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## TAMPA BAY PRESBYTERY



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

## A Word From the Clerk

As those of you who were at our last Stated Meeting (or read the summary) know, our Presbytery recently elected a new Stated Clerk and Director of Communications, Rev. David Baker. I want to take a moment and tell you a little more about him (me), and the goals of this position.

I've been a pastor in this Presbytery for almost 7 years, and in ministry for more than 13. In that time I've been at large churches and small churches, done church planting, redevelopment and started a couple of online businesses. I'd like to use those experiences to help strengthen the leaders in this Presbytery so that all of our churches are making new and mature disciples of Christ.

Notice some familiar language there? One of the primary things I'll be doing is trying to help us live into the vision that we agreed to in the [Transformation Team's Report](#): to identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples for Jesus Christ.

As Director of Communications, my job is to remind you of this vision. Which I will be doing - *a lot*.

So much so that you're probably going to get sick of hearing it.

But if we want to live into our vision of helping each other do ministry, of being more relational and horizontal, of being the Church for one another, we're going to have to bring that intention with us everywhere we go. We didn't just agree to

change the structure of our committees and staff; it's a new way of relating to each other. This needs to become part of every Presbytery related meeting.

### **So what's in store for the future?**

We're going to be redesigning the website. We'll be exploring new options for communication and sharing ministry with one another. This newsletter will probably develop into something significantly different than what it is currently. We'll develop new ways of learning from each other and supporting one another. But *everything* that we do will be in service to that greater vision: it's all about Christ's Church, and strengthening her leaders, both lay and ordained, so that we see more and more mature disciples.

As we move into this future together, I'd encourage you to take a few minutes to reexamine [the Transformation Team's excellent report](#).

Blessings!

Rev. Dave Baker,  
Stated Clerk and Director of Communications  
Presbytery of Tampa Bay



## **[News from Around the Presbytery:](#)**

### **GA Commissioners Needed:**

The Nominating and Representation Committee is accepting applications for delegates to represent the Presbytery of Tampa Bay at the 2016 General Assembly! The 222nd General Assembly will be in Portland, Oregon from June 18th to 25th, 2016. Applications, due September 15, 2015, may be [downloaded](#)

[from the Presbytery website](#). Instructions for submitting a complete application are included on the application; delegate Nominees will be presented at the November meeting of the Presbytery.

Information about General Assembly activities may be found [at this link](#).



### **Go FISHing @ Cedarkirk!**

Cedarkirk is offering a new retreat targeting leaders and volunteers in Christian Education and family ministry, Friday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. to Saturday Oct. 10 at 4:00 p.m. \$50 for Friday & Saturday; \$25 Saturday only. Register on the [Cedarkirk website](#) or call Karin: 813-685-4224

*More info:*

[Flyer](#)

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Women Joint Event**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is investing time and funds in an all day Florida Disaster Preparedness Training Event scheduled for August 29th at Tims Memorial Presbyterian Church in Tampa ([read the flyer](#)). Their hope is to have at least 2 - 4 women from each presbytery attend and become Disaster Preparedness Trainers for Florida.

*More info:*

[Application](#)  
[Reference form](#)

### **Communion Blessing**

Many of you who were at the Presbytery meeting requested the words to Vicki ByRoade's wonderful communion thanksgiving. She tells me that she "borrowed" this from a blog called "Lectionary Liturgies". This is [the post that contains her thanksgiving](#) (I think).

## **The New Book of Order is Out!**

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