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**PRESBYTERY
OF
TAMPA BAY**



Our Mission:
*To identify and strengthen leaders
so that every congregation makes
new and mature disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Better Know a Presbyter

Being Presbyterian is great. I know that's a matter of debate in some circles, but the connectional Church has tremendous advantages over doing ministry in the wilderness. Not only are we able to support one another in prayer and by sharing best practices, we're also able to help nurture and develop upcoming Teaching and Ruling Elders.

In today's episode of "Better Know a Presbyter" (part 2 in our 368 part series), we'll meet Ruling Elder George Meese, a long time member at Maximo Presbyterian Church. We'll also learn a little about one of our key ministries, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, or CPM, which prepares Ministers and Commissioned Ruling Elders for service to the Church. Please take a couple of minutes to meet George:



If you've got a resource, tip, or just a really interesting story you want to share, please, let me know!

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



Presbytery Pastoral Concerns:

One of the ways in which we can strengthen each other is to be there for one

another in times of trouble and times of joy. If you have (or know of) a pastoral concern that a member of Presbytery has, let us know and these concerns may be shared with the Presbytery for prayer or praise.

Passing of Rev. Alisun Donovan's Father:

Henry John Pepe, 95 died at Suncoast Hospice on August 14. He was surrounded by four generations of family including his beloved wife of 68 years. A private military service is being arranged.

News from Around the Presbytery:

Regional Meeting Info:

Please Note: The meeting time for Hillsborough Regional Commission is now 9:30am.

The dates and places for our Regional Presbytery Commission Meetings have been set! Please note that these meetings are not optional. We're having fewer Presbytery meetings each year and transitioning Presbytery business to these Commissions. Additionally, these are currently the primary way we have of getting to know others in our regions. Churches should send Ruling Elder Commissioners as well as Teaching Elders.

East Region Commission:

The next meeting of the East Region Commission will be Thursday, September 24th, 2015 at 7pm at [First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven](#). The discussion will be about [5 Peacemaking Affirmations](#) that Presbyteries have been requested by the GA to discuss for the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. The GA is attempting to better reflect the diversity of opinions in its Presbyteries on the issue of war.

Hillsborough Region Commission:

The next meeting of the Hillsborough Region Commission will be Saturday, September 19th, 2015 at 9:30am at [St. Andrew New Tampa](#). The discussion will be about [5 Peacemaking Affirmations](#) that Presbyteries have been requested by the GA to discuss for the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. The GA is attempting to better reflect the diversity of opinions in its Presbyteries on the issue of war.

West Region Commission:

The next meeting of the West Region Commission will be Saturday, September 26th, 2015 at 9am at [St. Mark's Hudson](#). We'll be examining Denise McLeod for ordination, and honoring David Hosick at his retirement.

Website Feedback:

Is there information you'd like to see on the Presbytery website? Let me know! Our current site should now be up to date, but what other info would you like to see there? Email statedclerk@pbtty.com to share your ideas!

New Grants Available for Redevelopment From CCV:

The Presbytery Commission on Church Vitality (CCV) is excited to announce grants available to Presbytery churches for the purpose of redevelopment. These grants are for any church that feel as if it is in a season of redevelopment, and wants a jump-start for doing new things. As part of the grant process, the session of the applying church works in partnership with a local coach to determine what is most needed for the church to recapture its vision. Please [download the application](#) for more details.

Outreach Opportunity at Rio 2016 Olympic Games:

Many local churches in Rio see the Olympics as an opportunity for outreach to the half a million plus people who will be visiting their city in 2016. To this end, nine Presbyterian churches in Brazil would like to partner with PC(USA) churches to bring the Gospel to the Games over a week long outreach opportunity in August of 2016. If you think your church may be interested in sending people to Rio to partner with these churches, please find more [details in this document](#).

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](#).

The New Book of Order is Out!

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