review](#)).

Currently, the Task Force is reviewing the surveys, identifying themes, beginning to identify areas to focus in the coming years, interviewing leaders from other presbyteries to learn from them, and continuing to get feedback from our presbytery.

The Task Force plans are to:

- revisit our mission/vision statement to see if any changes should be recommended to the Presbytery (which answers the “Why” or purpose question);
- ask if our values of being a missional, relational, and learning community are still helpful guides (values) to shape our life together;
- look at the areas that emerge as needing attention and focus (the “What” questions);
- then ask the “How” questions (i.e. How will we accomplish this goal? Are our structures, committees and job-descriptions in alignment with our vision, values, and emerging goals, i.e. the what we are called to be and do? And finally, what changes would we recommend)?

Two major questions we are asking throughout our process are: What is God calling us to be? And how best to position Peace River Presbytery to be responsive to the needs of pastors, congregations and the Presbytery as a whole?

We will be giving an update at the May Presbytery Meeting and our goal is to have something to formally present to the Presbytery in November. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know.

Lil Rea - lrea@me.com

Craig Goodrich - CraigG@fpcnaples.org

Co-Moderators of the Steering Committee and the Strategic Review Task Force

SAVE THE DATE:
September 26 - October 3
PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY IS RETURNING TO CUBA
To Engage in the Next Steps of our Peace River - Matanzas Partnership

Who: Up to 24 Members with/without Clergy from churches interested in establishing partnerships with area churches or the seminary in the Matanzas Presbytery. Each church is limited to four reservations.

What:* Establishing Partnerships within the Matanzas Presbytery, including the seminary and local churches. Visiting local churches, engaging in ministry practices with that church and beginning the process of partnerships.

When: Wednesday, September 26 - Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Where:* Round trip to Varadero, Cuba, from either Tampa or Miami.

Expenses will include airfare, visa, seminary lodging (dormitory style), meals, transportation during the week, home stays at local church communities.

How:

1. *Reply* to Lori at the Presbytery Office (lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) by **April 15th** with initial interest.
2. *Return* registration form** indicating a firm commitment with \$100 deposit per person by **May 15th** (to begin the visa process which requires at least 90 days) to Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Presbytery, North Port, FL 34287, *Attention:* Lori Doyal.
3. *Direct* questions to Cuba Partnership Task Force Co-Moderators:
Kevin Morris: 813-713-5117 | pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net or Ruth DeYoe: 386-793-6151 | ruthdeyoe@gmail.com

*** Details will be provided to all churches by March 20th.**
**** Registration forms will be sent with trip details to each congregation.**

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: miguestrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: 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 (checks or online):**

- 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.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Mision Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[March Newsletter](#)

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has the following employment opportunities:

- Part-time Worship Music Leader - Must be bi-lingual with good teaching and musical skills to lead newly formed music group for Sunday Worship.
- Summer Programming Assistant - Part time position working Beth-El staff in coordinating summer youth programming.

For more information, or to apply, email info@beth-el.org

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

*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.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE at BETH-EL

You are cordially invited to join the members of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry as we commission

The Reverend Tamara Leonard-Lara

as Pastor of Nuevo Camino at Beth-El on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

18420 Highway 301 South | Wimauma, FL 33598

ORDINATION and INSTALLATION SERVICE

for Laurie Haas

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Church of the Palms, Sarasota

All are invited!

WALK with the BIBLE

Pastor Bill Teng of First Presbyterian Church in Arcadia, FL is organizing and leading a group in a *Walk with the Bible* tour of Israel and Jordan

on October 5-18, this fall. The total cost is only \$4,945 from Tampa. More detail is available here:

<http://bit.ly/2Fc2RiA>. If interested, please contact him at TengPresby@aol.com or 703.899.0725.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The Communities of Parkland, FL and Austin, TX
- Rev. Susan Rice – health and treatment for cancer
- Jim and Becky Beckwith, and their son, Greg – health
- Robert Dennis (son of Rev. India Dennis) – mental health issues
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (in Wimauma)
- Misión Peniel Farmworker Ministry (in Immokalee)
- 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: APRIL 2018:

April 1	<u>Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood</u> Pastor: Rev. Dawn Mayes Email: revdawnmayes@gmail.com
April 8	<u>Beth-El Farmworker Ministry</u> Executive Director: Rev. Dr. Kathy Dain Email: kathy@beth-el.org Pastor: Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara Email: pastor@beth-el.org
April 15	<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody Email: bpcpastor@comcast.net
April 22	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe Email: jdeyoe@covpcfm.com
April 29	<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell Email: clint@clpc.us

KENNETH BAILEY RESOURCES

Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner has a set of Kenneth Bailey's study lectures on "Jesus and Women" and "Presbyterian History", produced by Harvest Publishing, that she would like to give to a church or group who would use them. They are short, 20-30 minute lectures by Bailey, with time for discussion. If interested, please contact Dr. Margaret E. Towner, margtet@comcast.net or 941-924-4413.

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda:
[Organist/Primary Accompanist](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH~APRIL 2018

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org

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

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 30

Good Friday – Presbytery Offices Closed

Sunday, April 1

Easter

Monday, April 2

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

Thursday, April 5

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

Tuesday, April 10

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

Wednesday, April 11

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

Thursday, April 12

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

Monday, April 16

Planning Team (1:30 p.m.)

Sunday, April 22

Commissioning Service for The Reverend Tamara Leonard-Lara at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (3:00 p.m.)

Thursday, April 26

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

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches

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



