



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ May 24, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of Peace River Presbytery,

It is with a full heart and deep sense of gratitude that I look back over 17 years of ministry here in Peace River. Last week at the May 17, 2018 Presbytery meeting, I announced that I will retire in March, 2019, having served here - at that point - over 18 years. Who would have thought? There is so much to say and we will have time to talk but, for now, thank you. If you want to read:

- the remarks I made at the Presbytery meeting - [click here](#),
- the retirement letter that went out to Members of the Presbytery last week - [click here](#),
- the Path/Plan that the Steering Committee presented, and the Presbytery endorsed as to next steps - [click here](#).

Below is the Report to the Presbytery from the Strategic Review and Planning Team, which was presented at the Presbytery meeting. They have done great work and, on our behalf, I want to thank them! So, for now, I will continue to work on your behalf as your General Presbyter and I am grateful for the work of so many, who are beginning the conversations that will lead to the next chapter in the life of Peace River Presbytery, and the next person "called" to serve you.

If you have questions about next steps or contact information for questions you may have, [click here](#) to go to the Presbytery website, or if you want to talk, let me know.

*Grateful to God
who is the wind in our sails
and the rudder to guide us in the way!*

Graham

Graham Hart
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

**Peace River Presbytery
on May 17, 2018
Endorsed this Plan of the
Steering Committee**

STEERING COMMITTEE

General Presbyter Transition Report

At May 3, 2018 meeting of the Steering Committee the following motions were approved:

1. The Personnel Committee recommends the use of the Adaptive Transition model for the succession process of the current General Presbyter.

Rationale:

- a. Review of the state of Peace River Presbytery indicates that it is healthy and stable.
- b. The Presbytery will be better served by a process of continuity.

2. Jointly the Personnel Committee and the Strategic Task Force recommend that the Strategic Task Force continue its work to include a draft of the Ministry Information Form (MIF).

3. Jointly the Personnel Committee and the Strategic Task Force recommend that the Personnel Committee update the General Presbyter's job description and competencies in accordance with the MIF.

4. Jointly the Steering Committee and the Nominating and Representation Committee will provide a slate of candidates to be elected by the Presbytery to the Search Committee (at a called meeting of Presbytery in August).

During the transition period the General Presbyter will not be involved in the process except as a resource when specifically asked. Input from outside resources may be requested.

Next Steps:

1. Strategic Task Force completes Ministry Information Form (MIF) in conjunction with Personnel's work on Job Description.

2. Steering Committee and Nominations Committee present a Search Committee slate (probably 5 to 7 people, with balanced representation between teaching and ruling elders. No more than one member from a church. (Nominations accepted from Presbytery by June 15).

3. August 9, 2018, a called meeting of Presbytery, that includes election of the Search Committee and review of MIF with opportunity for input.

4. Final MIF is approved by the Steering Committee and the search begins. (mid-September)

5. Plans are made for celebration activities.

6. February 2019, Presbytery meeting will be Graham's last Presbytery meeting with plans to retire at the end of March 2019.

Contact the following moderators/co-moderators to provide your valuable input to the process:

For Recommendations to Search Committee:

- Craig Goodrich, co-moderator Steering Committee - CraigG@fpcnaples.org
- Lil Rea, co-moderator Steering Committee - lrea@me.com
- Donald Cady, co-moderator Nominations and Representation Committee - donaldfcady@gmail.com
- Lou Thompson, co-moderator Nominations and Representation Committee - 1st58@comcast.net

For Input to Ministry Information Form and Job Description:

- Will Browne, moderator Personnel Committee - willbrowne@yahoo.com
- Lil Rea, moderator Strategic Task Force - lrea@me.com

June 16-23, 2018

General Assembly of the PC(USA)

Location: St. Louis, Missouri



Our 2018 General Assembly Commissioners:

- Wayne Largent, Ruling Elder – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood
- Charmaine Ponkratz, Ruling Elder - Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
- Jeff DeYoe, Teaching Elder – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- Bill Teng, Teaching Elder – First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia, and
- Mariah Martin, Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) – First Presbyterian, Sarasota,

will join with other commissioners and advisory delegates from all 170 PC(USA) presbyteries, and other delegates and observers from around the world. All will converge on the America's Convention Center in downtown St. Louis for celebrations, deliberations, and inspirations in support of the denomination's biennial gathering.

