



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ August 21, 2020

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

In February (which seems like years ago), we had Tod Bolsinger, the author of [Canoeing the Mountains](#), speak at our Presbytery meeting. He talked about the church going into uncharted territory and what that could mean if we had the courage to make the journey. Little did we know just how soon we would see an even bigger shift in the territory in which we serve. COVID-19 has brought much tragedy and devastation to our nation and the world, but it has also forced the church to make some shifts that might have taken many more years to make. There are still places the church could venture farther off the map.

The first shift that many churches made was a technical change, mostly having to do with worship and continuing connections. Pastors and staff quickly learned how to provide content and meaningful worship weekly to people when the buildings were closed. Most of those were technical changes that had to do with answering the questions of how, what, and who. I have seen some wonderful technical changes in worship services and Bible studies and daily devotionals. People have been reached beyond those who were attending our physical worship and programming. It has been amazing for churches to see new people reaching out to know the love and grace of God in Christ.

The next shift that needs to be made is around adaptive change. Adaptive change often answers the why question. Adaptive change requires a shift in values and in the way we behave. It often leads to loss, something we have felt profoundly in these days. If we begin to ask ourselves why the church continues some things and leaves off others, we begin to recognize the values that make us who we are. That will look different for each congregation. For too long many churches have thought they needed to do everything that every other church was doing. In adaptive transformation as we answer the why, we may discover a calling that requires us to stop doing some things, even as we answer a call to start doing something else.

Adaptive change is not easy. It requires us to recognize that we do not have the answers and be open to working together to discern a new way forward, when we do not have the map. This time of intense change has provided a moment when we can, if we wish, make a shift into a new way of being church that could reach people who would never step into a building. It will require working together, sharing ideas, and a great deal of prayer. It will be worth the journey.

I would be glad to facilitate conversations among pastors or with sessions who want to consider how to make adaptive changes as we move into the future. Contact me if you have interest in such conversations.

Blessings,
Melana

PC(USA), A Corporation Board elects a new co-chair

Communication August 6, 2020

The Rev. Bill Teng will serve a two-year term

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Board members the Revs. Cynthia Campbell and Bill Teng listen during a time of introductions at a 2018 meeting of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation Board of Directors. (Photo by Leslie Scanlon)

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation Board of Directors welcomed new members and elected a new co-chair during a Thursday online meeting.

Chris Mason, one of two co-chairs over the past two years, was unanimously elected to serve as co-chair for another year. The Rev. Bill Teng was unanimously elected to a two-year term.

Mason's fellow co-chair for the past two years, Bridget-Anne Hampden, will step down as co-chair, with thanks from the board.

"There could not be a better person to be in dialogue with to help me perceive things the past two years," Mason said. "I really, really, really valued having her next to me," Mason said of Hampden. "You have been enormously important to all of us."

"Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve," Hampden said, saying to Mason, "I could not have asked for a better partner in this journey. We clearly had different skills," which she said was "critical to the success of the first two years of what we had to do. I'm grateful to Chris for his knowledge and patience, and for most of the time seeing the glass as half full."

"For me, this was a labor of love," she said, adding that she's "happy and content to move in a different direction knowing that the board is solid in membership and in love of the Lord to do the work it has to do."

[The A Corporation](#) is the business office of the General Assembly, enabling the General Assembly to conduct any number of transactions with the secular world. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) separated A Corporation from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, so that each could focus on what it is intended to do.

The board welcomed new members Joyce Rarumangkay, who's retired from the World Bank and lives in Virginia, and Jason Micheli, an investment manager in Southern California, during Tuesday's meeting, which met over the lunch hour Eastern Time.

Board members will meet online Aug. 19-21. In the meantime, they will work on filling slots on the board's three committees: Nominating, Governance, and Personnel; Audit, Legal, and Risk Management; and Finance, Operations, and Budget.

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Virtual by Zoom Conference

Details coming ...

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

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](#)

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: September 2020

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

Thursday, September 3

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

Monday, September 7

Labor Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 8

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

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

Wednesday, September 9

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

Thursday, September 10

Finance Team (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

Saturday, September 12

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery (by Zoom Conference – Details TBA)

Wednesday, September 16

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

Team, Committee, and other meetings are being conducted via video conferencing 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:

- 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.peacriverpresbytery.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.