

Florida Mission Center Presidency Report
Mission Center Conference
November 9, 2019

Greetings! We are very pleased that Peter Smith has been appointed as the Invitation Support Minister for the Florida Mission Center and has joined the Florida Mission Center Leadership Team. We look forward to Peter's ministry of invitation and witness throughout the mission center. We are greatly appreciative of the ministry that Debbie Bartlett continues to provide to the mission center, not only on the FMC Leadership Team, but by giving administrative support to the congregations as well as the mission center and Deerhaven Campground. Serena Tankersley has completed her first full year as the FMC Youth Ministries Leader. She has provided much-needed ministry to the mission center youth. We look forward to increasingly engaging youth within the mission center, mutually supporting one another in Christ, and being led into the future by the insights youth hold of our Creator. Giving of your time and talents in youth ministry is one of the highest forms of stewardship. We need to increasingly create loving, safe spaces that provide opportunities for children to be loved as they are, accepted, and have God encounters in ways that are relevant and exciting. More information regarding the youth activities and the Youth Ministries Council (YMC) is provided in Serena's report. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the mission center congregations as you have generously shared your resources to help provide financial stability for the mission center as we strive to bring supportive ministry.

The leadership team's responsibilities are shared as follows: Chuck Petz is the representative to the Deerhaven Board of Directors and is coordinating generosity ministries. Mark Dixon and Debbie Bartlett are working with the youth programs. Ken Campbell is serving as chair of the leadership team. A member of the leadership team is assigned to each congregation as the primary support person from the mission center. These assignments are as follows:

Debbie Bartlett – Orlando, Palm Bay, Tavares, West Palm Beach, Zephyrhills
Ken Campbell – Gainesville, Green Cove Springs, Jacksonville, Ocala, Tallahassee
Mark Dixon – Clearwater, Pinellas Park, South Miami, Tampa
Chuck Petz – Bradenton/Sarasota, Deerhaven, Ft. Myers, Lakeland, Tarpon Springs

With this distribution of assignments and responsibilities, communication within the leadership team is critical. We continue to hold regularly scheduled video conference calls, every 3 – 4 weeks, to address current mission center needs, make necessary decisions, and plan for the future. Of course, in addition much communication is accomplished by email and all team members are copied on the correspondence so that everyone is informed.

Our focus is to provide support for the congregations of the mission center with an emphasis on promoting mission, invitation, and generosity ministries. The Presidents of Seventy have compiled a booklet of ideas for new expressions of ministry. This resource is a collection of new or different ways of "doing church" that may help individuals and groups in using "all means" to pursue the mission of Jesus Christ and live out his gospel. We strongly encourage congregations to explore these ideas as you prayerfully consider your unique call to mission in your communities.

This year's Nuts and Bolts Workshop was hosted by the Ft. Myers congregation on March 16th, 2019 and provided 5 hours of training for about 40 congregational leaders. There were educational workshops specifically tailored for pastors in addition to general sessions for all congregational leaders. There were team building exercises and sessions on social media guidelines and youth protection training. A presentation informed us how Open Table helps transform the lives of people who are homeless, the working poor, young adults transitioning from the foster care system, veterans, and survivors of human trafficking. The Nuts and Bolts Workshops are designed to help leaders *and potential leaders* learn tools to assist in becoming more effective in our congregations, share experiences and support one another, and better equip us for the mission of Jesus Christ. Please plan to attend this workshop in Orlando on March 14th, 2020!

Since our Nuts and Bolts gathering, the FMC has formally joined Open Table. Mark Dixon will act as the Open Table Mission Leader and Kelly Hartnett, the Mission Recruiter. The six-week training has begun with a goal of Open Table serving a sister or brother in need beginning in January of 2020. The brother or sister will meet weekly for one year to work on their life plan, assisted by 6 – 8 table members who may assist in the areas of housing, healthcare, children and family, occupation and education, transportation and insurance, and finance. Many of you have life skills that can easily be shared and help transform the life of someone in need. Please consider making this commitment to becoming a table member. If you are in the Tampa Bay area, or willing to be present weekly in the area for a year, contact Mark Dixon to become a table member. It is our goal after the initial table is complete in approximately one year, to help establish Open Table in other areas of the mission center. Please give your prayerful support to this new endeavor and consider how you might get involved.

Unfortunately, the FMC's annual Labor Day Reunion was canceled due to threats of Hurricane Dorian. Thanks to the Clearwater congregation for their preparations, and their willingness to provide leadership for the upcoming 2020 Labor Day Reunion next year.

Church Updates at <https://fmc.churchupdates.org> is being used to communicate service and giving opportunities, news, and prayer requests throughout the mission center. If you are not already receiving these updates you may register for the service at this link and you will receive an email notice of new postings each week on Thursday morning. We encourage everyone to register for this update to enhance communications throughout the mission center. Anyone who is registered on the site can post items of interest or concern for all members to read.

The new Tarpon Springs Emerging Congregation was officially established on January 1, 2019. We are pleased to be meeting today in this congregation and all who are able are invited to share with the congregation in breakfast and worship tomorrow morning. The Mission Center Presidency is dedicated to expressing the Worth of All Persons and extending the welcome to all in meaningful ways. We look forward to working with you during 2020 as we strive to more fully respond to God's call to invite others to Christ and to respond generously as we move forward in mission.

Ken Campbell, Mark Dixon, Chuck Petz
Florida Mission Center Presidency Team