

May 28, 2009
Peace River Presbytery
Stated Meeting
Highlights



Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, hosted the May meeting of Peace River Presbytery, sharing their spacious campus and great church volunteers.

General Presbyter Graham Hart introduced his daughter Laura and her baby Grace, Graham's first grandchild.

Rev. Hunter Farrell, a career missionary with the PCUSA and the director of the General Assembly Council's World Mission program area, preached during the worship service on "Mission: Redrawing the World". He also gave the keynote address plus led a breakout group. Rev. Farrell was very well received by those attending.



Other breakout sessions were led by Mr. Dave Moore for Beth-El, a multicultural mission, Susan Sampson for Thornwell Home for Children, and a visiting Arabic Presbyterian Pastor.

"**Good News Breaks**" were given by the Arabic Pastor and Ed McDowell, a representative from Duvall Home in Glenwood, Florida.

Kathy Broyard, Statewide Coordinator of the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (**FLAPDAN**) shared valuable information with the commissioners.

The Presbytery approved a change in the **Standing Rules** (recommended by the Theology and Worship Committee) that the celebration of the Lord's Supper will take place at all stated meetings of the presbytery.

The Board of Trustees President, Alan Penick, encouraged the churches to pledge their financial support (if they haven't already done so) and to fulfill their pledges.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommended, and the Presbytery voted, to receive the following inquirers:

- Donald Buck, Christ Church of Longboat Key
- Daniel Gonzales, First, Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
- Susan Wills, First, Presbyterian Church, Sarasota.

The Evangelism and Church Development Committee moved, and the Presbytery approved, that Peace New Church Development would become chartered as a church. An organizing and installing

celebration of Peace Presbyterian Church will be conducted on October 18, 2009. Congratulations!

Nominations Committee submitted the following names for election, and Presbytery approved:

Mission and Justice

- Ed Gray (New Life Fellowship, Naples) Class of 2011-1

Camps and Conferences

- Barbara Shafer (Covenant, Fort Myers) Class of 2011-1

Presbyterian Homes and Housing:

- Thomas McNutt (First, Lehigh Acres) Class of 2009
- JoAnn Beaumont (First, Fort Myers) Class of 2011 (This is to correct an error in electing Robert Bohl by mistake at the last Stated Meeting)

Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network:

- Rev. Graham Hart, Class of 2011

Information from the Records and Overtures Committee was submitted:

- "An Overture to Achieve Voting Parity among the Presbyteries Based on Church Membership" was presented for review, to be voted on at the next Presbytery meeting to be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.
- The following churches have agreed to host upcoming Stated Meetings:
 - February 25, 2010 – Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
 - May 27, 2010 – St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port
 - August 21, 2010 – Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

The Presbytery approved the following pastoral calls:

- Rev. Timothy Reynolds as Associate Pastor of Church of the Palms (Sarasota)
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel as Interim Pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church (Sarasota)

Other actions by Committee on Ministry under authority granted:

- Approved Rev. India Dennis to labor outside the bounds of Peace River Presbytery in Foothills Presbytery, South Carolina.
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshops will be held every other year for pastors and Directors of Christian Education serving churches in the Presbytery.

A special thanks goes to Clint Cottrell, Pastor of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers, who served as Clerk Pro-Tem in Craig Countiss' absence.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers.