



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ August 13, 2021

## Vital Congregations Initiative

Dearest Colleagues of PRP,

Peace River Presbytery has been invited into the Vital Congregations Initiative in partnership with the denomination. As I have been involved with the initiative over the years, these words from Isaiah 43:19 still ring true and give me tremendous hope for the church: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

I believe so many of our congregations are seeking a deeper understanding of the "new thing" God is doing in our midst as we live in this COVID world as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our ministries have changed. The way we disciple has changed. The ways we serve and reach out into our communities has changed. The way we worship has changed. And our ministry contexts' have gone through many different pivots over the past 16 months and will continue to have many more over the years to come. The Vital Congregations Initiative is a way for us to explore together as a presbytery and in our specific contexts ways to be the most vital congregations God is calling us to be "for such a time as this."

This journey is connected to the seven marks of vital congregations. Those seven marks were created by the denomination in consultation with many churches and other presbyteries. And the beautiful thing about these marks is that every church will explore and embrace them for their specific context and live them out differently. These marks are as follows:

1. Lifelong Discipleship
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism
3. Outward Incarnational Focus
4. Empower Servant Leadership
5. Spirit-Led Worship
6. Caring Relationships
7. Ecclesial Health

We are in our first phase with this initiative and it is the phase of preparation. During this time of preparation, I would love to find time to talk with you more about Vital Congregations and see if the Vital Congregations Initiative is a good fit for you and/or your congregation to begin and dive deep into beginning in January 2022. Over the course of the next few months, we will be encouraging you to learn about the initiative and be in prayer about this journey. We will also share a few resources for you, your leadership, and your congregation to be in preparation together.

I would love to start the conversation with you. If you feel it could be a possibility for your congregation, then I would enjoy meeting with the session as well.

Over the course of the month of August, I will host 4 different zoom conversations for you to consider joining. Those zoom meetings are listed below. More might come in September if these do not work for you.

In addition, I am available for one-on-one conversations as well. If you would like to schedule a one-on-one, please either email me back directly or visit this link to schedule an appointment:

<https://calendly.com/devonandrews>.

**Tuesday, August 17 at 3:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658838689?pwd=aU5RYUd1TVpqeGNoLzJZOUFkeWhEUT09>

**Thursday, August 19 at 10:00 am**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658838689?pwd=aU5RYUd1TVpqeGNoLzJZOUFkeWhEUT09>

**Monday, August 23 at 1:30 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658838689?pwd=aU5RYUd1TVpqeGNoLzJZOUFkeWhEUT09>

**Tuesday, August 24 at 10:00 am**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658838689?pwd=aU5RYUd1TVpqeGNoLzJZOUFkeWhEUT09>

For more information from the denomination, you can click on this link: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/>

Looking forward to hearing from you and coming alongside you in this next chapter.

Blessings to you this day,  
Devon

Rev. Devon Beisser Andrews  
Vital Congregations and New Worshiping Communities Coordinator  
Peace River Presbytery  
941-525-6671 (direct)

# Be a blessing.

BLESSING GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 1



Download the application at [PeaceRiverPresbytery.org](http://PeaceRiverPresbytery.org)



Have you considered any new mission and ministry opportunities for your congregation?

Apply for a Blessing Grant to help fund your project or program.

Visit [www.peaceriverpresbtery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbtery.org) and download the information packet about Blessing Grants today.

**Applications are due by September 1 but can be turned in by August 1** if you would like your information to be reviewed by our committee.

We look forward to learning more about how the Spirit is moving in your community!  
We hope the funds available will help you move forward. - Outreach and Nurture Team

## Peace River Presbytery Church Leadership Retreat

at

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18

**Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 9, 2021**

### [Registration and Information Packet](#)

Includes:

Letter from the Communication, Connection, and Community Team

Registration Information and Schedule

Registration Form

## Board of Pensions Benefits Webcast

To assist congregational decision-makers as they consider their benefits decisions for 2022, The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will host a one-hour webcast, **What's Possible? Strategies to Serve Better.**

Those interested may register either for Wednesday, August 25, 12:00 – 1:00pm ET or again on August 26, 3-4pm ET.

