



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ April 26, 2019

### Speaking from the Hart: A Final Word

The plane has landed...and a new crew is now boarding.

The image I have used for this season in the life of Peace River, as well as for myself, is one my spiritual director shared with me at the beginning of this transition process last May. It was about landing the plane.

With yesterday's announcement from Craig Goodrich that the Steering Committee, on behalf of the Presbytery, voted unanimously to invite the Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins, H.R. to serve as the "Bridge General Presbyter", all is ready. I was not part of the process that led to that decision, but I want to affirm the wisdom and choice of the Steering Committee.

I believe the Presbytery will be well served by Kathi. Her strengths, gifts, faith journey, leadership style and history with the Presbytery will help bridge and address any administrative or leadership issues until the new General Presbyter is called.

As I get off the plane, and look to new horizons, I am grateful that all is in place for Peace River to grow even stronger in our ability to: *equip congregations, connect disciples in mission and be the Body of Christ together*; as well as move into Peace River's future story shaped by the seven new strategic directions ([click here](#)). In the transition and beyond the Presbytery will continue to be served by a great staff and excellent elected and volunteer leadership.

Although the original plan did not work out for the next General Presbyter to be in place upon my retirement, the leadership transition is well on the way. As the saying goes: all is as it should be; or as scripture says: "*All things work together for good for those who love God...*"

As I leave the General Presbyter position, as always is the case, our *Clergy Professional Separation Ethics* says that while friendships continue, my leadership role and work with you will come to an end. The *Covenant of Closure* that Joyce Lieberman, Synod of the South Atlantic Executive and Stated Clerk, helped us draft, defines and clarifies the boundaries as I get off the plane. The most important aspect of that Covenant for me is my promise to do all I can to support the new leadership of the Presbytery, which I will do. As is true for all departing pastors from a congregation, stepping aside so the new leadership is able to establish him/herself is so important for the long-term health of either a congregation or presbytery, and I am committed to the health of Peace River.

As I look to the future of Peace River, I am excited and hopeful about the new and next chapter that will emerge. I will be praying for you and General Presbyter Nominating Committee as they do their important work, and for Kathi, as she bridges the gap until the new General Presbyter is called.



Personally, I am looking forward to a change of pace, some travel in the fall and spending more time with Linda and our six grandchildren, five in Chicago and one in Sarasota. Additionally, I will be doing limited coaching with the Presbytery Leadership Formation program and some writing, as well as working with colleagues on two emerging ministry projects which I hope can be useful in some small way in the building of God's Kingdom in our midst so all may flourish.



The final word is one of thankfulness for the chapter we've shared together in Peace River these past 18 years in this great adventure called "life". For Peace River, Kathi Wiggins, and me, a new chapter officially begins May 1. Thanks be to God!

With gratitude and hope,  
Graham

[2grahamhart@gmail.com](mailto:2grahamhart@gmail.com)

*\*(Please note Graham's email change; his Presbytery email address will no longer be active.)*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Members and Friends of Peace River Presbytery:

On behalf of the Steering Committee, I am pleased to inform you that, by unanimous decision of the Steering Committee, the Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins has agreed to serve as our Bridge General Presbyter beginning May 1, and will serve on a half time basis until the permanent General Presbyter is called. Kathi is well known to our Presbytery, having served for many years as the pastor of Siesta Key Chapel Presbyterian Church.

As you know, the General Presbyter Nominating Committee, which is moderated by Sung Lee and Linda Getzen, has been hard at work over these last months. When it became apparent that there might be a gap of "in-between time" after Rev. Graham Hart's retirement, the Presbytery, in its February meeting, voted to give the Steering Committee the authority to provide for leadership during the time between Graham's retirement and the calling of our new General Presbyter.

Graham's last day in the office was April 11. He is currently using vacation time and will officially retire on April 30. Please read Kathi's note below which also contains her biographical information and feel free to contact her at 941-587-4733, beginning May 1. Her presbytery email address will be published next week.

Many thanks to Alesia Sharpe and Lori Doyal for their faithful and continued service to our Presbytery.

And thank you, Kathi!

Blessings and Peace,  
Rev. Craig Goodrich  
Moderator, Steering Committee



Dear Friends,

*He is risen!* and I hope you are savoring the Good News of that Easter proclamation. Peace River Presbytery has been an important part of my life, ministry and spiritual development since 1996. It has been gratifying to partner with friends and colleagues in ministry.

When I retired as pastor of Siesta Key Chapel last June it was with the hope and conviction that God would continue to use my skills and experience albeit with more free time than allowed by full-time ministry. In the past I served on

various Presbytery committees and joint efforts including three terms on the Presbytery’s Personnel Committee (seven years as chairperson). Now, as Presbytery seeks its next General Presbyter, I am humbled and honored to serve as the “Bridge General Presbyter”. The title captures the position’s intent to “bridge the gap” between one installed leader and the next, allowing the Presbytery to remain focused on its stated mission:

*to assist and support congregations,  
to connect disciples in mission,  
and to be the body of Christ together.*



Please join me in praying for the Presbytery and the General Presbyter Nominating Committee during this time of transition. If I can be of help to you or your congregation, don’t hesitate to give me a call or email. In the words of the Apostle Paul:

