



Our Mission:

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

Board of Pensions Changes

Keeping up to date with changes to the Board of Pensions Benefits Plan is a yearly ritual many Presbyterian leaders are familiar with. Once again, there are major developments on the horizon for 2017. While the Commission on Ministry (COM) will be there to help when the time comes, I think it would be useful to cover the changes briefly here as well. If your church employs anyone, or if you are on a church staff, these are changes you should familiarize yourself with.

If your church has an Installed Pastor, the main change is that the 1.5% "family" expense for health is no longer optional; family members will now be automatically covered. This restores call neutrality (benefits cost the same regardless of family status), but will increase the expense of the Plan for a few churches in our Presbytery. Additionally, pro-rating for part time Installed Clergy has been eliminated in favor of hard minimum and maximum dollar amounts, simplifying calculation of dues for those pastors.

For Stated Supply Pastors as well as non-clergy employees of churches, the changes have the potential to be much more profound. In the past, the Benefits Plan has been an all or nothing proposition, and fairly expensive compared to secular plans as a result. In an effort to be more competitive on cost and flexible for churches, employers can now create customized benefit plans for employees *other than Installed Pastors*. Churches and other employers can now pick and choose which benefits to offer from a menu (health/pension/death/etc.).

For instance, a church could choose to offer the same pension plan that the Installed Pastor gets to other employees, but different health coverage, significantly reducing costs. Or it could create a completely customized plan for each class of employees (other than Installed Pastors, who must participate in the full plan).

I realize this is a very brief overview, so if you'd like to learn more, I'd encourage you to [review this resource from the Board of Pensions](#).

As a reminder, most of the content for the eNews comes from our Presbyters. So I hope that if you have a joy, concern, resource or mission opportunity to share, you'll let me

know!

In Christ,

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



News From Around the Presbytery

Regional Commission Meetings

Regional Commission Meetings are just around the corner! Each Commission will be discussing the future of the regional system in listening sessions, as well as handling other business specific to the region, so please remember to elect commissioners to come from your church! Agendas and further information will be forthcoming; times and locations are below:

- East Regional Commission:
 - Thursday April 28th, 7pm to 9pm at [First Auburndale PC](#)
 - Registration, snacks and fellowship begin at 6:30pm
 - Our special guest speaker will be Dr. Jack Haberer, former editor of the Presbyterian Outlook Magazine, who will present information concerning issues coming before the 2016 General Assembly. Everyone in the presbytery is cordially invited to attend.
 - Read the [welcome letter](#) here and [agenda](#) here
- West Regional Commission:
 - Saturday April 30th, 9am to Noonish at [Peace Memorial PC](#)
 - Registration and potluck breakfast begin at 8:30am
 - **See [the Updated Agenda](#) for the meeting**



Compassion, Peace & Justice Florida Symposium 2016

Central Florida Presbytery invites you to join them Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, 2016 for the Compassion, Peace and Justice Florida Symposium 2016. [Maitland Presbyterian Church](#) is hosting the event which will kick off with a Friday night dinner and speaker Noelle Damico. Saturday there will be workshops featuring outstanding national speakers, local pastors and community speakers as well as staff members from the Office of the General Assembly PC USA and Central Florida Presbytery.

Inspiration for the event has come from Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

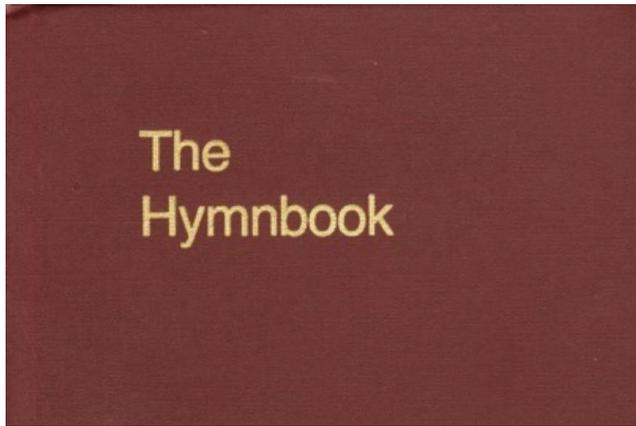
Please go to cfpresbytery.org to download a packet with registration, speaker bios, workshops and the schedule for both days.

Like and share this on Facebook at [Compassion, Peace & Justice Florida Symposium 2016](#).

