



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ April 28, 2021

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

The Synod of the South Atlantic hosted a webinar with Tod Bolsinger this week on Leading the Church into the Post-COVID World. We have mostly moved out of the acute phase of the COVID crisis and now find ourselves needing to address the what's next question. We all like what is familiar, and I have heard many pastors and elders talk about going "back" to what was. Just returning to what we did previously would waste a wonderful opportunity for the Church.

Dr. Bolsinger talked about using this time as an opportunity to see what the underlying conditions are in the church, the places that need to become healthier and stronger. He mentioned four underlying conditions, but I will only focus on the first one today. There is a lack of deep discipleship within many congregations. Discipleship is about so much more than membership, worship, fellowship, or even mission. Discipleship is about our relationship with God and with our neighbors. In the Great Commission Jesus does not say that we should go into all the world and make church members. Jesus said we are called to make disciples. What would it take for churches to address the underlying condition of a lack of discipleship?

The Vital Congregation Initiative lists lifelong discipleship formation as the first of the seven marks of a vital church. Dr. Bolsinger also said that we need to have a spirit of adventure as we move into the future. That will mean that we might need to try things we have never tried before. Those might fail and if they do, we can learn some things to help us with our next experiment.

These are exciting times to be part of the church. We have a grand opportunity to see where God's Spirit might lead us if we are open to an adventure. Please let me know what adventure your church might begin.

Blessings,
Melana

Stated Meeting of Presbytery Thursday, May 13, 2021 by Zoom Conference

Advance Registration is required and will open next week.
Watch for emails with directions.

**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.

Beth-El Mentoring Program

See [flyer](#) for upcoming training and information.

Churches in the News

[Christ Church of Longboat Key](#)

Funeral Expense Assistance

FEMA is providing grants to pay for funerals of those who have died from COVID. Information is on the resources [page](#) of the presbytery under CDC and Health Advice.

[50 Days of Spiritual Practices: Easter Themed Calendar](#)

Rev. Leslie Latham and **Rev. Dorothy Pearman** of the **Presbytery of Western New York** have created this calendar and have graciously shared it with us.

Position Openings at Churches (Non-Clergy)

Children and Youth Coordinator - First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

[Position Description](#)

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**Audio-Video Coordinator - Christ Church of Longboat Key**

[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: April 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, April 1**

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

### **Friday, April 2**

Good Friday – Presbytery Offices Closed

### **Sunday, April 4**

Easter

### **Thursday, April 8**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 am by Zoom Conference)

### **Monday, April 12**

Outreach and Nurture Team (10:00 am by Zoom Conference)

### **Tuesday, April 13**

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

### **Wednesday, April 14**

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

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

### **Friday, April 16**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees – Called Meeting (1:00 pm by Zoom Conference)

### **Tuesday, April 20**

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

### **Tuesday, April 27**

“Leading the Church into the Post-Covid World”, with Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger  
(Registration required; see the information flyer in this newsletter)

### **Thursday, April 29**

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](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:

- The people of Myanmar
- Rev. Dr. Harry Schill – for successful recovery following surgery to remove a cancerous tumor.
- 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](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.

