



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ September 3, 2021

Vital Congregations Initiative

Dearest Colleagues of Peace River Presbytery,

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?"

Over the past month, the conversations I have had with pastors and elders have already been life giving! Hearing the different questions and wonderings on how the Vital Congregation Initiative will work with churches in transition, with new pastors, with long-standing pastors, with current and new programming, and with churches feeling like something new is on the horizon, brings me so much hope for the church of Jesus Christ. I am hearing folks share their hope for seeking a deeper understanding of the "new thing" God is doing in our midst. Friends, this is truly life-giving and exciting for Peace River Presbytery. 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 couple of 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 September, I will host 4 different zoom conversations for you to consider joining. Those zoom meetings are listed below.

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>. We can chat over zoom or in person or on the phone. Whichever way you are comfortable doing so.

Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00am

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Monday, September 20th at 1:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Monday, September 20th at 4:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00pm

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 Andrews

Peace River Presbytery
Church Leadership Retreat

at

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center
Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18
Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 9, 2021

All are welcome!

[Registration and Information Packet](#)

Includes:

Letter from the Communication, Connection, and Community Team
Registration Information and Schedule
Registration Form

Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA)

Miguel Estrada, Pastor of our own Mision Peniel, tells us that the lack of safe, affordable housing in Immokalee exacerbates the cycle of poverty among farmworker and other low income families. Loving parents struggle to provide for their children while living in overcrowded, dilapidated shacks and trailers.

As a Board member of the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Miguel knows first hand about the well managed project to build a community of 128 affordable rental units with a community center.

For more information and to learn how you can help, email: ifhaf1@comcast.net or go to the website: www.immokaleefairhousing.org, click on "Get Involved", and complete the contact form.

Haiti Earthquake

Information on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response

[Click to read the article.](#)

Florida Clergy Convening

The 2021 Florida Clergy Convening will be held virtually again this year. The convening is hosted by the Florida Council of Churches and presented by Pastors for Florida Children. The theme for this year's convening is, "Called, Prepared, Sent."

Our keynote speaker is Fed Ingram, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers. Ingram grew up in inner-city Miami, where he attended public schools. Pursuing his love of music, he attended Bethune-Cookman University on scholarship and became the first member of his family to earn a postsecondary degree, in music education. He served as a music teacher and band director in Miami-Dade public schools for 10 years. Ingram is also the immediate past president of the 140,000-member Florida Education Association.

Convening Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks - Dr. Russell Meyer; Centering Reflection & Scripture Reading - Dr. James Morris; Invocation - Rev. Joyce Lieberman
- 9:45 a.m. Keynote Adress - Fedrick C. Ingram, American Federation of Teachers
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Advocacy: Public Education
- 11:00 a.m. Legislative Advocacy: Criminal Justice, Voting Rights/Redistricting, etc.
- 11:45 a.m. Celebration of Denominational Leadership
- 11:50 a.m. Charge & Sending Forth - Rt. Rev. Frank Madison Reid, III, Presiding Prelate 11th Episcopal District AME Church (Invited)
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn

For more information or to register go to: <https://bit.ly/FLCLERGY2021>. Be sure to register by close of business on September 14, 2021. A link to the virtual convening will be emailed out to registrants a few days prior to the event. For more information, contact Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard at rguntershapard@cbf.net.

2021 FLORIDA CLERGY CONVENING (Virtual)
- Called, Prepared, Sent -

Hosted by:  Presented by: 

Workshop Presenters:
 ACLU Florida, Florida PTA, Florida School Boards Association & Southern Poverty Law Center

Workshop Topics:
 Legislative Advocacy for Criminal Justice, Voting Rights/Redistricting, and Public Education.


Keynote Speaker
Fedrick C. Ingram
 Secretary-Treasurer,
 American Federation of Teachers


Thursday, September 16th
 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Register by COB on Sept. 14th <https://bit.ly/FLCLERGY2021> 

Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard
 Regional Vice President, Black Belt
 Together for Hope
<http://hope.cbf.net>
 C: 904-502-5158

Beth-El: Ministry in the Summer

The following video link celebrates a summer of good ministry at Beth-El in 2021.

Click on the link to see the many things that took place.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-PiCe6N6HM&ab_channel=Beth-ElFarmworkerMinistry%2CInc

Around the Presbytery

Position Openings:

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

[Job Posting](#)

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**First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte  
Organist**

[Job Posting](#)

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**Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
Music Director**

[Job Posting](#)

[Position Description](#)

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@peaceriverpresbytery.org

Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator – ruth@peaceriverpresbytery.org

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:

- Afghanistan, Haiti, Cuba, Myanmar, and all those affected by Hurricane Ida

- Graham & Linda Hart, in the loss of her father
- Rev. Dr. Taylor Hill – health
- 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.