



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ May 30, 2018

Come Grow With Us!

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." — Audrey Hepburn

For close to twelve years, Misión Peniel has existed to address the isolation and injustice among the migrant farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida, providing support to them through spiritual and material care. As a mission of the Peace River Presbytery, we have sought to build a compassionate bridge connecting migrant farmworkers in Immokalee to faith communities in Southwest Florida and beyond. Now that we have adequate backyard space, we are able to build on our mission statement by developing a garden that reflects the cultural needs of those whom we serve. Initial plans have been developed with the help of the non-profit, [Cultivate Abundance](#) and "seed money" from MP friends and partner churches. We will officially break ground this summer, once a fence is installed around the garden area. In the meantime, we have been working with a group of women from the community to identify food



scarcity issues and creative ways to address them together. Our goal is to empower farmworker families to lead the way in further developing sustainable food sources through the mission garden.

At the end of April, this group of women helped transfer over 100 seedling plants to portable containers that could be taken to their homes. Some of what was transplanted included: Okra, Chipilin, Eggplant, Tomatoes, Mustard Greens, Amaranth and Purslane, which are foods familiar to their culture. These women are recording the progress of their plants and will report back in June. Earlier this month, Misión Peniel hosted a potluck luncheon with this group of women. Some of the dishes shared included vegetables from their container gardens. It was an exciting month for garden progress!



We invite churches and individuals with an interest in gardening to help support this new ministry in any of the following ways:

- Volunteer in the garden—schedule a work day with a small group from your church;
- Participate in workshops and garden demonstrations at the mission;

- Help spread the word about the garden to groups within your church and community;
- Support the garden through financial and in kind donations.



We thank God for this new opportunity to meet the needs of the farmworker community in Immokalee and look forward to new opportunities for involving churches and individuals in this mission ministry.

To learn more about our community garden, contact us at misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com

“Almost certainly, however, the first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all people. Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world.” — Norman Borlaug

Notable Updates:

Donations: *Our most critical need is non-perishable food items of rice, beans, canned meats, vegetables, fruits, peanut butter and oatmeal and diapers, sizes 5 and 6 only. thank you! Visit our website for additional current needs list: www.misionpeniel.com*

Thinking ahead to Christmas...

We invite you to include Misión Peniel in your Christmas outreach plans. This year, we are asking for churches to join our Angel Tree campaign which involves collecting a simple outfit of new clothing for children ages newborn to twelve years old. This will replace filled shoe box and toy collections. Participating churches will be given a specific number of gift tags (your choice re number), specifying the size and gender of the outfit needed. These will then be brought to the mission by December 14th for distribution on Dec. 21st. Details and promotional help will be available beginning July 15th. Thank you for considering partnering with us in this new way!

Seeking Servant Leaders for the General Presbyter Nominating Committee

The Steering Committee and Nominating and Representation Committee depend upon your participation to recommend qualified candidates to serve on the General Presbyter Nominating Committee.

You may self- nominate. If you nominate someone else, it is important that you confirm their willingness to serve if asked.

The [application](#) is on the [website](#) under the new General Presbyter Search icon.

**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:emailinfo@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.

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 Rev. Daniel Herlein - 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: JUNE 2018:

June 3	<u>Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch</u> Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Deibert Email: edeibert@mindspring.com
June 10	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Berger Email: drjimberger@gmail.com
June 17	<u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard Email: revnmp@comcast.net
June 24	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Craig Goodrich Email: craigg@fpcnaples.org

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

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

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY-JUNE 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 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.)

Monday, June 4

Planning Team (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, June 6

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

Thursday, June 7

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Immokalee)

Monday, June 11

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Thursday, June 14

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Steering Committee (9:30-11:00 a.m. by Zoom Conference)

Friday, June 15

Deadline for Nominations to the GPNC (General Presbyter Nominating Committee)

Saturday, June 16-Saturday, June 23

223rd General Assembly in St. Louis, MO

Tuesday, June 26

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-2:00 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.



