

Shepherding Committee

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Report to the Presbytery

February 11, 2012

I. Assistance to TEs and Sessions

- A. The Committee continues to meet with various TEs and sessions regarding requests for counsel on matters pertaining to ministry, both in life and doctrine. We thank our God for the proactive steps of many in our Presbytery to meet with us and find these times, by God's grace, to be productive not just for the people requesting assistance, but for us as members of the Committee as well. "Iron sharpening iron..."

II. Dissolution of Pastoral Relations and Transfers

- A. **The Committee acted as a commission (as per allowances of *BCO* 23-1 and Presbytery Standing Rules Art.4.3.C.4 for uncontested requests) to dissolve the pastoral relation between TE Tom Schneider and transfer TE Schneider to the Florida Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church).**
- B. **M/S/C The Committee recommends that the Presbytery recognize the transfer of HR TE Richard Gillen to Central Florida Presbytery.**

III. Dissolution of Congregation

M/S/C The Committee recommends, per the February 2, 2012 request of the session of Grace Church, Pinellas Park, the initiation of the process of dissolution of said congregation (*BCO* 13-10). That is, the Committee recommends that the Presbytery "determine to dissolve" Grace Church, Pinellas Park.

NB: This process requires a sixty day process and so will be voted upon for completion of the process at our May, 2012 Stated Presbytery Meeting. Action regarding the pastoral relation between TE Bob Burrige and Grace Pinellas Park will be taken up at the May Stated Presbytery meeting as well.

The Committee requests that TE Bob Burrige update the Presbytery on his present and future ministerial endeavors in anticipation of the alteration in his call at

the completion of the dissolution process, and in a desire for the Presbytery to be more broadly educated about his work and the resources he seeks to provide.

IV. Stated Supply

M/S/C The Committee recommends that the Presbytery extend the relationship between Cornerstone Lakewood Ranch and TE Daryl Davis as Stated Supply for additional year (per *BCO 22-6*), as requested by session of Cornerstone Lakewood Ranch.

Please pray for TE Davis' ministry to this congregation and for the church as it continues its search for a new minister.

V. Reports of TEs without Call and Serving Out of Bounds

The Committee welcomes TE Rod Culbertson who serves out of bounds with RTS Charlotte and invites him to give a brief, oral report complementing his written report at our last meeting.

The Committee welcomes TE Ivan Lambert and TE Daryl Davis to offer brief reports on their respective ministerial activities and pursuits of call.

VI. Churches without a Teaching Elder

The following churches in our Presbytery do not have a pastor:

- Hope Presbyterian Church in Bradenton, FL (in process of dissolution)
- Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Lakewood Ranch

VII. Session Records

M/S/C Committee recommends that the Presbytery approve *without exception* the Session Minutes of the following churches: Redeemer (Riverview), Trinity (Lakeland), Westminster (Brandon)

VIII. Presbytery Attendance of TEs and Sessions

The Committee reminds the Presbytery of the Presbytery Standing Rules regarding Presbytery attendance: "If a Teaching Elder or the representatives of a session fail to request excuse, or are absent for a second consecutive time from a stated meeting of presbytery the Stated Clerk shall inform the Shepherding committee which shall exercise pastoral oversight" (Art.2.6.a). Please see Minutes of November, 2011 Stated Presbytery Meeting for most recent record of Presbytery attendance. If you are providentially hindered from attending, please send the Stated Clerk a notice requesting an Excused Absence.

IX. Requests for Shepherding

The Committee thanks God for its privilege of coming alongside ministers and sessions in various ways, and it encourages members of Presbytery to proactively come to the committee that we might pray, listen, discuss and grow together midst the questions/challenges/blessings of ministerial life. In the words of Paul, we “belong to each other” and therefore we need each other as we serve our crucified and exalted Lord as pilgrim elders “on the way.”

Respectfully submitted,

TE Dustyn Eudaly

Chairman, Shepherding Committee