



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ June 6, 2018

Overview and Updates on the Future Directions of Peace River Presbytery -- and Invitation to Cluster Meetings June 26 and 27, 2018

With the anticipated retirement of Graham Hart, our General Presbyter, next spring ([click here](#)), we wanted to take this time update you on the work being done to move us forward as a Presbytery and invite you to June regional gatherings.

Background and Review - In 2017 a Strategic Review Team was formed to look back over the past five years and review where we have been as a presbytery, as well as look ahead and develop new strategic directions. Note: their review was presented at the February Presbytery meeting; and their preliminary draft related to looking ahead was presented at the May Presbytery meeting which you can access by [clicking here](#). Also, their recommended strategic directions for the future is shown below.

After Graham shared with us some thoughts on his future and anticipated retirement as our General Presbyter, the Strategic Review Team, Personnel, and the Steering Committee began working together in February to discern how best to help the Presbytery move forward related to our Presbytery's leadership needs.

At the May Presbytery meeting a plan was presented to the Presbytery, which the Presbytery unanimously endorsed ([click here](#)), which included calling a special presbytery meeting on August 9 at Venice Presbyterian Church to elect a General Presbyter Search Committee. If you would like to nominate someone or let us know that you would be interested on serving on that search committee, the form and instructions are on the Presbytery's web site ([click here – see page 2](#)). We have asked all nominations to be submitted by June 15.

Important information gathering meeting will be held June

Three gatherings are planned to provide opportunity for members of PRP to share their thoughts, concerns, hopes and visions for the next several years. We will use the "World Café" format so that everyone will have a chance to engage and then use your input to develop the MIF and Job Description for the new General Presbyter search. There will be 3 areas of consideration that develop the Road Ahead:

- Strategic Planning (see below)
- The MIF content,
- The General Presbyter's job description and competencies.

Your input is strongly desired.

Meetings:

- Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at Hope United, 2:30-5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at Church of the Palms, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at Burnt Store, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

As was shared in May, an important element in this path forward is our Road Map or Strategic Planning, which is shown below in graph form. We are working on a more detailed map of how we will seek to accomplish these points of focus over the next 5 years and hope to see you at one of the information gathering meetings. Also, please e-mail us if you have additional thoughts, suggestions, or questions. Thanks.

Serving with you,

Lil Rea - <mailto:lrea@me.com>

Craig Goodrich - <mailto:CraigG@fpcnaples.org>

Co-moderators of PRP's Steering Committee



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Building the Road Map



NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS

Let's create a culture that nurtures joyful and caring relationships as we learn to do God's work together.



SUPPORT PASTORS

How can we better support pastors to do effective ministry in an ever-changing culture? How can we create space to nurture innovation and explore change?



EQUIP CHURCH LEADERS

A key part of our vision is to connect disciples in mission. How can Peace River Presbytery equip church leaders in order to strengthen ministries in their local context?



IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

Develop strategies that allow for clear information exchange between all stakeholders within the presbytery.



GREATER DIVERSITY

We can't be the body of Christ together if not everyone has a place at the table. How can we be intentional about empowering leaders from a rich diversity of backgrounds?



EMPOWER OUTREACH

We have many established mission partners. How can we focus and empower current outreach projects while being open and responsive to new opportunities?



TRANSITION HAPPENS!

How can we be responsive to the significant number of pastoral transitions in our area? Let's develop a plan to proactively address the shifting leadership needs of our congregations and the presbytery.



NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

In a region that is experiencing growth, how can the presbytery best respond to areas that could sustain a new worshipping community? How can we foster redevelopment in stable markets?

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: migustrada@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)

[At Christian colleges, a collision of gay rights and traditional values](#)

The New York Times: Many students want to use their love for Jesus not to uphold traditional values, but to engage with and change the world.

The New York Times: [Sex and gender on the Christian campus](#)

[Hearts, minds and money: maximizing charitable giving](#)

Knowledge @ Wharton: Wharton's Deborah Small discusses her research on how donors choose organizations to support.

[United Methodist annual conferences meet with denomination's future in flux](#)

Religion News Service: This year, a moment of reckoning looms with the denomination's long-debated conflict over homosexuality -- whether to ordain gay clergy, whether clergy can marry same-sex partners, and related issues.

[Why multicultural churches fail](#)

Bearings: "Multiracial" and "multicultural" are not necessarily the same, says Chanequa Walker-Barnes.

Bearings: [How multicultural churches can succeed](#)

[What the church could learn from ABC](#)

Baptist News Global: It turns out that ABC has a sharper moral compass than the evangelical church in America today, Mark Wingfield says.

[A moral crisis grips the US border. Yet the religious right is shamefully silent](#)

The (London) Guardian: The Christian right is allowing Trump to escape responsibility for the immoral policy of separating children from their parents, says Marilynne Robinson. Have they no shame?

[Fleming Rutledge: Why being 'spiritual' is never enough](#)

Christianity Today: Americans increasingly identify as "spiritual but not religious." Radical faith goes beyond both, says Fleming Rutledge.

[It can't happen here: How houses of worship face challenge of preserving sacred space and protecting members](#)

ARDA: How do you celebrate the presence of a loving, divine protector while guarding against crime in your church, synagogue or mosque? Not always very well, researchers say.

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: 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.

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.)
Planning Team (1:30-3:30 p.m.) *Rescheduled from June 4.

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.)

Information Gathering Meeting (2:30 p.m. at Hope United, Fort Myers)

Wednesday, June 27

Information Gathering Meeting (9:30 a.m. at Church of the Palms, Sarasota)

Information Gathering Meeting (2:30 p.m. at Burnt Store, Punta Gorda)

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.

