



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ June 11, 2021

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

Vaccinations, followed by new CDC guidelines, make the world seem like a safer, more open, place. Churches are beginning to return to some of what we used to do, what we think of as “normal,” like not wearing masks, hearing the choir, singing, and maybe even some fellowship time outside after worship. It is refreshing and we realize how much we missed being together in worship, service, and fellowship.

In his [blog](#) for Monday, June 7, Carey Nieuwhof shares some statistics from Barna about the different things people missed about in-person worship based on their generation. Boomers missed taking communion at church the most. Gen-Xers missed hearing a sermon live and millennials missed connecting with like-minded people. We know that some form of digital/hybrid worship is here to stay. Online worship has opened new avenues for reaching people and for staying connected to those who cannot attend because of health, job commitments, or travel. Digital worship will need to be more than just a recording of what we do in person. We will need to find ways to connect with people so that they can respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is incarnational and so our evangelism also needs to be incarnational. People want to know that they are cared for, loved, missed when absent. I would love to hear how churches are finding ways to connect with those who remain mostly digital participants. How can we meet them where they are so that they understand the incarnational love of God?

This will be one of the things we will wrestle with in the Vital Congregations work. We will look at the marks of outward incarnational focus and caring relationships that will help us focus on going to people who are searching rather than expecting them to come into worship some Sunday morning. The [seven marks](#) are available for sessions and groups to begin discussing as we move into this initiative.

Praying for you as you move into our new freedom,

Melana



At the May meeting of presbytery, a new part-time position was approved for facilitating the Vital Congregations Initiative and improving presbytery communication. The job description is below. If you or someone you know would be interested in applying for this position, please email Melana at melana@peacriverpresbytery.org.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

VITAL CONGREGATIONS FACILITATOR/COMMUNICATION LIAISON
Peace River Presbytery

Position Title:

This is a part-time, exempt, Temporary Supply position with a one-year renewable contract.

Position Reports To: General Presbyter

Purpose: Coordinate the work of the Vital Congregations Initiative in the Presbytery and strengthen communication within the Presbytery.

Position Requirements:

- Ordained Ruling or Teaching Elder in PCUSA
- Willingness to be trained as a facilitator for Vital Congregations Initiative
- Must be open to coaching for this work.
- Demonstrated proficiency in written communication, social media engagement, and website maintenance.
- Demonstrated ability in functioning within working teams as both a leader and a member.

Duties:

1. Facilitator for the Vital Congregations Initiative, working with congregations and pastors as they are called to move in new directions.
2. Coordination of clergy cohort groups within the Vital Congregations Initiative.
3. Under the direction of the General Presbyter lead the Presbytery staff in improving the Presbytery website, social media platforms, and other communications within the presbytery.
4. Other duties as assigned

Synod of South Atlantic Webinar:
“So You Are Thinking of Retiring”

Tuesday, June 15, 4:00-5:40 pm via Zoom

[Click for Registration Information](#)

News from FLAPDAN
(Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network,
in Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

Hurricane Season Preparedness Tips

“It’s that time of year again! Colorado State University has announced their predictions as “above average” for the 2021 Hurricane Season. Thankfully we have a much better hold on the coronavirus pandemic than we did a year ago. Still, we need to prepare for this season with our safety protocols in minds.”

Please read the entire newsletter from [FLAPDAN](#) for information.

There is also information on the Presbytery's Resource Page about Disaster Preparedness.

Around the Presbytery

Saturday, June 12, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Wintergarden Presbyterian Church's

Garden of Eatin' Community Garden and Food Forest

Dedication & Pig Roast

See [Information Flyer](#)

All are invited and welcome!

**** RSVPs are appreciated! ****

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### **Congratulations!**

Amy Cerniglia, an Inquirer under the care of Peace River Presbytery, won the Alberta Swanson Prize Essay Award from Dubuque Seminary.

This prize is awarded for an essay in history or theology.

Winning essays must be original and of publishable length and quality.

This award is made possible by an endowment given by the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa, in honor of Alberta Swanson.

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Position Opening

Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples

Music Director, seasonal or full-time.

For information, contact:

Bonnie Hartley, bhartley112770@gmail.com or Cherie Millsom, cheriemillsom@gmail.com

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.

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

Contacts:

Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor – miguel@peacriverpresbytery.org

Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org

Presbytery Calendar: June 2021

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

Thursday, June 3

Mision Peniel Team (10:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Special Called Meeting of Presbytery (2:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

Tuesday, June 8

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

Wednesday, June 9

Human Resources Team (3:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

Cuba Partnership Task Force (5:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

Thursday, June 10

Finance Team (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Wednesday, June 16

Committee on Ministry – Special Called Meeting (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Thursday, June 17

Steering Committee (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via Zoom Video Conference until further notice.
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:

- Alberta Adams (former PW Moderator) – cancer; in Hospice Care. Address for cards:
3734 Prairie Dunes, Sarasota, FL 34238
- DeAnne Sawyer (former Mision Peniel Team Co-Moderator) - recovery from triple by-pass heart surgery
- The people of Myanmar
- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – health
- Our Nation
- The Congregations and Pastors of Peace River Presbytery
- 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

Churches of Peace River Presbytery

Go to [Peace River Presbytery Churches](#)
to visit each of the church's web sites.



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.