



Our Mission:

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

"Join the Conversation"

At a recent conference, Coach and Coordinator Patrice Hatley and I discovered that there are big changes in the works for how the national PCUSA offices are organized and led. Agreement can sometimes be hard to come by at the General Assembly (GA), but there is agreement that the way we currently do business might be done much better.

Presently, there's an initiative to get feedback from *all* corners of the church on what those changes might look like, and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) has asked that we invite your church, your small group, your session, or you as an individual to "Join the Conversation". If you're Presbyterian, they want to hear from you.

This is an excellent opportunity to influence thinking at the highest levels of the denomination, and I hope that you'll take it. Unfortunately, this is extremely time sensitive, as COGA is trying to get all of the responses gathered and organized in time to train the GA committee that will be reading them. Here's the information you'll need if you want to participate:

Discuss the identity and purpose of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as part of a church-wide conversation initiated by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. "Please share your insights, wisdom, hopes and dreams for the PC(USA)," said Margaret Elliott, moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. "Through careful listening and honest sharing we can create a church for this time and place." Talk individually or in groups using a discussion guide downloadable at pcusa.org/discussionguide. Hear how to walk through using the guide on information calls:

Friday, October 30, 10-11 a.m. (EDT)

Wednesday, November 4, 3-4 p.m. (EST)

Monday, November 9, 8-9 p.m. (EST)

Use call in (800) 231-0316, or (314) 696-0504 for international participants

Also share thoughts using an online form available until November 13 at pcusa.org/identity, and join Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014), in Twitter chats. She'll be @LarissaLKA using the hashtag #pcusaidentity on:

Monday, October 26, 6-7 p.m. (EDT)
Thursday, November 12, 9-10 p.m. (EST)

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) will use much of the information gathered to collectively discern God's call for the church. Contact oga.communications@pcusa.org for questions or more information.

Click on Heath Rada's picture below for more information:



Click on his picture to read the
letter from GA Moderator
Heath Rada

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

Keystone Resources

If there is a bright spot about closing a church, perhaps it's that we can share resources with each other:



The Administrative Commission for Keystone Presbyterian Church invites you to the church property at 7509 Van Dyke Road, Odessa, FL, 33556 on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a "garage sale." We will set aside resources, furniture, books, hymnals, etc. for the churches in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to determine if you can use them for your ministries. The AC is asking for donations for these things-low prices on most, perhaps some things will be free.



November 14 is the only day we have planned to open the church to you.

Inquiries can be sent to pastor@standrewnewtampa.org, Laurie Palmer, Chair, Keystone Administrative Commission.

Presbytery Meeting Reminders

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!

For those of you who *really* like to plan ahead, the Presbytery meetings for 2016 will be held on February 27th and November 17th at Beth-El and First Lakeland, respectively.

Celebrate Denise McLeod's Ordination

Join your fellow Presbyters at [Trinity Presbyterian Church in St. Pete](#) on Sunday November 8th, 2015 at 4pm to participate in Denise's ordination! There will be a small reception afterwards. Minister members from the West region are especially encouraged to attend.

PC Bloomingdale 25th Anniversary

You are cordially invited to the
25th Anniversary Service
Of the
Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale
Groundbreaking
November 15, 2015
10:15 am
710 East Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon FL 33511

A Family Thanksgiving Reception following service
Come and celebrate family, foundation, and roots
RSVP by November 6, 2015 to secretary.pcob@gmail.com

Mission Opportunities

Florida Disaster Recovery

Volunteers are needed in Northwest Florida to help rebuild homes affected by flooding from storms in Spring 2014. These storms caused major flooding in the panhandle and damaged several hundred homes.

Through the Presbytery of Florida, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been supporting the Okaloosa and Walton Counties Long Term Recovery Committee with volunteers and a \$20,000 grant to help them finish the remaining homes that need repairs. If there is a small group of willing volunteers from your church, it would be so wonderful if they could help.

Projects include flooring, drywall installation and finishing, painting and light roofing work. Volunteer groups will be scheduled through February 2016.

For more information, please contact Kathy Broyard at fla.pdan@pcusa.org or 941-483-0675.

Drought in Honduras

Our brothers and sisters in Honduras need our help! The drought in the south and central sections of Honduras has been severe; some of our Presbyterian families are subsisting on tortillas and green mangos. Pray for the Lord to help them and provide rain.

If you'd like to be part of the solution directly, please donate to Honduras Hunger Relief. \$16 will supply a family with food. Five hundred Presbyterian families are affected by the drought, and 100% of the money received will be used to buy food distributed by the Presbyterian Women of Honduras.

Make checks out to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and send them directly to the Presbytery office. Please remember to put "Honduras Hunger Relief" in the memo section of the check. Thank you.

Beth-El Food Pantry In Need!

Beth-El's Food Pantry has an immediate need for canned goods, rice and pinto beans. Their regular deliveries have been down, and the pantry is practically bare. If you can help, please call the mission at 813-633-1548.

!Gracias!

Cedarkirk Youth Retreat

Calling all youth groups! On November 13th-15th, Cedarkirk is offering a new youth event called Fusion designed for both middle school and high school groups. Rev. Loli Reiter will be our keynote speaker and preacher as we explore how we can live boldly for God. You can find out more and even register your group at

www.cedarkirk.org/programs/youthretreat/.



Cedarkirk

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:

Beth-El 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, 863-802-0369.

\$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 worshipping 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.

Grant Info

Job Opportunities

First PC Inverness Job Openings:

Part-Time Directory of Youth Ministry

Are you passionate about serving Jesus Christ? Do you have experience leading and sharing your Christian faith with middle school and high school youth? Do you have the talents, creativity and commitment to develop, coordinate, and schedule youth activities and ministries? Do you want to be a part of a loving, welcoming, dynamic and exciting church?

Part-Time Director of Christian Education

Are you passionate about serving Jesus Christ? Do you have experience developing, implementing, and supervising programs of Christian education which can nurture the faith of persons of all ages, from preschool through adulthood? Do you want to be a part of a loving, welcoming, dynamic and exciting church?

If one of these positions is appealing to you, the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness would love to hear from you! For more information and/or to apply, contact Pastor Ron Pfeifer at (352) 637-0770. The First Presbyterian Church of Inverness is an equal opportunity employer.

Employment Opportunities at Cedarkirk

Cedarkirk is currently seeking to fill a variety of positions (part-time kitchen and housekeeping roles and a full-time Capital Campaign Director). Please visit www.cedarkirk.org/who-we-are/employment/ for more information.

[Job Info](#)

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: hire@stmarksfl.org. For detailed position descriptions, see below:

[Job Info](#)

Presbytery of Tampa Bay | 813 868 4800 | presbyteryoftampabay.com