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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.*

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## **Featured Resource**

I once had a member of our youth group ask me, "what do you **do**?", implying that as a pastor I only did anything useful for about an hour a week, as far as she could tell.

While there's a little bit more to it, if I'm being honest a lot of what I did at the time was go to meetings. Meetings for mission, meetings for studying the Bible, meetings for planning a new contemporary service, meetings to talk about how all of our other meetings went. As a Presbyterian, there are a *lot* of meetings!

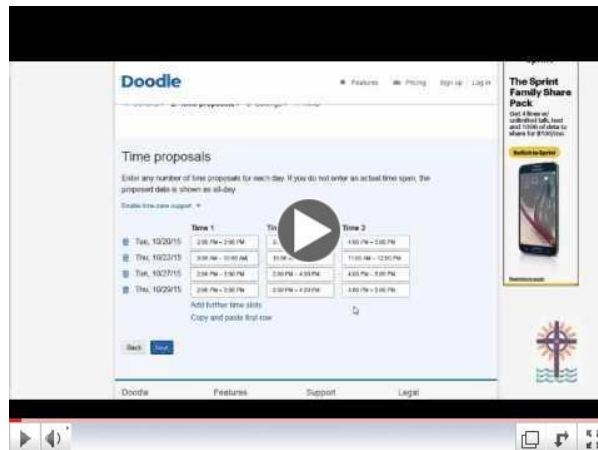
One of the biggest frustrations with meetings, particularly around the new year when you're getting new committee members or starting new committees, is finding a time when everyone can meet. I find this particularly important when you're trying to involve younger people or people who work (other than pastors, of course).

To help strengthen your ministry in this area, I'd like to share a great resource with you: [Doodle.com](https://doodle.com).

Doodle is a meeting planning tool that you can use for free, without even needing to sign up for an account. Basically you create a poll with time and date options for a particular meeting and then email the link to your team members. This simplifies setting the meeting time significantly, and you can even create public polls that allow anyone with the link to participate! This is great if you're trying to

involve new people.

If you're not already using this great meeting resource, please check it out. See a video demonstration of [Doodle](#) below:



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



## **News from Around the Presbytery:**

### **Meeting Reminder:**

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Presbytery meeting at [Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church](#) in Tampa, November 19th from 4pm to 8pm! Parking will almost certainly be an issue, so please plan to leave early and car pool, then watch this space for more details closer to the meeting!

### **Adopt a Family from Beth-El:**

If you're looking for Christmas mission projects and ways to support Beth-El, I recommend you take a moment to learn more about the "Adopt a Family" program there. Here's the link:

[Adopt a Family Info](#)

### **Missionary Report Mid-Week Opportunity:**

Looking for a speaker for a Wednesday Night program? Michael and Rachel Weller are co-workers in Ethiopia. Michael is the Presbyterian Liaison for the Horn of Africa and has to visit North and South Sudan in February. Rachel is responsible for organizing clinics in the Gambella Province of Ethiopia.

Rachel will be speaking at Church in the Meadows on February 21 at the morning service, then on February 22 at Florida Presbyterian Homes at 3pm and on February 28 at McLeod Presbyterian Church in Bartow at the morning service.

Rachel would be willing to speak to any group on the free days. For more information or to book Rachel, please contact Dottie Cushman: [dhcushman@verizon.net](mailto:dhcushman@verizon.net), 863-802-0369.

### **2 Musical Job Openings at St. Mark's in Hudson:**

SMPC is looking for a part-time organist and part-time director of music. Send inquiries to: [hiring@stmarksfl.org](mailto: hiring@stmarksfl.org). For detailed position descriptions, see below:

[Position Descriptions for Part Time Organist and Part Time Director of Music](#)

### **Presbyterian Women Regional Teas**

The topic will be human trafficking, with a guest who is a trafficking survivor. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Pinellas South

Wednesday, October 21 2-4 pm  
Westminster Suncoast  
Dia Stoner  
727-868-3515

Pasco

Thursday, October 22 2-4 pm  
St. Mark, Hudson  
Barbara Gardner  
727-378-6657

Hillsborough

Saturday, October 24 2-4 pm  
St. Andrew, New Tampa  
Margaret Shaw  
813-655-2795

For more info, please see [the flyer](#)

**\$10,000 Grant for New Initiatives**

The Developmental, Risky, Experimental, Adaptive Mission (DREAM) Grant is being offered by the Presbyterian Mission Agency in order to encourage dreamers, risk-takers, pioneers and trailblazers.

This grant is designed to encourage the birth of new ventures through congregations and presbyteries rather than to support the expansion of existing programs within congregations. For the purpose of this grant, new is defined as an initiative that was created no earlier than January 1, 2014. This grant is not intended for new worshiping communities or new church developments.

**Please note that the deadline for this grant is November 15th.** If you are interested in applying, please download the application below and return it completed to the Presbytery Office. This grant will likely be offered in 2016 as well.

[DREAM Grant Application Form](#)

## Lecture Series at Eckerd College

The Burchenal Fall Lecture Series at Eckerd has already started! Find out more about these biblically themed lectures are here:

[Burchenal Lectures](#)

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