



e-News from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay

4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, Florida 33615

May 14, 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.

Summary of Called Presbytery Meeting, 5/14/2015

Thank you, Teaching and Ruling Elders, for attending today's meeting.

Here is a summary of what happened:

The Moderator, Teaching Elder John Fullerton, called the May 14, 2015 called presbytery meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

First time Ruling Elder Commissioners and Corresponding Members were given an opportunity to be introduced. There was an Appointment of Tellers: Ramiro Ros, Jim Hatch, and Dan Johnson.

The presbytery set its heart on worship. Teaching Elder Peg Roy preached a thoughtful sermon based on Psalm 42 and our unease about the state of today's Church. "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." (verse 11)

Other participants in worship were Teaching Elder Micki Robinson, Teaching Elder Doug McMahon, Ruling Elder Ann Wortman, and Teaching Elder Tara Thompson.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Fitz Conner, made this motion: "The Committee on Nominations and Representation nominates the following persons for election to the positions indicated. (As much as possible, the Committee worked hard to address the need for parity among the members of the Committees/Commissions of the Presbytery to reflect a balance of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, in addition to reflecting the gifts and skills necessary for ministry, and to be mindful to address diversity of the Presbytery. Also, it can be noted, that the Committee on Nominations and Representation has given great attention to representation for and from the regions of the Presbytery. Nominations from the floor are in order but require the prior agreement of the persons who are being nominated.")

The motion to elect the following nominees was seconded, and the Presbytery voted in the affirmative. Board of Trustees: Kathleen Dain, Teaching Elder, West Region, 15-0
Commission on Ministry: Michael Clark, Ruling Elder, West Region, 17-1;
Kathy Muder, Teaching Elder, Hillsborough Region, 16-1.

The Chair of the Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Libby Shannon, made a report of its findings. She moved the following recommendations to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay:

1. Presbytery approve dissolution of Westminster United Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, Florida effective June 30, 2015, with the final worship service to be held on May 31, 2015.
2. Presbytery approve taking possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories, historic records, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay of all accounts and real property known to be in the possession of Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Inc. of St. Petersburg, Florida.
3. Presbytery authorize the Commission to assert claim of the presbytery to any property of the Westminster United Presbytery Church, Inc. of St. Petersburg not known at this time or property which may come to the Westminster United Presbyterian Church as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
4. Presbytery direct the Commission to proceed, with particular pastoral care, the required and customary steps to dissolve a congregations of the PC(USA).

This four part motion was seconded. The Presbytery voted in the affirmative.

Now that this motion has passed, there will be discernment regarding rebirthing a new congregation there. "This is not the end for this community." "This is the end of a chapter but not the end of the story." (Libby Shannon)

There was a motion to adjourn, seconded. The meeting was closed in prayer ("Our hearts are heavy but our hopes are high.") by Rev. Dr. John Fullerton, and by singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lakeland

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, will celebrate its final worship service in its building this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. They will celebrate memories and honor the church's heritage these many years. WPC will continue to be a viable congregation as it looks to the future with hope. All are invited to attend this special time of worship. The address is 730 S Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801.

Minister Installation

The Rev. Owen Carriker will be installed as Pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church, Winter Haven on Sunday, June 7, at 4:00 p.m. Come celebrate with Owen and HPC as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

News from the West Region:

In July of 2014 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Dunedin) Honduras Mission Team brought 100 Sawyer Products water filter systems to the village of El Mico as a pilot program to see if they could reduce waterborne diseases. Honduras Outreach, Inc. continued to work with the community after we left on proper usage and sanitation practices. We received the following in a report: This system has proved it is a solution to the problem. In a period of 8 months, cases of diarrhea has fallen 93% and the number of patients with diseases caused by parasites have been reduced in similar amounts. God is soooooo good!

We plan to take as many filters as we can raise the funds for this year. Our goal is at least 100 which will not even put a dent in the need of over 200 villages served by HOI (https://www.facebook.com/HOIinc?fref=ts&ref=br_tf). We serve a big God and know He has heard their cries! If you would like to sponsor a filter, the cost to give a family a lifetime of clean water is \$50. Please send your gift of clean water before May 31, 2015. Make Check payable to- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Mail to-St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, ATTN: Jayne Dowdy, 705 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin FL, 34698. Thanks in advance! Everybody deserves clean water!

Job Opportunity:

First Presbyterian Church of Brandon (FPCB)

Director of Children and Families Ministry, part-time:

Primarily responsible for the Children and Families of FPCB. The director will lead Children and Families of FPCB in their walk with Jesus Christ. The director is called to share the love of God by serving within our church, community and beyond; and to develop and empower passionate followers of Jesus Christ. For information about this position and to submit your resume call or e-mail: 813-689-4597 or

church@fpcbrandon.org