



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ July 2, 2020

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

The 224th General Assembly was an historic, virtual gathering. The Assembly elected the Rev. Gregory Bentley and Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart as co-moderators on the first ballot. The Assembly focused on essential business since no committees met were able to meet. Most reports and overtures were forwarded to the 225th General Assembly. The body elected people who were necessary to continue the work of agencies, seminaries, and colleges. A unified budget for the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency was approved with a 3 cent increase in per capita, for a rate of \$8.98. J. Herbert Nelson was elected for a second term as Stated Clerk.

There were a few items of business that were added or pulled from items to be sent to the 225th Assembly. The Assembly pulled two items regarding Native American church support and passed them with a large majority. An item was added to affirm that support is needed for those affected by COVID-19, in particular calling for the church to advocate for better medical care and for support of those affected financially, through job loss and health costs, by the pandemic. The Assembly also added an item of business that affirmed that Black Lives Matter and calls for the church to work to dismantle systemic racism. This item included a request that the Assembly take an eight minute and 46 second time of silence before the closing worship of the body.

We thank our commissioners who participated in this Assembly in a way they were not expecting when they were elected. If you have questions about the work of the Assembly, please contact me or one of the commissioners who participated. You can find news about the meeting on the Presbyterian Outlook [website](#).

Blessings,
Melana

Webinar: COVID-19: Support for Mental Health, Bereavement and Grief

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy in partnership with the New York Life Foundation will be offering a webinar on July 14th, 2020 starting at 2:00 p.m. to discuss **COVID-19: Support for Mental Health, Bereavement and Grief**.

As the pandemic continues, serious mental health needs are emerging, including mental illness, depression, anxiety and suicide risk. This webinar is designed to help raise awareness of the intersection of mental health and COVID-19.

The discussion will include what professionals are seeing as individuals, families and communities endure the stresses of uncertainty, illness, death and the economic impacts of the pandemic; the role of cultural sensitivity in addressing the traumas of disaster; how funders are responding to the enormity of the losses; and opportunities for innovative and collaborative grant making.

To register for this event please go to: <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/event/covid-19-support-for-mental-health-bereavement-and-grief/>



**COVID-19:
Support for Mental
Health, Bereavement
and Grief**

July 14, 2020
2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT

WEBINAR

CDP Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Peace River Presbytery's Outreach and Nurture Team encourages you to note the following opportunities:

Blessing Grants

Has your congregation dreamt of growing a ministry but need some financial support to make it a reality? Consider applying for a Blessing Grant! Extended deadline to September 1st. Learn more [here](#).

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry School Supply Drive

You can help Beth-El Farmworker Ministry right from the comfort of your couch! Do some back to school shopping on Amazon. All you have to do is click and the supplies will ship directly to Beth-El in Wimauma.

This is an initiative of Peace River Presbytery to support one of our mission partners during a time of social distancing. We hope you can help! Browse the wish list today:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2IUIOYC16Z5SP?ref=wl_share

PCUSA Planning Calendars

Due to the Covid-19 circumstances, the Presbytery Office will not be placing a bulk order of the Planning Calendars this year. In previous years, the Presbytery Office has placed a bulk order to include all of the churches that wanted to order through the Presbytery Office.

This year, churches will need to order the Planning Calendars directly from the PC(USA) Store.

To do so, you may contact the PC(USA) Store through one of the following methods:

Email: support@pcusastore.com

Phone: 1-800-533-4371

Please note that if you go to the website, www.pcusastore.com, you will need to do a "search" for "Planning Calendar" for it to show up.

The calendar dates are September 2020-December 2021.

Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: www.misionpeniel.org

Position Opening

[Music and Choir Director – Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota](#)

Presbytery Office

The staff of the Presbytery Office continues to work diligently for you, while doing so remotely and safely. Mail is being picked up daily.

Please check the web site for the staff's cell phone numbers, should you need to reach any of them by phone.

[Contact PRP Staff](#)

Presbytery Calendar: July 2020

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

Thursday, July 9

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Tuesday, July 14

Committee on Ministry (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Cuba Partnership Task Force (10:00 am by Zoom Conference – Private Account)

Thursday, July 16

Steering Committee (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via video conferencing during this time of the stay-at-home guidelines. Please check the web site calendar regularly for additions or changes.

Cedarkirk at Home Brings Summer Camp to Your Living Room

Even though we can't be together physically this summer, we are sending fun and faith-forming camp experiences to our campers! Cedarkirk at Home combines a box full of camp goodies, curriculum, activity supplies, and surprises, with virtual small group Bible studies and activity sessions led by Cedarkirk counselors. In this way, we can still build our unique camp community, deepen personal connections to God, learn from one another, and have all sorts of silly camp fun even though we can't be together at camp.

If your church is struggling with what kind of summer program or VBS to provide your young people, this could be a unique opportunity for you! Your children and youth could sign up for the same week, participate in the program with one another, and make some new friends, too!

Our theme, LET'S TALK, will explore all the ways we can connect to God through prayer, and discover what communication with God has to do with renewal, guidance, and change!



For Cedarkirk at Home information and online registration, check out our website: www.cedarkirk.org/cedarkirk-at-home.

Covenant Partners of Peace River Presbytery

Click on the links to visit each ministry's web site:

- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – Wimauma: www.beth-el.org
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: www.cedarkirk.org
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: www.phhf.com

Prayer Needs

Please pray for:

- COVID-19 and Economic Recovery
- First Responders
- 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

Ongoing Prayers for our brothers and sisters in Cuba:

- We have been asked to join them in prayer at 9:30 am each morning in solidarity during this difficult time.
- We also pray for their wellbeing and safety during this time of crisis, both physically and spiritually.

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.



The Presbytery Newsletter is a weekly publication of Peace River Presbytery.
If you wish to be unsubscribed from the distribution, or if you know someone who would like
to receive the newsletter, please contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office:
lori@peacriverpresbytery.org or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.