[Click here to link to the 223rd home page.](#)

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy will serve as host to the 223rd General Assembly, united under the theme, **“Renewing the Vision: Kindom Building for the 21st Century,”** from Matthew 6:25-33. The meetings will include rich worship services, the election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator or Co-Moderators, action on a plethora of overtures, and much more. View the [proposed docket](#).

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.

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

[May 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](mailto:info@beth-el.org)

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: misionpenielpeaceriver@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.

ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

[Michael Curry's royal wedding sermon will go down in history](#)

The (London) Guardian: The American bishop did it black. And he shocked the congregation by refusing to tone down his passionate message on power and love.

Slate: [Bishop Michael Curry's sermon at the royal wedding was a subtly radical piece of theology](#)

Christian Today: [The royal wedding: How it distorted the gospel for the whole world](#)

[God hates gun violence](#)

Christianity Today: We American Christians have a biblical call to reduce firearm deaths in our land.

NPR: [Santa Fe church community reflects on Texas shooting](#)

[Southern Baptist leader Paige Patterson removed as president of Fort Worth seminary as accusations grow](#)

The Dallas Morning News: After a marathon closed executive session that lasted into the early morning, the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has ousted Southern Baptist leader Paige Patterson as president.

The Washington Post: [Southern Baptist leader encouraged a woman not to report alleged rape to police and told her to forgive assailant, she says](#)

Religion News Service: [Paige Patterson has resigned. Imagine if he were Tim Cook.](#)

[Domestic violence in the church: When women are believed, change will happen](#)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation: The insistence by many public Christian voices that churches are safer places has blinded many to what was, and is, occurring in their midst.

[Is stewardship ethical?](#)

Insights: A strange question, but maybe one worth considering, says David P. King.

[Michael Curry's sermon: Why the critics don't get it](#)

Christian Today: Aside from the depressing tendency of Christians to be negative about everything that makes people

happy, the reaction of some critics shows how little they understand about how these public occasions ought to work. Christian Today: [Preaching Michael Curry-style: How long should a sermon be?](#)

[Episcopalians reflect on staying power of 'the sermon that stole the show'](#)

Religion News Service: Days after the royal wedding, it's the address by the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, people still are talking about.

['Jesus never charged a leper a co-pay': rise of the religious left](#)

The (London) Guardian: From healthcare to tax and immigration, Rev. William Barber and the Poor People's Campaign are driven by faith to focus on the disadvantaged.

[Miroslav Volf delves into the theology of joy: A Q&A](#)

Religion News Service: Theologian Miroslav Volf, who has written books on subjects ranging from the Trinity to the challenges of reconciliation in divided societies, has turned to what might seem like a frivolous subject: joy.

**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: Varadero, Cuba

Expenses: Will include airfare (from either Tampa or Miami), visa, seminary lodging (dormitory style), meals, transportation during the week, and home stays at local church communities.

How:

1. *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

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 family of the Rev. Robert “Bob” Cousar, who passed away on April 25, 2018
- The family of the Rev. Susan Rice-Waller, who passed away on April 21, 2018
- The Rev. Daniel Herlein - health
- Jim and Becky Beckwith, in the passing of their son, Greg
- 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: MAY 2018:

May 6	<u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris Email: pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net
May 13	<u>PRP Stated Meeting at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church</u> May 17, 2018
May 20	<u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison Email: skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com
May 27	<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. R.C. Smith Email: revrc5@aol.com

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia:
[Part-Time Children and Youth Director](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 2018

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

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

Thursday, May 24

Records Review Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.-12:00 n.)

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, May 31

Transition to Retirement Seminar (10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

Blessing Grants Task Force (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30-2:30 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.