Information regarding the webcast content, as well as the registration link, may be found at <https://www.pensions.org/our-role-and-purpose/the-connectional-church/gatherings-for-congregations/church-benefits-webcast/>

T. Clark Simmons  
Senior Church Consultant



P.O. Box 520  
Decatur, GA 30031  
215.275.3079  
[www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

Madagascar  
Mission Network



Did you ever wonder:

- What do you get when you combine Missions, Mangos, and Madagascar?
- How does the FJKM fruit tree program support FJKM's evangelism efforts?
- What is going on with COVID-19 in Madagascar now?
- How will new tablets from PC(USA) help provide improved healthcare?

**Join us for: A Conversation with the Turks**  
**Thursday, 19 August 2021, 7:00 - 9:00 pm EDT**  
Get answers to these four questions and many more!

*Registration is needed so we can provide you with the zoom link and more specific information about the event. There is no charge.*

[Click here to register](#)

Please [click here](#) for a document in powerpoint "slide" format, that can be used to share with your congregation or small group.

[Click here](#) for pdf slide.



Looking forward to our time together,  
The Madagascar Mission Network  
[www.madagascarmissionnetwork.org](http://www.madagascarmissionnetwork.org)



The  
**Outreach**  
FOUNDATION™

## **Cuba Appeal**

Cubans are now experiencing the gravest economic crisis in 30 years. With food and medicine in short supply and available goods priced beyond the reach of most people, our Presbyterian family there (the Presbyterian

Reformed Church in Cuba) has an urgent need to assist its 60 congregations – most of which are found in small towns with few resources – to meet their basic needs.

Did you ever wonder:

- What do you get when you combine Missions, Mangos, and Madagascar?
- How does the FJKM fruit tree program support FJKM’s evangelism efforts?
- What is going on with COVID-19 in Madagascar now?
- How will new tablets from PC(USA) help provide improved healthcare?



In addition, when the Pediatric Hospital in Matanzas reached capacity at the end of June, our seminary partner there, the Evangelical Theological Seminary, was asked to open their large dorm to accommodate the overflow of children who were testing positive from Covid-19 and a family member for each child. This facility is now running at full capacity and, each day, the kitchen staff feeds 140 patients and medical personnel. Although the government supplies food, the seminary is needing to cover kitchen and cleaning staff plus utilities, such as water and electricity, which have both risen in cost by more than 130%.

In response, The Outreach Foundation is seeking support for our partners in Cuba to aid during this time of crisis.

The Outreach Foundation  
381 Riverside Drive, Suite 110  
Franklin, TN 37064

<https://www.theoutreachfoundation.org>

Visit the web site for information on how you can give to the “Cuba Emergency Appeal”.

## Around the Presbytery

### **Position Openings:**

**Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers  
Spanish Pastor (Temporary Part-Time)**

[Job Posting](#)

~~~~~

**First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**

**Organist**

[Job Posting](#)

~~~~~

**Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota**

**Administrator**

[Job Posting](#)

[Position Description](#)

**Music Director**

[Job Posting](#)

[Position Description](#)

~~~~~

**Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers**

**Director of Christian Education**

[Job Posting](#)

[Position Description](#)

**Misión Peniel: a Ministry of Peace River Presbytery**

Web Site: [www.misionpeniel.org](http://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](mailto:miguel@peacriverpresbytery.org)  
Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – [ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org)

**Presbytery Calendar: August 2021**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)

***Thursday, August 5***

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

***Sunday, August 8***

- College and Young Adult Sunday

***Monday, August 9***

- CCC Team (3:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

***Tuesday, August 10***

- Committee On Ministry (9:00 am by Zoom Conference)

***Wednesday, August 11***

- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)
- Human Resources Team (3:00 pm by Zoom Conference)
- Cuba Partnership Task Force (5:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

**Thursday, August 12**

- Finance Team (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via Zoom Video Conference.  
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](http://www.beth-el.org)
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: [www.phhf.com](http://www.phhf.com)

**Prayer Needs**

**Please pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – health
- Our Nation
- The Congregations and Pastors of Peace River Presbytery
- The people of Myanmar
- 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](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.