



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Presbytery Meetings: looking back, looking ahead.

Over a dozen elder and clergy commissioners, representing all perspectives on Amendment 10-A, have e-mailed, called or spoken directly to me about how positive they felt about last week's Presbytery meeting, even though it was a hard conversation with deep emotions. Worship was moving and meaningful, the keynote address by Cynthia Rigby was deeply engaging, and our debate and conversation on 10-A was thoughtful, respectful, and helpful. Several have said how different this debate and engagement was compared to other Presbyteries with which they have had contact. Why?

As was stated at the beginning of the meeting, *who is a Presbytery?* Who is responsible for a Presbytery and for the kind of conversations we have and the way we do our work together? YOU! Everyone present – for you are the Presbytery.

I want to acknowledge the work of the Records and Overtures and Theology and Worship Committees, the Presbytery Council, our Moderator Don Cady, Chair of Council Mary Lee Mann, and Stated Clerk Clint Cottrell, all of whom gave deep thought to the shape of the meeting. The five presenters speaking from different perspectives on 10-A each did a superb job -- Tim Halverson, Chris Romig, Tom Harp, Doug Pratt, and Lyn Olson. Thank you! Especially, I want to affirm you, the elder and clergy commissioners, who gathered to do the work and mission to which God is calling Peace River Presbytery.

Looking ahead - Every year the Presbytery Council's leadership meets to decide on a theme and speakers for the year. This process occurs in accordance with the Presbytery's action several years ago to change the format of our meetings (i.e., moving from 6 hours of just business and long debates to a pattern of dedicating our morning together to worship, learning, fellowship, celebration and conversation, and the afternoon to decision, discernment and necessary business). If you have a suggestion for a theme, or for keynote speakers or preachers, please e-mail Mary Lee Mann (mannfarmgirl@aol.com) or myself. That group will be meeting soon to begin planning.

Looking back – Our theme for 2010 was *Growing the Church Deep and Wide*. In November 2010 we looked at the theme from a social justice perspective. We were pleased to have the US Attorney for Southwest Florida speak on modern day slavery. Noelle Damico of the PCUSA Fair Food Campaign and representatives from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers also spoke. Below are several recent stories and articles dealing with the same issues. These articles are reminders that such tragedies are still going on, and we still need to address them. Please pray for Beth-El and Misión Peniel in their vital and transformative work with the farm worker community. And a word of thanks to each of you because you have provided the foundational support for this work. Over the past 5 years, through the Presbytery budget, you have given over \$400,000 and have made a difference in the lives of thousands of farm workers.

Lives Transformed: The story of Mariano Lucas and the impact of the Campaign for Fair Food

In the fields of Florida, farm workers struggle for fair wages and human rights. They earn 45 to 50 cents for every 32 pound bucket of tomatoes they harvest. Read how Presbyterians are reshaping a food system that has been nourished on human suffering. [Read more](#) →



'The New Face of Slavery'

Efforts to help those caught in the vicious web of human trafficking must go beyond good intentions. [Read more and learn how YOU can make a difference](#) for those abused by traffickers.



Know the signs of trafficking

[Watch this short video](#) from the U.S.

Department of State on identifying and assisting a trafficking victim.

Again, I am grateful for you and this Presbytery and the work to which God is calling us. Thanks be to God.

Graham

Graham Hart

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P.S. As always, I invite your comments and observations.

P.S.S There is a link below for PDA and for responding to the disaster in the mid-west.



Peace River Presbytery

... Click logo to go to The Presbytery web site:

... The PCUSA Mission Yearbook:



Please add these concerns to your personal prayer list.

Please continue to pray for:

Becky Beckwith (wife of Committee on Ministry Chair Jim Beckwith) as she continues to receive treatment for cancer

Rev. Bob Rea

Pastors and Educators in transition

Those affected by natural disasters in the United States

Nations in crisis

Please also keep in your prayers:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Misión Peniel

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center

CONGREGATION OF THE WEEK:

June 5	Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota Mike Mansperger, Pastor covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
June 12	Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota Kathi Wiggins, Pastor pastork@comcast.net
June 19	Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota Jane Jones-Norris, Temporary Supply jonesnorris507@tampabay.rr.com
June 26	Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice Chuck Wiggins, Pastor pastorcjw49@yahoo.com
July 3	Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice Chris Romig, Pastor cromig@venicepresbyterian.org Ruffin Stepp, Associate Pastor rstepp@venicepresbyterian.org Lyn Olson, Associate Pastor lolson@venicepresbyterian.org

PDA National Response Team members have been requested in Missouri and are en route to the affected area. [TO READ MORE, GO TO THIS LINK](#). All money sent to Peace River Presbytery will be forwarded directly to PDA.

To read about the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, [click here](#).



Register for 2011 Big Tent - 'Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide'

June 30-July 2, 2011

(Deadline to register has been extended to JUNE 15)

Indianapolis, Indiana

[Register today](#) →

[Join thousands](#) of Presbyterians for your choice of nine national conferences under one roof, including the [Presbyterian Communicators Network National Conference](#):

Learn best practices for communicating and sharing the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and your individual congregation through websites, blogs, newsletters, bulletin inserts, videos, podcasts and other media. [Learn about all nine partner conferences](#)→

[Apply for a Presbyterians Communicators Network Conference scholarship](#)→

The articles below may interest you. I have found some of them in my reading, and others have been passed on to me. *Just click on the underlined phrases.*

[Traps for clergy and their new congregation](#)

Associated Baptist Press: What are the potential trouble spots that can derail the relationship between a congregation and its new pastor?

[Pope ousts 'loose living' monks of Rome's Santa Croce monastery](#)

The (London) Guardian: Vatican acts after reports of monks staging concerts featuring a former lap dancer and running hotel service.

[A Christian response to overpopulation](#)

Christianity Today: We can continue to affirm life while acknowledging that unrestricted population growth can put women and children at risk.

[Review: 'Christianity: How a tiny sect from a despised religion came to dominate the Roman Empire'](#)

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: New book helps non-historians and those unfamiliar with the story understand that the story of Christianity is complex.

[The Queen on the Emerald Isle](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Queen Elizabeth's visit to Ireland was a stunning, inspiration moment of peacemaking, the likes of which we rarely witness.

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR (for more details, go to www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

JUNE, 2011

7th

Mission/Vision Guide Team

8th

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

9th

Board of Trustees

Nominations – conference call

14th

Committee on Ministry

16th

Mission and Justice

Personnel – conference call

21st

Evangelism and Church Development, at Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

23rd

Council

Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop, at Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach