

C.E. Liaison Report Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Goal: The CE ministry wants to assist each local church in the making of disciples and equipping the saints for ministry.

Please pass the following information onto your church's:

- Children's and Youth ministry staff/volunteers,
- Women's and Men's ministry leaders
- Session & Diaconate

1. **REVIEW:** February, 11 2012 Meeting - Dr. Paul Kooistra Seminar

- Pass it on... Dr. Kooistra's sermon on Acts 1:1-9 is on the SWFP website (swfpresbytery.org)
- Dr. Kooistra's seminar on Missions will also be on the presbytery website by the May 8 meeting of presbytery.

2. **May 8, 2012 Meeting - Season of prayer for presbyters and churches**

During the season of prayer at our May meeting, we ask that the following churches have a TE or RE share a brief report in order that, as a presbytery, we may pray for them.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Auburn Road, Venice | • Christ the King, Seminole |
| • Christ Community, Clearwater | • Church of the Redeemer, Winter Haven |
| • Christ Community, Lakeland | • Cornerstone, Lutz |

3. **PROPOSAL for Intra-Presbytery Dialogue Forum**

Note: The following proposal was submitted to the Administrative Committee by TE Steve Casselli & TE Tim Rice. As it pertains to Christian Education within our presbytery, it is presented within the CE Liaison Report.

Goal: To promote, clear and open conversation regarding how best to preserve the peace and purity of the church as we seek to be faithful to our calling as ministers of the gospel in this Presbytery.

Rational: Within our Presbytery, as within our denomination, there are a variety of perspectives relating to issues of "Philosophy of Ministry" which impact our church planting efforts in particular. This diversity can and has led to misunderstandings, suspicions, and frustrations in working together.

In an effort to preserve the peace and purity of this branch of the Lord's church, we would like to propose that the Presbytery devote the next two previously approved "forums" for open dialogue about these issues. We believe it could be fruitful to address these issues openly, directly, graciously and with respect. And if this proves true, then we would consider an additional two forums at the discretion of the Presbytery.

Format: Our thought is to have two individuals representing differing points of view, speak to each issue for 30-45 minutes. Our expectation would be that these would be substantive presentations that would wrestle with biblical, theological, and confessional questions related to a given topic. This would then be followed by a moderated discussion with the Presbytery as a whole, where questions could be asked and positions clarified.

Potential Topics: (these are in no particular order of priority and certainly other issues can be added)

Ministry "Styles"- given our common commitment to the "regulative principle," where is there room for differences in "styles" of church life and worship? Are stylistic differences grounds for the multiplication of churches in a given area? How should socio-cultural differences influence our approaches to ministry? Etc.

Assessment- what is the role of the local church, the Presbytery, and/or the "Assessment Center" in approving candidates for church planting?

Location Priorities- what should the process be for selecting locations for new works? How should decisions be made, and what sorts of factors should influence those decisions

Networks- how does the presence of a “Church Planting Network” impact the work of Presbytery? How should these entities relate to one another?

RECOMMENDATION 1: At our September 8, 2012 meeting of presbytery, in leu of our Ministry Area Discussion Groups, to hold an Intra-Presbytery Dialogue Forum on the topic of Assesment, with speakers to be determined by the Administrative Committee.

RECOMMENDATION 2: At our November 13, 2012 meeting of presbytery, in leu of our extended season of prayer, to hold an Intra-Presbytery Dialogue Forum on the topic of Ministry “Styles”, with speakers to be determined by the Administrative Committee.

4. **UPCOMING Presbytery Events:**

- **February 9, 2013 - Season of prayer for presbyters and churches**
- **May 14, 2013 - Dr. Bryan Chapell Seminar**

5. **Southland Student Conference:** (www.southlandcamps.com)

- **Kulaqua - July 16-20, 2012.** Camp Kulaqua is Southland’s Middle School summer camp. The camp director once again, is Monty Hershberger, youth director at Cornerstone PCA in Lakewood Ranch. This year our speaker will be TE Matt Ryman. He is currently the Pastor for Youth & Families at University Presbyterian Church in Orlando.
- **Elevate - June 28 - July 3, 2012.** Camp Elevate is Southland’s High School summer camp. It occurs at Covenant College and is a week of great teaching, fun fellowship and excellent worship! This year’s speaker will be TE Jeff Jakes, the senior pastor at Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Maitland, Florida.

6. **PresWIC:**

- **Report: Amazing Grace 360 Conference** There were 2,000 participants who came together at the Cobb Galleria, Atlanta, Ga., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, for the PCA’s 5th Christian Education and Publications Women’s International Ministry Conference, Amazing Grace 360, emphasizing the whole Gospel for the whole life and whole world. Older women and younger women came from across the PCA with representatives from several countries where PCA ministry is realized. 200 of the participants were under 20 years of age and 200 were over 66 years of age. (Note: excerpt taken from CEP website).
- **The 2012 WIC Love Gift** goes to Mission to the World and will be used to fund the Gonaive's Children's Home in Haiti. The gift will be used to purchase land, construction costs, and training and recruiting workers.

7. **Presbytery-wide CE Events:**

When a church in our presbytery leads or hosts a training, seminar, conference or other CE related event and would like to invite other churches in our presbytery to attend, simply pass that information onto our Stated Clerk, who will in turn pass it on to all other churches in the presbytery via email.