

SPECIAL APPEAL

What do you value when it comes to mission and outreach?

Peace River Presbytery values and supports our Covenant Partners, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma and Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Lithia.

Beth-El's Mission Statement

"Beth-El helps farmworkers achieve self-sufficiency through its open opportunities to worship, its extensive educational programs, and the many services it provides to meet basic needs. Help for basic needs are available for all who need them; we target the Hispanic population in our education programs and worship services."



Cedarkirk's Mission Statement and Core Values

"A Place Apart to Build Up the Body of Christ in Love"



Core Values

To serve the churches by providing:
a place of spiritual nurture and growth for children, youth, and adults;

a place where the love of Christ can be experienced through Christian community;
a place of hospitality, where all are welcomed in the name of Christ;
a place apart from the distractions of everyday life; and
a place where God's creation is honored.

From 2002 until 2007, \$440,000 has been given to Beth-El and \$527,800 to Cedarkirk. In 2007, Peace River began to support Beth-El's Misión Peniel in Immokalee and its new Pastor, Miguel Estrada. **Where did the money come from? It came from you because you have agreed that these ministries are vital.**

As you know, economic conditions have changed. Beginning in June 2008, the Presbytery was forced to reduce its support for both Beth-El and Cedarkirk. Beth-El received \$20,000 less in 2008 than Peace River had originally budgeted, and Cedarkirk received \$15,000 less. At the same time, the Presbytery allowed two staff positions, vacated by retirement, to remain unfilled and reduced its overall budget by nearly 30 percent.

By the end of 2008, the seriousness of the economic downturn was becoming clear. The Presbytery's estimates of 2009 revenue from congregations were reduced drastically, and there was no choice but to cut the Beth-El and Cedarkirk donations even further. The 2009 budget under which we are now operating contains \$40,000 less for Beth-El and \$50,000 less for Cedarkirk than did the 2007 budget. The Presbytery of Tampa Bay has had to make similar cuts. These shortfalls have impacted the services to migrant families and to the families and young people of our Presbytery.

At Beth-El...

- The Board of Directors of Beth-El has voted to suspend Misión Peniel at the end of this year.
- The position of Mission Educator was eliminated in May.
- An across the board salary reduction was instituted two months ago.
- Churches volunteering to serve Friday night meals at Misión Peniel are now being asked to underwrite the cost of those meals.
- Sixty line items were reduced or eliminated from the 2009 budget.
- Summer youth programs were reduced.
- The 2010 budget is expected to be \$200,000 below the current reduced 2009 budget.



At Cedarkirk...

- The 2009 budget has been significantly reduced and additional cuts are being prepared.
- A Fund Development and Sustainability Task Force has been established to make recommendations to the Board of Directors in September based on summer camp usage and projected retreat usage for the rest of the year.
- Recommendations may include an increase in rates for retreat groups and programs, the elimination of some non-summer programs, a reduction in scholarships for events and summer camp, and a reduction in staff.
- Additional cuts may be required in outreach programs such as The Inn Door (a Christmas retreat for homeless families and single women) and Christmas International House (a peacemaking and hospitality event for international college students).



In addition, Council has formed the Mission and Finance Task Force to study the entire issue of the mission, vision, structure, and finances of Peace River, plus funding the work of the Presbytery in the years to come. This task force will discuss the role of Per Capita versus Unified Giving in this Presbytery and many other facets of mission funding.

But in the meantime, Cedarkirk and Beth-El need their funding restored NOW. **Will your church support a special offering beginning September 20, 2009?** Monies received will be equally divided between the two covenant partners (unless otherwise designated) and will help make a difference right away.

What can I do?

- 1) Participate in the special offering.
- 2) Pray.
- 3) If you are so blessed and able, send a check to Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287.

What do you value when it comes to mission and outreach?

Our prayer is that all the churches of Peace River Presbytery will join together, both now and in the future, to enable Cedarkirk and Beth-El to continue their vital ministries.

This is no time to be idle. The Mission and Justice Committee of the Presbytery formed the Covenant Partners Emergency Funding Task Force to look at ways to increase the funding of Beth-El and Cedarkirk this year. This task force presented a plan to the Presbytery Council. **As a result, materials are now being prepared and Council approved a special offering to be received at Peace River Presbytery churches beginning September 20, 2009.** The same task force will discuss ways to fund these ministries in the future.



Mission and Finance Task Force:

Kathleen Weller, Chair
Mary Lee Mann
Bill Hull
Karen Wismer
Alan Penick
Chris Adams
Tim Halverson
Jim Barnett
Graham Hart

Covenant Partners Emergency Funding Task Force:

Clay Thomas, Chair
DeAnne Sawyer
Judy Kraut
Mark Knowles
John Reiter
Dave Moore
Graham Hart
Bill Setchel