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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.*

Peacemaking Affirmations Discussion

Beginning this week and moving into next week, our Presbytery will be reflecting on a proposal from the General Assembly that the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) will be taking up shortly. We'll be discussing this in our upcoming Regional Commission meetings.

What is this proposal? In a nutshell, it's a set of ideas for how we ought to react as Christians to more than a decade of war in this country. [Find detailed information about the proposal here.](#)

Why are we talking about this?

Have you ever felt that the positions that the denomination takes nationally don't reflect most of the Presbyterians you know? You're not alone. We're having this conversation largely because there's a perception that the denomination's national voice does not speak for many Presbyterians, so the GA is giving us a chance for our voices to be heard. This is an unprecedented opportunity to tell the denomination what we think on a particular social issue, prior to the preparation of the report that is to guide Peacemaking efforts in the PC(USA).

But why are we, as Presbyterians in Tampa Bay, talking about this? As a connectional church, we have to consider not just local issues, but those of the big "C" Church. Did you know that the PC(USA) has [mission partners in](#)

[Iraq](#)? People in our Presbytery have met these pastors at PC(USA) events, and speak highly of them.

Also, while the wars this document refers to are happening half a world away, this is still a local matter. The headquarters for our military's presence in the Middle East, CENTCOM, is on MacDill Air Force Base, less than a mile from my house. This base is one of the main economic drivers of our region. Additionally, our very own Rev. Libby Shannon (Associate Chaplain at Eckerd College) chaired the GA committee that devised these Affirmations.

So while it may not seem like a pressing issue to some, our region more than most has "skin in the game." I'd encourage you to read the [5 Peacemaking Affirmations](#) and come prepared to share your thoughts with your fellow Presbyters at the Regional Commissions, as we prepare to share our thoughts with the larger Church. Please remember to print and bring a copy!

As always, if you've got a resource, tip, praise 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



Pastoral Concerns:

From First Presbyterian Church of Inverness:

Our dear organist, Harry Hershey died on Thursday, September 10. He was an extremely gifted musician who came to us after a wonderful career as a music teacher, musician, and band leader. He will be greatly missed by our congregation.

News from Around the Presbytery:

Regional Commission Info:

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 and requests for excused absences to the Stated Clerk or Recording Clerk.

Hillsborough Region Commission:

- Saturday, September 19th, 2015 at 9:30am
- Google Directions: [St. Andrew New Tampa](#).
- Agenda: [Hillsborough Agenda](#)
- The discussion will be about [5 Peacemaking Affirmations](#). Please review this document prior to the meeting and **bring a copy with you**.

East Region Commission:

- Thursday, September 24th, 2015 at 7pm
- Google Directions: [First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven](#).
- Agenda: [East Agenda](#)
- The discussion will be about [5 Peacemaking Affirmations](#). Please review this document prior to the meeting and **bring a copy with you**.

West Region Commission:

- Saturday, September 26th, 2015 at 9am
- Google Directions: [St. Mark's Hudson](#).
- Agenda: [West Agenda](#)
- The discussion will be about [5 Peacemaking Affirmations](#). Please review this document prior to the meeting and **bring a copy with you**.

Called Meeting of Presbytery

The Coordinating Team of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay has called a special Presbytery meeting to be held on Saturday September 19th at 9:00am at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. This meeting will be brief and take place just before the Hillsborough Regional Commission slated to begin at 9:30am in the same location.

The purposes of the meeting are as follows:

- 1) To vote on a recommendation by the Coordinating Team to close Keystone Presbyterian Church of Odessa.
- 2) To approve creation of an Administrative Commission to take original jurisdiction from the Keystone session.

Please remember to request an excused absence if you cannot attend. Registration for both meetings will begin at 8:30am.

Directions to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church:
[5338 Primrose Lake Cir, Tampa, FL 33647](#)

Installation of Rev. Dr. Michael McCormack

Please join the Presbytery as we welcome a new colleague in ministry to [First Presbyterian Church of Brandon](#). Minister members in the Hillsborough Region are especially encouraged to attend and welcome Mike to the Presbytery. Reception to follow the installation service.

Details:

*Sunday, October 4, 2015
4:00pm - FPC, Brandon
121 Carver Ave, Brandon, FL 33510
813-689-4597*

Free Week Long Vacation to Portland

Did that headline get your attention more than "Extended Deadline for Presbytery GA Commissioners?" I'm afraid that "Vacation" might only be true if you enjoy Presbytery meetings, but the PC(USA) *will* pay for your trip.

The Presbytery Nominating and Representation Committee is still seeking applicants to represent the Presbytery at the 2016 General Assembly meeting. The committee has extended the deadline to October 5, 2015.

GA2016 will be held June 18th - 25th in Portland, Oregon. Here is a link to more information: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga/>

For more information, please contact [Jim Gregory](#), and download [the application](#).

Free Lunch!

Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch. On Tuesday Sept. 29th from noon to 1:30pm at [Westminster Shores in St Pete](#), listen to Rev. Brad Rice as he speaks in this first of a 3 part lunch series "Where is my Congregation's GPS?" dedicated to helping local pastors better navigate the differences in worship and congregational life of their churches. They will be using Corrine Ware's book, *Discovering Your Spiritual Type* as a guide. A paperback or digital copy of this book will be given as a gift to all attendees. Registration deadline is September 21st; please RSVP Rev. Jan Banker with lunch choice (see flyer for details): jbanker@wservices.org.

More info:

[Flyer](#)

Mission Giving Opportunity in Honduras

Can you imagine walking one and one-half hours each way over a rocky, up and down mountain trail three times a week to conduct services in a Presbyterian Church? That is exactly what a pastor in Honduras does as he serves the church in a remote Honduran village. Churches in Honduras are unable to support their pastors, so they all must have another occupation. This particular pastor is a farmer. If he had a horse, his travel would be much easier. However, \$250.00 for a horse is far more than he can afford. If anyone would like to assist this pastor and pay for a horse, please call Betty Wajdowicz, 727-596-4740 or The Rev. Ramiro Ros - 813-513-1398. Instructions will be provided on the way to donate the money through the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. Many thanks to everyone who has helped to support our work in Honduras in so many different ways.

Session Minutes Review:

Every year churches are required to have their session minutes reviewed for certain constitutionally required items. The review of 2014's minutes will be taking place during each of the Regional Commission meetings coming up in September. For more information, please check your mailbox, or [view the mailing online](#).

Presbytery of Tampa Bay

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