More info in the Flyer.
[in the Flyer](#)

FPC Inverness giving away choir robes

[First Presbyterian Church of Inverness](#) has choir robes to give to anyone who can pick them up. Light grey with 2 accompanying, reversible stoles, purple/green, red/white. There are about 50 pieces available. These robes are about 25 years old, but still serviceable. If interested please call their church office 352-637-0770.



Free Red Hymnals

[First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey](#) is giving away 100+ copies of our old hymnals (1955), "The Hymnbook," (color: burgundy). Please let them know if you would like some or all of these by calling 727-849-1898.

Presbytery Website Listening Session

One of the major projects that I've been tasked with is redesigning the Presbytery's website. This is something I'm passionate about, as I believe that we can make our ministries more effective through technology. We can enhance our leadership development and discipleship efforts through technology as it allows us to connect with one another and with useful information and resources more easily. Hopefully technology will also help us to create a more efficient administrative system than the one we currently have.

To that end, I'm going to host a webinar/conference call listening session for anyone in the Presbytery who wants to offer feedback on the direction the new site should take. This remote meeting will take place Thursday May 5th at 7pm. You can join using the information below:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/315643722>

Join from Conference Call (same meeting, just join via phone):

Dial: [+1 646 558 8656](tel:+16465588656) (US Toll) or [+1 408 638 0968](tel:+14086380968) (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 315 643 722

Thanks everyone for your help!

\$10,000 Grant for New Initiatives

The Developmental, Research, 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 May 25th. If you are interested in applying, please download the application [here](#) and return it completed to the Presbytery Office.



Healthy Hearing Expo

A Hearing Loss Expo will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Brandon on **May 7th**, from 9am to 3pm. Admission is free and the event will be open to the public. Lecture seminars will be conducted where leading care professionals will discuss the latest treatment, technology and support group options. Free hearing screenings and mentoring sessions will also be offered on-site.

For more information, see the flyer [here](#).

Mission Opportunities



Beth-El Mission Opportunities

Summer will be here before you know it! Beth-El has numerous mission opportunities for adults and youth. From leading Vacation Bible School, to work groups helping out in our community, to scholarships for kids to go to camp at Cedarkirk, there are many ways your church can help support this valuable mission. Call Javier today at 813-633-1548 ext. 228, or email him at Javier@beth-el.org to learn more.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador

Over the past week, the earth has shaken. On Saturday night the coast of Ecuador was rocked by an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale. This came on the heels of two separate earthquakes in Japan, the first measuring 6.2 on the scale; the second, 7.0.

As aftershocks continue to threaten, already more than 500 lives have been lost. Thousands of other people have been injured, and communities lie in ruins.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working in collaboration with our partner the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance to respond to this crisis, providing support to those suffering in the aftermath. As our immediate response takes shape, PDA is also preparing for long-term support for both Ecuador and Japan. Long after the initial wave of relief recedes, PDA will remain to accompany the people of Ecuador and Japan as they rebuild their lives, walking the road out of this chaos with hope.

Stand in the GAP for the people of Japan and Ecuador
as you Give, Act, and Pray.

For the situation report and to know more on what you can do click [here](#).



News Links from the PC(USA)

A few bits of news you might find interesting...

[More reporting about our Cuba involvement](#)
(written by our own Patrice Hatley for the denomination)

1001 New Worshipping Communities 2 minute videos:

[Wild Goose](#)



[New Worshiping Communities are Revitalizing Presbyteries](#)



Cedarkirk *A place apart to build up
the body of Christ in love.*
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Cedarkirk Open House

Free OPEN HOUSE at Cedarkirk! On May 7th, from 1:00-5:00 pm, Cedarkirk opens its doors for a free afternoon at camp. This is a great opportunity to learn about our summer programs, see some of the facilities and activities used during summer camp, and get a feel for what your child will experience. Join them for tours, hayrides, s'mores, climbing on the rock wall, archery, zip lining, and swimming in the pool. For more information visit www.cedarkirk.org.



