



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Weekly E-Newsletter ~ February 12, 2021

From the General Presbyter

Dear Friends,

One of the cornerstones of the church is discipleship, nurturing believers in the faith for service and mission in the world. This is a life-long process. We never “graduate” and move on from learning and growing in faith.

Lifelong Discipleship Formation is the first of the seven marks of a vital congregation. We are hoping to be accepted to be part of the next cohort of the Vital Congregations Initiative that would begin in June of this year. Part of that initiative includes sharing the seven marks of vital congregations within the presbytery.

It is my opinion that for too long we have focused on getting members into the church who can support the mission and programs that are in place and have often forgotten that our real calling is to train up disciples. The life of a disciple is lived out of the faith we have in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, a faith that informs all decisions and relationships. Raising up disciples instead of recruiting new members could not only change the church, but it could also change the world.

A Declaration of Faith, written in the PCUS and approved by the General Assembly for use in worship and study says this about disciples:

“Christ calls us to be disciples. In forming his people and sending them into the world, Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death. We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God’s undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God’s demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.”

(A Declaration of Faith, Chapter Nine (1))

It would be a joy to hear how each of our congregations are nurturing disciples. Please feel free to share what you are doing with me.

Note: I continue to work mostly from home. If you want to contact me, please call my cell number rather than the office, or email me. Thank you. Cell number 417-489-0024

Blessings,
Melana

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Thursday, February 25th, 9:00 am

By Zoom Conference – **Advance Registration Required**

Registration will open on Monday, February 15.

Please watch for an invitation email from Alesia.

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also ...

### Finance Forum

Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:15-8:45 am

By Zoom Conference – Advance Registration Required

This is a different Zoom link than that for the Stated Meeting.

Please contact Lori Doyal ([lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)) to receive the link for the Finance Forum. Invitation emails will not be issued for this forum.

The Finance Forum is open to everyone, not just finance people, who would like to learn more about the Presbytery's Three Streams of Funding as well as to ask questions for your own churches.

Members of the Finance Team will be available to answer your questions.

## From the Finance Team

Churches, if you have not submitted your *2021 Estimate of Giving Form*, please do so as soon as possible.

You may email it to Lori Doyal, [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

or mail it to the Presbytery Office, Attn. Lori Doyal, Finance Administrator.

The form and other related materials were emailed to Church Pastors and Clerks of Session last November. It is not available on the web site as it is specific to each church.

If you did not receive this packet, or have questions, please contact Lori.

## Beth-El: Share our Stories

**A Virtual Evening of Storytelling**

**March 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

A Zoom Event

[Click for more information.](#)

We will hear the stories of farmworkers and their families and how, together, we can alleviate hunger, provide access to education, health, and spiritual growth.

## Association of Smaller Congregations Online Conference: March 19 & 20, 2021

Conference registration by January 31, 2021 is FREE using code "COMMUNITY".

After that it will be \$80 per person.

Register online at [www.presbyacs.org](http://www.presbyacs.org). Contact registrar at (706) 373-9480 or email at [registrarasc@bellsouth.net](mailto:registrarasc@bellsouth.net) for further information. Keynoter is Maryanne McKibbon.

Please use this link to get to the special registration form:

[Products – Association of Smaller Congregations \(presbyasc.org\)](https://www.presbyasc.org)

<https://www.presbyasc.org/shop/>

**Save the Date: April 27, 2021**

**Leading the Church into the Post Covid World**

Presenter: Rev. Tod Bolsinger

Sponsored by the Synod of South Atlantic

**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)

**Information on the Presbytery's Web Site**

The *Presbytery's Covid-19 Resource Page* includes:

- Links to various continuing education opportunities.

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The *PRP Web Site Resource Tab* (top of home page) includes:

- The 2021 PRP *Remittance Form* for Churches
 - Handbook for Clerks of Session

There is a lot of other information on the web site that might of use or interest to you.

Take time to explore.

If you have any corrections or updates to information, please contact

Lori Doyal, lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

Job Opportunity

Northminster Presbyterian Church in Sarasota is seeking a part-time, full-charge Bookkeeper (approximately 16 hours a week) with knowledge of fund accounting.

For more information, please call 941-355-4729 or email office@npcsarasota.org.

Presbytery Calendar: February 2021

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

Thursday, February 4

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

Tuesday, February 9

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

Wednesday, February 10

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

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

Thursday, February 11

Steering Committee (8:30 am by Zoom Conference)

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

Thursday, February 25

Finance Forum (8:15 am by Zoom Conference) – Open to All

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (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
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: www.cedarkirk.org
- Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: www.phhf.com

Prayer Needs

Please continue to pray for:

- 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 or 941-426-8421, ext. 401.