



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ August 14, 2020

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

Our next Presbytery meeting is set for Saturday, September 12, and it will be a virtual meeting. It will be much like a regular meeting, but we will not be gathered together (and you have to provide your own coffee and lunch). There will be time to worship and conduct business and we have a great educational opportunity planned that will work well in a virtual format. We will work with the Rev. Larry Ousley, a United Methodist pastor and certified coach, to learn ways to listen to one another even when we do not agree. Our current culture is very divisive and listening to one another is becoming a lost art. Too often we talk past each other and wait for the next opportunity to make our own point. As Christians we are called to love one another and that includes hearing one another's hearts. We will use some exercises and break out rooms to have opportunities to learn and grow together.

There will be several training opportunities before the virtual meeting to allow commissioners to get familiar with how to conduct business via Zoom. Look for the dates and times of those trainings in the next couple of weeks. Please share that information with all your commissioners so everyone has the best experience possible.

One of the items of business that will come before the body is an update of the Employee Handbook. You can find it on the web page and review it before the meeting. The Human Resources Team has provided revisions that bring the handbook up to date and align it with the current structure of the presbytery staff.

Each year churches must set up the Board of Pensions plans for pastors and employees. The portal is now open for registration at www.pensions.org. You will need to login to Benefits Connect and choose the benefits you will provide. If you need assistance in getting your pastor and staff registered, please call the Board of Pensions number listed on their website.

The PC(USA) is inviting churches to join in a Week of Action to support the work to end systemic racism. You can find information about the Week of Action at this [link](#). Of particular interest might be a webinar on Farmworkers in the Pandemic that will air on Aug. 27 at 12pm EDT.

Thank you for all the work you continue to do to share God's love and grace in this part of the world.

Blessings,
Melana

From Your Human Resources Team

The Human Resources Team of the Presbytery is seeking volunteers

to serve on Presbytery Teams and Committees.
To see brief descriptions of the Presbytery Teams and Committees, click [here](#).
To access and download the “Volunteer Nomination Form”, click [here](#).
For additional information, please contact Human Resources Team Co-Moderator,
Rev. Laurie Haas, lhaas@churchofthepalms.org

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Saturday, September 12, 2020
Virtual by Zoom Conference
Details coming ...

PRP Employee Handbook Revision – Draft

[Letter to PRP Commissioners](#)
[Handbook Revision - Draft](#)

Farmworkers in the Pandemic: Essentially Disposable

A Webinar – Thursday, August 27, 12:00 pm ET

Click on the following for information:

[Event Flyer](#)
[Panelist Biographies](#)

Update from Beth-El

Thank you all who have sent your Back to School donations thus far. If your church is still collecting items, please note that we are in need of Back-Packs for Elementary Students (preferably with fun characters and lunch boxes), spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, and hard cover 1 inch binders. Also if your church, prefers to not use the Amazon option, and would rather do a collection, connect with us to let us know that we have those supplies coming and when you want to deliver them. Thank you so much for supporting our students!

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – Wimauma: www.beth-el.org

Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery

Web Site: www.misionpeniel.org

As a mission of the Presbytery, we rely on the churches of Peace River Presbytery for 100% of our budget. Thank you for your faithful support of this presbytery ministry.

Additional ways to support during this pandemic:

1. Food Drives or additional funds for the following non-perishables: Rice, Beans, Canned Protein (chicken, tuna, Vienna sausages, beef stew), Peanut Butter, Pasta and Tomato sauce;
2. Contributions to the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, which is providing limited financial assistance to farmworkers/families affected by COVID-19 with rental and utility assistance and health care related assistance (designate to COVID RELIEF);
3. Prayers for the Immokalee community as the percentage of positive cases of COVID continues to rise.

For the latest updates, visit us on Facebook (Mision Peniel), Instagram (misionpenielimmokalee) and subscribe to our quarterly newsletter via our website.

Presbytery Calendar: August 2020

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

Wednesday, August 19

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Thursday, August 20

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.

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:

- Our Nation
- Health Care Workers
- 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.