



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ March 21, 2018

Nominations and Representation Committee

The Mission/Vision Statement of Peace River Presbytery states that we are called to affirm congregations, to connect disciples in mission, and to be the body of Christ together. Under our guiding values we set forth our commitment to affirming congregations, to support congregations and ministries of all shapes and sizes, to work together in mission to further the Kingdom of God, and to invite, call, celebrate and send disciples into the world, within the bounds of southwest Florida and to the ends of the earth. But who is the “we?”

The “we” is us. To fully live into our commitment requires filling 162 positions involving 4 officers, 5 Steering Committee Teams, 5 Presbytery Committees and Commissions, 4 organizations and boards, plus 6 task forces, commissions and positions not specified in our standing rules.

At last count 25 of these 162 positions were not filled. The unfilled positions are: 6 of 18 members of the Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation, 4 of 9 positions on the Nominations Committee, 3 of 10 positions on the Planning Team, 3 of 12 members on the Cedarkirk Board, 2 of 12 positions on the Mission Peniel Team, and 1 position on each of 4 other ministries.

It is the function of the Nominating Committee to nominate persons to the Presbytery to fill these vacancies. In the process we seek a broad representation of member churches while maintaining equal numbers of teaching elders and ruling elders from the 37 churches within the presbytery. We are fortunate to have in Southwest Florida many retired ministers who contribute to the life of the Presbytery.

Our challenge is to identify those individuals called by God to serve within the presbytery. It is here that WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO OUR JOB!

Please share with your congregations what God is doing within Peace River Presbytery beyond the individual church. And please also share with the Nominating Committee the names of members of your congregations who might have interests and skills matching the needs of our committees and teams. You can send your referrals to me at donaldfcady@gmail.com or my Co-Moderator Lou Thompson at Lst58@comcast.net.

Referrals of individuals to fill the 4 existing vacancies on the Nominating Committee should be sent to either Co-Moderator of the Steering Committee, Lil Rae at Lrea@me.com or Craig Goodrich at craig@fpcnaples.org

Blessings and Happy Easter!

Don Cady, Co-Moderator, Nominating Committee

**An unforgettable five-day Freedom Fast, culminates with 2,000-strong
[Time's Up Wendy's March](#) through the heart of Manhattan!**



For five days last week, nearly 100 farmworkers and their allies fasted outside the offices of Nelson Peltz's hedge fund investment firm, Trian Partners, at [280 Park Avenue](#) in Manhattan. (Note – this hedge fund owns Wendy's). They did so because Wendy's has not only refused to join [the Fair Food Program](#) — widely recognized as the only human rights monitoring program to have successfully eliminated forced labor and sexual assault in the agricultural industry — but has shifted its tomato purchases from Florida to Mexico, where slavery and sexual assault remain all too common, and workers are intimidated into silence by a culture of violence, fear and corruption.

Over 2000 supporters ([Click here for more details](#)), joined those who have fasted as they delivered 100,000 signed petitions to the corporate office of Trian Partners. Join with them as they invite Wendy's to do what others ([click here for list of partners](#)) in the food industry have done which has resulted in huge and positive changes for the migrant worker and their families.

Background - [The Fair Food campaign](#), of which the Presbyterian Church has been a long-time supporter, has changed the working conditions in the fields, and has positively impacted in so many ways the living conditions of migrant workers and their families. The Fair Food Campaign has been the recipient of countless national and internal awards in recognition of their work, and it has been a game/life changer for the migrant farm worker community in Immokalee.

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.**

Board of Pensions ~ Benefits Connections: Tampa

Who Should Attend?

If you are responsible for benefits decisions and managing benefits or work with those who are this day is for you!

Registration is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Why Attend?

Learn about theological values that shape the Benefits Plan. Preview changes for 2019. Ask questions of Board of Pensions leadership and staff. Meet other benefits decision-makers in your area. Participate in a panel discussion with your peers.

You'll gain a better understanding of the plan, new peer relationships, and new strategies for being the best employer you can be. Take away suggestions and solutions for churches of all sizes — small and large.

When

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Where

The Westshore Grand – Tampa

<http://www.cvent.com/d/ktqt8s>

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: 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](mailto: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.

ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

['Christianity as default is gone': the rise of a non-Christian Europe](#)

The (London) Guardian: Europe's march towards a post-Christian society has been starkly illustrated by research showing a majority of young people in a dozen countries do not follow a religion.

[The revolutionary roots of America's religious nationalism](#)

Religion & Politics: The attachment between explicit religiosity and conservatism goes far back in American history.

[Mike Pompeo's evangelical zeal could complicate his new diplomatic life](#)

The Economist: Even among broadly conservative watchers of American foreign policy, there is worry that Mr. Pompeo's apparent sectarian sentiment might be a problem.

[Stephen Hawking's ashes to be interred at Westminster Abbey](#)

Christian Today: Professor Stephen Hawking's ashes will be interred at Westminster Abbey near the graves of Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. [Holy water, holy feet](#)

Commonweal: Footwashing reminds us that we are fragile creatures, that human life is vulnerable and precious -- and that God holds all of this, all of us, in her hands, says Isaac Villegas.

[And a little child shall lead them](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Young people are leading the way against US gun violence, says Joan Chittister.

[The founder of Christian rock music would've hated what it's become](#)

AV Club: Larry Norman, one of the fathers of spiritual rock music, is the subject of Gregory Alan Thornbury's fantastic new biography, *Why Should The Devil Have All The Good Music?*

[John Pavlovitz: Bringing people to the table with honest talk about tough topics](#)

A hugely popular Christian author talks about why he feels moved to break open the conversation in church circles by writing about progressive politics and social issues in his blog *Stuff That Needs To Be Said*.

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: MARCH 2018:

March 4	<u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. India Dennis Email: pspcpastor@verizon.net
March 11	<u>Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center</u> Executive Director: Rev. John Reiter Email: john@cedarkirk.org
March 18	<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. John Wintringham Email: friartuk@wcc.net
March 25	<u>Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. H Timothy Halverson Email: tim@fpcf.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl Email: elizabeth@fpcf.org

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](#)
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Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral:  
[Graphic Designer and Marketing Coordinator](#)

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH~APRIL 2018

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

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

#### Thursday, March 22

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

#### 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.)