



# e-News from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay

4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, Florida 33615

March 12, 2015

*The Mission of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay is to identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples of Jesus Christ.*

## **REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**East Region:** Thursday, April 23, 10 a.m. with lunch at First Presbyterian Church, Dade City.  
Church address: 37412 Church Ave, Dade City, FL 33525, (352) 567-2591.

**Hillsborough Region:** Thursday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., Bel Mar Presbyterian Church, Tampa.  
Church address: 4003 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611, (813) 839-5244

**West Region:** Saturday, April 25; details to be announced.

*As a reminder regarding the Regional Meetings, the following is taken from the Transformation Team Report, (which you can read in full: [www.presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://www.presbyteryoftampabay.com); front page under "Good Stuff.")*

## **THE APPROACH TO FORMING REGIONAL COMMISSIONS**

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay would delegate the ministry and work of the Presbytery into three regions, therefore Regional Commissions would be authorized by the centralized Presbytery structure. Tampa Bay Presbytery will be organized into three Regional Commissions: Hillsborough County, Pinellas and West Pasco Counties, East Pasco and Polk Counties. (*We now call them East, West, and Hillsborough Regions*).

Each of these Regional Commissions will meet three times a year in a church or other location within that region. During the start-up period, it is anticipated that Regional Commissions may need to meet more often as they organize themselves. The purpose of the Regional Commission meetings would be:

Worship and prayer

Leadership development

Examine for Presbytery membership

Examine for transition to candidacy in the CPM process

Create ministry and support networks for Ruling and Teaching Elders

Determining funding allocations for Beth-El, Cedarkirk and FLAPDAN from congregations within the Regional Commission (annually)

Nominate and elect members to a Regional Commission Leadership Team with the purpose of scheduling and organizing commission meetings within that region.

The Regional Leadership Team elects its Chair from among the Leadership Team members. There would be one annual meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. During the start-up period, it is anticipated that the Presbytery may need to meet more often as Regional Commissions and the Presbytery organize themselves.

The purpose of the annual meeting of the Presbytery:

Worship and prayer

Approving a budget for the Presbytery

Electing a Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery

Electing Commissioners to the General Assembly

Electing members to the four commissions and Coordinating Team of the Presbytery

## **IMPORTANT CORRECTION!**

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay collected **\$2345 (!)** for the offering at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Meeting instead of the \$965 that was reported at the meeting. The offering is designated for Cedarkirk. Way to go, Tampa Bay!

Speaking of Cedarkirk, registration is now open for summer. For more information, go to [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org), [emailcamps@cedarkirk.org](mailto:emailcamps@cedarkirk.org), or 813.685.4224 x2. And thank you for the cookies at the presbytery meeting!

### **Stated Clerk Search**

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay is in the midst of a Stated Clerk search. This is a full-time position which will include both the Stated Clerk administration piece as well as communication responsibilities. The Ministry Information Form is available on the Presbytery website. Go to [www.presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://www.presbyteryoftampabay.com). On the home page is a list titled "Good Stuff;" you'll see "Stated Clerk MIF" there.

### **First Presbyterian Church, Port Richey**

Spring Rummage Sale, March 20 & 21, 8 A.M. – 2 P.M. We will have some great items for great deals! The address is 7540 Ridge Road, Port Richey, FL 34668 (727-849-1898).

### **Thornwell Home for Children**

**Almost There and we need your help...** Thornwell Home for Children has expanded its ministry into Florida with a program called *Building Families*. Building Families' goal is to stabilize families and help family members grow together. It equips families with skills necessary to ensure safety of children, reduce or eliminate the need for out-of-home placement for children, keeping families together. Our first Building Families program is operating in Bradenton, with plans to expand into the Tampa Bay area very soon.

This is where you come in. Thornwell received a VERY generous matching gift to help fund the new Building Families Program in Florida. Gifts made to this campaign will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$110,000. To date, we have raised \$98,000 toward this goal. Our deadline to complete the match and maximize the gift is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Would you consider making a gift toward this challenge? Or, would you include an announcement in your church bulletin to let your congregation know of this opportunity to have their gifts matched?** Visit our website for more details on the matching gift or the Building Families program. You may contact Rev. Dennis Reid, the Florida Representative for Thornwell, who is available to answer any questions. *Please designate gifts to the Florida Challenge.*

Thank you so much for your support for the expanding ministry of Thornwell. Thornwell Home for Children, 302 South Broad Street, Clinton, South Carolina 29325, [www.thornwell.org](http://www.thornwell.org); Dennis Reid, 727-519-627, [Dennis.Reid@Thornwell.org](mailto:Dennis.Reid@Thornwell.org)

### **Gulfport Presbyterian Church**

On Palm Sunday, March 29th, the Rev. Micki Robinson will be telling the Passion Narrative according to John's Gospel at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary of the Gulfport Church. A free will offering will benefit the Florida Challenge for Thornwell Home for Children.

