



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ February 21, 2019

~ From the General Presbyter ~

Presbytery Meeting - What's coming:

We look forward to having the Reverend Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), with us at our Stated Meeting, February 28th at First, Sarasota. Cindy will be bringing greetings on behalf of the 223rd General Assembly, as well as leading us in worship. You have the opportunity to meet with Cindy during the reception following worship in the afternoon. Cindy serves as Resource Presbyter for two presbyteries: the Presbytery of Boston and the Presbytery of Northern New England; and she serves in this office along with Co-Moderator Valmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, who is an ordained Ruling Elder and educator from Tropical Florida Presbytery. Also, as has occurred in previous February Stated Meetings, we will have a joint choir from several churches for worship.



Getting Ready to Say Good-Bye:

As the writer of old in Ecclesiastics said: “For everything, there is a season, a time...” and it is that time; so, in April I will be saying good-bye to a role you called me to at a May Presbytery meeting 18 years ago. It is a work that I have loved, even with the challenges, and I trust that I have been able to serve you over the years with “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.”

As with all Members of Presbytery, the Presbytery must act on dissolving my call, as well as acting on my request to become Honorably Retired, which has not yet occurred, but will happen at next week's presbytery meeting. This presbytery meeting will be my last Stated Meeting, but I will not retire until April, and there is still work to do. The metaphor of “flying the plane” at the same time as “trying to land the plane” has been challenging, but the runway is in sight, even as there are still some important issues to address. I am touched and grateful for the Steering Committee and staff planning the retirement celebration, and I look forward to seeing many of you at this meeting.

The transition plan is in place, and the Steering Committee will be working to address any gap that occurs between my retiring and the new General Presbyter being called and starting. Also, the Personnel Team and co-moderators of the Committee on Ministry have begun the conversation, as with all retiring ministers, on Separation Ethics. In summary, I will in every way possible, support the work of the Presbytery and the new General Presbyter, and I am confident in and praying for the GPNC in their decisions!

I thank my family, especially Linda, for their support over 43 years of ordained ministry. Also, it is an honor that special people in my life are coming to celebrate this time with me, including my family, some close colleagues, and friends.

In closing, I am grateful for what has been, even hopeful of what will be, knowing that God who began the good work in us "will bring it to completion on the day of the Lord Jesus Christ,"

Thank be to God!

Graham

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org --- in the future 2grahamhart@gmail.org

*Each week, the newsletter will feature a congregation, covenant partner,
or ministry of Peace River Presbytery.*

To learn even more, please visit the church or ministry web sites.

STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Including:

**A Celebration of Retirement
for Reverend Graham Hart, General Presbyter**

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Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota  
2050 Oak Street, Sarasota

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Registration Begins - 8:00 a.m.
Financial Forum – 8:25 a.m. (Library)
Meeting Begins – 9:00 a.m.

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The Boxed Lunch is \$10.00 and is payable at Registration.

**\*\* Lunch reservations are required by 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Contact the Presbytery Office by [email](mailto:) or phone (941-426-8421, ext. 401).

Include your name and church. Group reservations must include the individual names.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

[The Life and Friendships of C.S. Lewis](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota

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Sunday, February 24, 2019

[The Kirkin' O' The Tartans](#)
Christ Church of Longboat Key
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**Sunday, March 3, 2019**  
[Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch - Dedication Service](#)  
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March 15-17, 2019
[Association of Smaller Congregations](#)
[Reclaiming Vitality: "7 Biblical Marks of Vital Small Churches"](#)
Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's Island, GA
*Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 22nd
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**Monday, April 1-Tuesday, April 2, 2019**  
[PRP Presbyterian Women's Retreat](#)  
Day Spring Conference Center, Ellenton  
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Tuesday, April 30, 2019
[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)
Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22nd

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

[February Newsletter](#)

MISIÓN PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

www.misionpeniel.com

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

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

Contributions to Misión 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 Misión Peniel.
- Please note *Misión Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Misión Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Misión Peniel each month.

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.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell - health
- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- 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: FEBRUARY 2019

February 3	<u>Mision Peniel Farmworker Ministry</u> Pastor: Rev. Miguel Estrada Email: migustrada@hotmail.com
February 10	<u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr. Email: revglennb@gmail.com
February 17	<u>First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell Email: gbell@FirstPresSarasota.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald Email: kfitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org
February 24	<u>Stated Meeting of Presbytery</u>

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2019

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

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

Thursday, February 21

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Restructure Task Force (12:00 p.m.)

Thursday, February 28

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota)

(including the Celebration of the Retirement of Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter)

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.