Cedarkirk *A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.* **CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

Cedarkirk Summer Camp Registration

Have you taken time to look at the summer programs offered at Cedarkirk? June, July, and August may seem a long way off, but Cedarkirk's summer programs are filling quickly and you don't want to miss out! Summer camps have something for everyone: games, songs, worships, cookouts, and time to be yourself with good friends - new and old. You can try exciting activities like canoeing, Bible study, the high ropes course, campfires, rock climbing, zip lining, and kayaking. All of this fun is offered within the context of a nurturing Christian community and allows for growing deeper in God's love. Pick up a brochure in the church office or visit [their website](#) to register online. For more information or to request a confidential scholarship, please contact the camp office at 813.685.4224 x2 or camps@cedarkirk.org

Upcoming Workshops

Below are a few of the more useful conferences coming to our area later in the year to get on your radar now:

- **The Go Disciple Live "Be the Light" Conference**
 - Formerly known as the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, this will be held at the Trade Winds Island Resorts in St. Pete Beach, FL. [Discipling innovator Mike Breen](#) will be one of the speakers. On-site check in will be open Monday, August 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Welcome and orientation will begin at 5:30 p.m. The conference concludes with worship on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. [Registration info and Conference Schedule](#) in the link.
 - The CCV will offer scholarships of \$100.00 per person or up to \$300.00 for three people from each congregation who wish to attend.
- **Mid Council Financial Network "Giving - It Just Adds Up!" Conference**
 - This is a continuing education and training opportunity for church financial persons and staff or volunteers working with the finances in the presbyteries and synods. Representatives from the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, denominationally endorsed insurance programs, and other key vendors will be on hand. The conference will be at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites on Clearwater Beach, 521 S. Gulfview Boulevard, November 16-18, 2016. [Past](#)

[agendas and examples of the topics covered.](#)

- Your Stated Clerk will be opening the conference with an introduction from Tampa Bay.
- **Prepare-Enrich Training**
 - This one is coming up very shortly. In fact, the deadline to sign up is **April 29th**. If you're not familiar with [Prepare/Enrich](#), it's the most effective tool for premarital and marital counseling that I know of. If you are a Teaching Elder, I would very highly recommend that you take advantage of this training, hosted by our own Rev. Bill Cooley. The training is May 6th from 9am to 3:30pm at the Presbytery Office. Total cost is \$195, but the CCV has made scholarships available for 50% of the cost (email David Bonnema: bonnema@palmaceia.org). Contact Bill Cooley (pastorbillhome@gmail.com) for more information or [RSVP at this link](#).
- **Church Communications Workshop**
 - Day long conference hosted by the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Create excitement and energy in your congregation by using simple, but powerful communications tools. What do you want your community to know about your church? Are you looking for ways to share God's love through social media? Does your church have a well-thought-out communications plan-for both internal and external audiences? You don't have to have a huge budget or a large staff to effectively tell the story of your work inside and outside the church walls. [More information](#) about the workshop (not a registration link).
 - Prospective dates are either Thursday 9/15, Tuesday 9/20 or Wednesday 9/28. **Contact the Stated Clerk ASAP if you have a preference for or conflict with one of those dates.**

Job Opportunities

Part Time Parish Associate at Grace PC in Spring Hill:

[Grace PC](#) is looking for a retired Teach Elder in the Spring Hill area be interested in working 10ish hours a week doing pastoral care (Home and Hospital visitation). This would be a paid position, and would start ASAP.

For more information or to apply,
please contact Rev. Keith Posehn at revdrkid@me.com.

Beth-El Job Opening:

Beth-El is looking for an older teen or adult to lead the summer youth activities.

The position will lead all youth activities, serve as a liaison with Cedarkirk for our scholarship program, and assist the operations manager in coordinating incoming mission teams.

A valid driver's license is required.

For more information or to apply, please contact Beth-El at info@beth-el.org.

Northwood PC Job Opening:

Full Time Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Northwood Presbyterian Church seeks an enthusiastic person for ministry to our youth and their families.

Director of Schools

Well established Christian Pre-School/VPK/After Care, located in Countryside area, seeking a dynamic experienced VPK Director for its NAEYC accredited Gold Seal quality program.

For more details please go to: www.northwoodpc.org

Resumes may be sent to communications@northwoodpc.org. Job description is available upon request at same email. No phone calls please.

Korean Presbyterian Church of Tampa Job Opening:

Full-time or Part-Time EM Pastor

KPCT is currently seeking an EM Pastor to shepherd the Young Adult and Youth Group of high school and middle school students. The church is located at 6510 Yosemite Dr., Tampa, FL 33634.

For more information please contact Ki Choi at kih.choi3@gmail.com or read the [position description](#).