On Good Friday, April 3, several churches in the St Petersburg area will join together for a Good Friday Service on the Gulfport Beach near the Gulfport Casino. The service will be at noon. If the weather is bad, we will meet at the Gulfport Church. Everyone is invited. If you plan to come, bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

GPC address: 5313 27th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL 33707, (727) 321-8086

### ***Dear Friends,***

***You all are planning special Holy Week services. If you'll send me what you're doing, I'll create an eNews devoted just to Holy Week services and events. Please have this information to me by March 18, [statedclerk@pbty.com](mailto:statedclerk@pbty.com). Thank you, Laurie Palmer, Temporary Stated Clerk***

### **Spring Concerts**

The Tampa Oratorio Singers and members of the **Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir** are offering two concerts. The first will be the Verdi Requiem on March 29, Palm Sunday. It will be at Palma Ceia PC at 4:00 p.m. The second concert will be favorite sacred music, and presented at **St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center** on Sunday, April 19 at 4:00pm. Music will include several selections from Mendelssohn's Elijah, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Lacrymosa, and Ave Verum,

among others. Free will offerings will be collected at both concerts. Go to [www.tostampa.org](http://www.tostampa.org) for more information.

### **PLAY BALL! Presbyterian Night at the Rays!**

Mark your calendars now! Friday, May 8, the Rays vs the Rangers! (TEXAS, YES!) Tickets are \$25 for the lower level, a \$50 value. The price includes a Rays hat that can be picked up at the game. Order deadline is April 26. Tickets may also be purchased to donate to the Beth El Farmworkers Ministry. For questions, and to ask for an order form, contact Bob Windheim, 727-825-3220 or email him at [bwindheim@raysbaseball.com](mailto:bwindheim@raysbaseball.com). Bob's emailed the churches with this information so you might have an order form in your inbox.

### **The International Mission Partnership Committee...**

is sponsoring mission trip to Honduras scheduled for July 25, 2015 to August 1, 2015. If you are interested in participating or would like more information please call Betty Wajdowicz at 727-596-4740, Gene Aspy at 863-299-2846 or Margaret Shaw at 813-655-2795.

### **Good News and we are proud of our Vice-Moderator!**

In November 2014, Marsha Rydberg was inducted into the Stetson College of Law Hall of Fame. She was chosen as the Hillsborough County Bar Association Lawyer of the year for 2014, and Marsha has recently been notified that in about two weeks she will be given the "Trailblazer Award" by the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers.

### **Continuing Education Webinars from the Presbyterian Outlook**

Top Ten Financial Mistakes Churches Make (and How to Fix Them):

Tuesday, March 24, 2:00 p.m. More info: <http://bit.ly/1EfgHen>; and

Governance and Ministry: Pastor and Session as Partners;

Tuesday, April 14, 2:00 p.m. More info: <http://bit.ly/1EDtwlg>,

**FINALLY...**

### **TAKE NOTE: Tax Credit Information and Resources**

***Some churches in Tampa Bay Presbytery have received thousands of dollars in refunds, some tens of thousands of dollars. This is worth some research. This was announced at the November 2014 meeting, along with a handout.***

The Small Employer Healthcare Tax Credit (Tax Credit), a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), is an incentive to small employers to provide healthcare coverage to their employees. This Tax Credit could save your organization thousands of dollars, depending on its individual circumstances. Although the Tax Credit has ended for churches and other employing organizations of the PC(USA) with participants in the Medical Plan Traditional Program or the Affiliated Benefits Program, **it may not be too late to file amended returns for tax years 2010 through 2013 (see [Filing Amended Returns](#)) to claim the credit.** BOP website for info:

<http://www.pensions.org/availableresources/healthcarereform/taxcreditinformationandresources/pages/default.aspx>.

### **Filing Amended Returns**

If a tax exempt organization can benefit from the Tax Credit for tax years 2010 through 2013 but did not claim the credit on a tax return, the organization may file amended returns for each applicable year to claim it.

**For tax year 2013:**

1. Go to IRS and Additional Resources To Determine Qualifications on this page for links to a worksheet, forms, and instructions.
2. Complete Forms 990-T and 8841 for 2013.
3. Mark the return "Amended Return" and file it with the IRS at your earliest possible date.

**For tax years 2010 through 2012:** Call the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) and speak with a member service representative to obtain the necessary worksheets, forms, and instructions for determining eligibility for the Tax Credit and filing amended returns.

### **General Qualifications**

Your organization may be eligible for the Tax Credit for tax years 2010 to 2013 if it is a small employer that offers a qualifying arrangement, such as the Medical Plan; has fewer than 25 Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEEs); provides average wages of less than \$50,000; and contributes a uniform percentage

of at least 50 percent toward the dues/premiums for each employee enrolled in the healthcare coverage it offers.

#### Amount of the Tax Credit

For tax-exempt organizations, the Tax Credit can be up to 25 percent of the employer's healthcare coverage costs. (Note: Some PC(USA) employers have saved as much as \$10,000 per tax year.)

The Tax Credit will be issued as a refundable credit against the amounts the employer has withheld from its employees' wages for federal income taxes and Medicare tax, plus the employer's share of Medicare taxes. (Therefore, the credit is also limited by these amounts.)

If a tax-exempt organization can benefit from the credit for tax years 2010 to 2013 but did not claim it on a tax return, the organization may file amended returns for each applicable year to claim it.

**There is a three-year statute of limitations, so act as quickly as possible.**

#### IRS and Additional Resources To Determine Qualifications

Small churches and church-related employers may qualify for the Tax Credit, whether they provide coverage through the Medical Plan of the PC(USA) or through a commercial insurance plan. Guidance from the IRS addresses how to handle clergy compensation for determining an employer's eligibility for the Tax Credit and the maximum credit available to an employer.

Telephone (813) 868-4800 / Fax (813) 200-1054  
[www.presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://www.presbyteryoftampabay.com)