

Shepherding Committee

Presbytery of Southwest Florida

Report to the Presbytery

May 8, 2012

I. Assistance to TEs and Sessions

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 we 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. Please, as matters arise for you as ministers and as sessions, avail yourselves of our time. "In a multitude of counselors there is great wisdom."

II. Grace- Pinellas Park

- A. **M/S/C The Committee recommends, per the February 2, 2012 request of the session of Grace Church, Pinellas Park for dissolution of its church and the February 11, 2012 action of SWFP to initiate said dissolution, the consummation of this process of dissolution (*BCO* 13-10).**
- B. **M/S/C The Committee recommends, per *BCO* 13-10 (Section 2), that the Presbytery "grant a letter of dismissal" to members of Grace Pinellas Park in good standing who are still on the rolls, thereby enabling these members to transfer to other churches. (Please see letter to be distributed at Presbytery.)**
- C. **M/S/C The Committee recommends, per *BCO* 23-1, that the Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relation between TE Burridge and Grace Pinellas Park due to dissolution of said church.**
- D. **M/S/C The Committee recommends, per *BCO* 8-7; 13-2; 21-1, that the Presbytery approve the change in status of TE Bob Burridge from Pastor of Grace Pinellas Park to TE serving out of bounds as Director of the Genevan Institute for Reformed Studies. (Please see document describing the work, theological standards and governance of The Genevan Institute as well the formal letter of call.)**

III. Stated Supply

M/S/C The Committee recommends that the Presbytery recognize RE Joel DeVictoria as Ruling Elder Supply (*BCO 22-5*) for June, July and August of 2012.

NB: TE Bill Roldan, pastor of Berea Winter Haven, has been put on sabbatical for medical reasons. Mr. DeVictoria is a candidate under the care of our Presbytery, a student at RTS-Orlando and a Ruling Elder at Berea. Further, he is bilingual (English and Spanish). Due to the extenuating circumstances at the church (TE Roldan's health and the need for a Reformed bilingual person to fill the pulpit), the committee believes it wise to proceed with Joel for the summer months, even though he is not yet licensed, with the full expectation that were he to continue in the pulpit with ongoing regularity, he should pursue licensure as soon as possible. The Examination Committee has been consulted on this matter and endorses the idea of Joel serving as RE Supply for Summer, 2012 given the unusual circumstances.

BCO 19-1 states, "To preserve the purity and the preaching of the Gospel, no man is permitted to preach in the pulpits of the Presbyterian Church in America on a regular basis without proper licensure from the Presbytery having jurisdiction where he will preach."

BCO 18-5 says, "A candidate should not undertake to serve a church which is without a pastor as regular supply unless he has been licensed and approved for that supply by the Presbytery having jurisdiction of the church."

BCO 22-5 says, "If a church is unable to secure a regular pastor or a Stated Supply, then the Session with the approval of Presbytery may establish a temporary relation between the church and a licentiate called Student Supply or Ruling Elder Supply."

Again, the language "regular basis" (19-1) might ordinarily preclude the arrangement being proposed except for the unusual need before us (a Reformed, bilingual preacher). Also, technically Joel will not be "regular supply" for a church "without a pastor" (18-5), but for a church with a pastor who is on sabbatical. Lastly, 22-5 seems to imply that the person in view should be licensed to preach by the Presbytery. However, such a scenario assumes a church without a pastor, which is not the case in this situation. The Committee mentions these things in order to point up the uniqueness of the set of circumstances before us and the need to apply our *BCO* with wisdom here as we seek to care for Berea Presbyterian Church.

Please pray for TE Roldan and for the Word ministry of Mr. DeVictoria.

IV. Ministers and Wives Retreat

The Committee is pleased to inform you of research being done by Eileen Fritz (wife of TE Freddy Fritz) regarding the feasibility of a Winter, 2013 pastors and wives retreat for our Presbytery.

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

TE Freddy Fritz will provide update.

VIII. Requests for Shepherding

Again, the committee reminds you to let us know how we can serve and pray for your respective works.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Dustyn Eudaly

Chairman, Shepherding Committee