*I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you-all will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. – Philippians 1:6*

Grace and peace to you,  
Kathi Wiggins

**Education**

D.Min.	San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Francisco, CA	2001
M.Div.	Palmer Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA	1988
B.S.	Cairn University, Langhorne, PA (Bible/Christian Education)	1974

**Employment**

Pastor/Head of Staff	Siesta Key Chapel Presbyterian Church, Florida	2003-2018
Pastor/Head of Staff	Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Florida	1996-2003
Interim Pastor	Hillside Presbyterian Church, New Jersey	1995-1996
Associate Pastor	Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, New Jersey	1992-1995
Interim Associate	The Presbyterian Church, Westfield New Jersey	1988-1992
Youth Pastor	Olivet Presbyterian Church, Pennsylvania	1986-1988

**Family**

Those who know me well already know the tremendous joy I receive from my family. Married to my best friend for 46 years, Chuck (Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice), we have been blessed with four children, their spouses and ten (soon to be eleven) grandchildren. God is good and we are grateful.

**IMPORTANT!**

**Faith Place Safety Seminar**

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda  
Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**\*The Registration Deadline was Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Contact the Presbytery Office asap for seating availability if you forgot to make a reservation.

**\*\* Required (COM Policy) to attend:** Members of Presbytery, Ministerial Candidates and Inquirers

**Also should attend:** Pastors, Staff and Elders with roles in Christian Education and Personnel.

Please click on link above for more information.

**STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY**

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

8:00 a.m. – Registration / 9:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins  
8:25 a.m. – Financial Forum with the PRP Board of Trustees  
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**Lunch Reservations are no later than noon, Friday, May 10.**

Contact Lori at the Presbytery Office: [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

\*\*Include the name and church for each reservation.

Lunch is \$10.00 and payable at Registration (no credit cards).

**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

[Health and Wellness Fair](#)

Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

All are invited!  
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**Wednesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 9, 2019**

[An Evening with Dr. Tremper Longman III](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota (5/8) and Venice Presbyterian Church (5/9)  
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**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

[POAMN Regional Conference](#)

St. Leo, FL

**NOTICE – PCUSA PLANNING CALENDARS**

The PCUSA Store is changing the format of the Planning Calendars to be a 16-month, rather than 18-month format to be more in line with the church calendar.

The calendars for 2019-2020 will begin with September 2019 (instead of June) and go through December 2020.

Orders will not be shipped from PCUSA until August 2019.

Church Offices and Clerks of Session, please watch for an email from Lori (PRP Office) with the Order Form for Calendars.

If you order through the Presbytery Office, you receive a pass through discount because of the bulk order that the Presbytery Office places.

Questions? Please contact [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.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](http://www.beth-el.org)

[April 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](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

**Staff Contacts:**

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [miguestrada@hotmail.com](mailto:miguestrada@hotmail.com)
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)
- General Email: [misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? Do you love playing and worshipping in the beauty of nature? Are you seeking to hear what God is calling you to do this summer – and beyond? Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center invites young adults at least one year beyond their high school graduation to consider serving as part of our 2019 Summer Staff. Visit [www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment](http://www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment) to learn more about our life-changing summer community and how you might serve.



**SUMMER CAMP CHANGES LIVES!**

Are you looking for a summer program for your child that will provide him or her with opportunities for spiritual, physical, and social growth? Cedarkirk offers small-group, residential camp programs that allow children and youth to explore, learn, and just be themselves. Besides being fun, summer camps help kids: improve confidence and self-esteem; learn a new skill; improve critical thinking and decision-making abilities; experience the wonder of the natural world; learn to live and work as part of a community; and connect with God in a place where earnest discussions and honest dialogue allow them to make their faith their own. Send your camper to Cedarkirk this summer to discover how a single summer can last a lifetime! Visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) for program dates, details, and registration.

*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](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

**POAMN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

(Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network)

[“Engaging Aging in Today’s World”](#)

May 22, 2019 in St. Leo, FL

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

[Building and Maintenance Worker – First, Port Charlotte](#)

**PRAYER NEEDS**

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Terri Jo Crego (pastor of First, Port Charlotte) – loss of her mother
- The General Presbyter Nominating Committee (GPNC)
- 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: MAY 2019**

|          |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 28 | <u>Peace River Presbytery</u>                                                                                                                           |
| May 5    | <u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cjw049@gmail.com">cjw049@gmail.com</a>           |
| May 12   | <u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Rob Marrow<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rmarrow@vpcnaples.org">rmarrow@vpcnaples.org</a>     |
| May 19   | <u>Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dawn Mayes<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revdawnmayes@gmail.com">revdawnmayes@gmail.com</a> |
| May 26   | <u>TBD</u>                                                                                                                                              |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 2019**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)  
Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

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

**Wednesday, May 1**

Nominations Committee (3:30-5:00 p.m. – GoToMeeting Video Conference)

**Thursday, May 2**

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

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 a.m.)

**Wednesday, May 8**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

**Thursday, May 9**

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

**Tuesday, May 14**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

**Thursday, May 16**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 a.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples)

**Monday, May 27**

Memorial Day

Presbytery Offices Closed

**CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.

