



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ June 27, 2018

The 223rd PCUSA General Assembly



The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was welcomed to St. Louis June 15-23 with banners along the streets in the downtown area. Presbyterians from across the nation as well as Missionary Advisory Delegates and PCUSA Mission Co-Workers from around the globe gathered to do the work of the denomination, including our Young Adult Advisory Delegate Mariah Martin and our Commissioners, Teaching Elder Jeff DeYoe, Ruling Elder Wayne Largent, Teaching Elder Bill Teng, and Ruling Elder Charmaine Ponkratz, from Peace



River Presbytery, shown in the picture to the right on the Plenary Floor of the General Assembly. Also, Peace River Presbytery Stated Clerk Teaching Elder Randy Moody (me) served as a Floor Parliamentarian for multiple plenary sessions of the 223rd General Assembly. Additional Peace River Presbytery members attending were General Presbyter Teaching Elder Graham Hart as well as Teaching Elders Glenn Bell, Shannon Jung, Wally Johnson, Penny Pitts, Barbara Smith, and R.C. Smith.

The General Assembly offered multiple opportunities for worship and Bible study. The Ecumenical Worship Service on Wednesday featured Najla Kassab, President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and Minister of Word and Sacrament from the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, who offered a powerful sermon urging reconciliation and unity to break down division. Teaching Elder Don Meeks, pastor of Greenwich Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, preached on Friday morning and shared "My Covenant for Pursuing Unity in Times of Disagreement" which states:

In light of John 17:20-23, I will pray for and live towards unity with other Christians.

In light of Matthew 7:3-5, I will acknowledge my own prejudices, excesses and failings before I attempt to criticize or correct other Christians.

In light of Romans 12:10 and 18, I will trust that the intentions of those with whom I disagree are honorable, and speak the best of what I see in their efforts to serve Jesus Christ.

In light of Proverbs 18:13 and James 1:19, I will seek to listen with understanding before speaking my own concerns.

In light of 1 Peter 3:15, I will contend for my convictions with gentleness and respect out of reverence for Jesus Christ.



Teaching Elder Cindy Kohlmann and Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri were elected Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly (on left working with Stated Clerk Teaching Elder J. Herbert Nelson in picture from *The Presbyterian Outlook* taken on “Bow Tie Friday” at GA). Teaching Elder Diane Givens Moffett was elected the new President/Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and many Young Adult Volunteers and Mission Co-Workers were commissioned. Minister of Word and Sacrament Ary Fernandez Alban, Moderator of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba, who preached at our February 2018 Stated Meeting, addressed the Assembly Wednesday night during the plenary session.

The Way Forward Committee report wrestled with the legal structure of the denomination and redefining the way the six agencies (Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Board of Pensions, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Inc., and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation) interact with and relate to one another in ministry. Ultimately, the whole assembly approved restructuring the denomination’s corporation, beginning a new approach for the future and Teaching Elder Bill Teng who is Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia was elected a Director of the new “A Corp.” board. This committee concluded its report with a benediction in Greek (the original New Testament language), English, Korean, Spanish, and Japanese—I was able to understand all the Greek and English but only half the Spanish and none of the Korean or Japanese spoken which provided a great illustration of the diversity and our understanding or lack of understanding of our siblings in Christ! The Assembly approved a vision for the PC(U.S.A.):

Prayerful
Courageous
United
Serving
Alive

Multiple amendments to the Book of Order were referred to presbyteries for vote, including proposed changes to the required composition of congregation nominating committees. GA per capita for 2019 AND 2020 was set at \$8.95 (\$11.45 including Synod of the South Atlantic per capita) and the Office of the General Assembly as well as the Presbyterian Mission Agency were directed to implement cost containment measures (thank PRP Moderator Charmaine Ponkratz for her work on the General Assembly Procedures Committee)—the per capita requested before GA added budget items by their actions was \$10.71 for 2019 and \$11.45 for 2020 for GA without the \$2.50 Synod per capita for us. A plethora of mission and social justice issues were addressed including directing the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment to engage corporations with whom our agencies have funds invested to address the risks of climate change. The GA encouraged peace in the Middle East, recognizing and encouraging more efforts by Israelis and Palestinians to “come together in building honest understanding and peace, working together to address inequality to pave the way to reconciliation” and called for people to refrain from language that implies the incitement to violence is only from one side (thanks PRP Member Jeff DeYoe who spoke to this issue in the plenary session and served on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee). PRP Member Bill Teng served on the Mid Councils Committee, PRP Ruling Elder Wayne Largent served on the Theological and Church Growth Issues and Institutions Committee, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Mariah Martin was a member of the Peacemaking, Immigration and International Issues Committee.

Personal relationships across the denomination were celebrated and renewed among the faithful, diverse members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For comprehensive information about the business conducted, including copies of the all the reports and the actions of the General Assembly, go to www.pc-biz.org.

~ Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk

STEERING COMMITTEE:
General Presbyter Transition Report
(endorsed by Peace River Presbytery on May 17, 2018)

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 (Deadline is passed and was June 15th):

- 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

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

[June 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.

WALK with the BIBLE

Pastor Bill Teng of First Presbyterian Church in Arcadia, FL is organizing and leading 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

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Part Time Administrative Assistant](#)
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St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

[Music Director for the Traditional Service](#)  
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First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia

[Part-Time Children and Youth Director](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE~JULY 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.

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)

Monday, July 2

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

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day – Happy Birthday United States of America!

Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, July 5

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

Thursday, July 12

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



