



Florida APA Region News

May, 2008

**Florida Regional Conference, May 15-18
St. Augustine Beach**



When Don Juan Ponce de Leon landed on North America Easter Sunday 1513, he claimed the land for Spain and named it *La Florida*, meaning "Land of Flowers". King Phillip II named Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles governor of Florida, instructing him to explore and drive out any pirates or settlers from other nations. When Menendez arrived off the coast of Florida, it was August 28, 1565, the Feast Day of St. Augustine. At the site of the Timucuan Indian village of Seloy he fortified the village and named it St. Augustine. He established missions to the Indians for the church, and began exploring the land.

St. Augustine was founded years before the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia, and the arrival of pilgrims on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts - making it the oldest permanent European settlement on the North American continent. To protect itself from aggressions of the British, Spain built a stone fort that has never fallen to enemy attack and is still standing today.

This is just the beginning of the story behind the beautiful city where we will gather for our regional conference this year. **It's still not too late to register!** Besides a great educational program and opportunity to network with your colleagues, there will be time to take in the sights of the "old city's" turn-of-the-century luxury shops, restaurants and hotels. See photos and read more about the attractions available today at www.oldcity.com.



Classes

- **Polity (Core Level 1)**
- **Churches, Presbyteries & Synods in Transition**
- **Board of Pensions**
- **Retirement Seminar**
- **How to Run a Meeting**
- **Presbyterian Foundation**
- **Angelology (Core Level 1, 2, 3, or Elective)**
- **Office Administration (Core Level 1)**
- **Legal Matters (Core Level 2)**
- **How to Plan a Conference (Elective)**

Fun and Fellowship

- **Ghost Train**
- **Lightner Museum Tour**
- **Beach Party**
- **Banquet at Columbia Restaurant**

**For registration and schedule, go to
www.floridaapa.org**



Farewell, but not Good-Bye

It seems like only yesterday I was being installed as your Florida Region President, gathered at a beautiful banquet with people I care about deeply (all of you) and promising to serve you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy. I hope that I have fulfilled that promise; I have certainly attempted to do so to the best of my ability.

Now I am looking forward to serving you in a new manner, sitting back, relaxing, and watching the direction your board takes this region under the capable leadership of Diana McAda. I know serving all of you as your President will fill her heart with great joy and admiration, as it has mine.

But before I go, one more thing, what are you doing for the next 14 months? Your 2009 National Conference Planning Team could use your help - as much or as little as you're able to give. Won't you consider serving?

Michèle Dalton

The screenshot shows the website for the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the URL <http://www.pc-biz.org/ClerkHomePublic.aspx>. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, Explorer, Committees, Agendas, Resources, and SessionSync. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'BROWSE THE SITE' with a search tip, 'LOGIN TO THE SITE' with account creation instructions, 'SessionSync' which describes a browser technology for item management, and 'Recent Activity' which lists various church actions with dates and descriptions. A sidebar on the right contains links for registration, password recovery, and news & announcements.

218th General Assembly

The 218th PC(USA) General Assembly will be held June 21-28 in San Jose, California. The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the church and meets every two years to address the issues of governance raised by the congregations of our denominations and presented by their commissioners and advisory delegates. The 2008 theme is "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

The assembly will act on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities and through overtures from synods and presbyteries. These reports and recommendations will be available electronically through www.pc-biz.org (pictured above), the electronic system that is the primary way that commissioners and advisory delegates will access assembly business before, during and after the assembly. As the reports and recommendations to the assembly are received and formatted, they are posted there. During assembly business sessions, most official participants will use laptop computers to access an Intranet and to read and track the business and the assembly's actions on it in real time. Anyone can register and log into pc-biz and stay informed of GA business and actions.

One major change will be the election of a new stated clerk to replace Clifton Kirkpatrick, who has held that office since 1996. The Stated Clerk is the senior continuing officer of the General Assembly responsible for communicating the actions of the Assembly and giving overall leadership for the spiritual well being of the church. The Rev. Kirkpatrick is leaving the position to "have more quality time with my family, to be able to devote myself more fully to the responsibility I have undertaken since 2004 to serve as president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and to share in the life of the church, both locally and globally, in new and creative ways." The nominee to replace him is The Rev. Gradye Parsons, chosen by a designated nominating committee, and his election will be one of the actions of the upcoming General Assembly. Also elected, on the first day of the assembly, will be the moderator to follow Joan Gray.

One way we can be of service to our congregations is to stay informed on GA actions and include an announcement in our church bulletins and newsletters about pc-biz for members who like to follow Presbyterian governance.

Calendar

May 2008

Tropical Florida
Presbytery Meeting

St. Augustine
Presbytery Meeting

Florida APA Region
Conference
St. Augustine

Peace River
Presbytery Meeting

Tampa Bay
Presbytery Meeting

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Central Florida
Presbytery Meeting

218th General
Assembly

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

July 2008

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		



2008 APA National
Conference

Save the Dates:

2008 Florida Regional Conference, St. Augustine, FL May 15—18
 2008 National Conference, Denver, CO July 17—20
 2009 National Conference, Orlando, FL July 15—19, with classes starting July 12

Conference Planning



This year's National Conference will be a great getaway from the Florida summer heat: July 17-20 in Denver. Psalm 48 inspires this year's theme to meet in fellowship and learning on God's holy mountain, beautiful in elevation...the joy of all the earth." Download your registration from www.pcusa-apa.org/national08/reg.htm.

Florida Region is hosting the 2009 National Conference in Disney World. If you would like to work on a conference committee, please contact the liaison listed below.

Facilities: Diana McAda office@oldfirstchurch.org
Hospitality: Barbie Prieto barbara.prieto@att.net
Entertainment: Deffie Drexler deffie@faithpcusa.org
Courses and classroom requirements: Jackie Davis jackietd@aol.com
Theme, Activities & Decorations: Michele Dalton michelecd1234@aol.com
Publications and Marketing: Susie Wills pastorassist@firstpressarasota.org
Worship Requirements: Diane Ditslear dditslear@firstpresdeland.com
Administrative Requirements: Jackie Ritter jdr4171@bellsouth.net



Certifications

Florida members attending the May conference in St. Augustine, should send an email to Barbara Prieto, Certification Chair for Florida Region, barbara.prieto@att.net or call 305-666-8586 if you will be ready to complete your certification or have any questions about your record. And don't forget you can earn certification credits with online courses from www.pendaflexlearningcenter.com and www.gcflearnfree.org.

Instructor Needed

To teach a class on APA for Central Florida Presbytery Training Event F.I.S.H. on Saturday, November 15th. at the Oakland Presbyterian Church. Contact Diane Ditslear at dditslear@firstpresdeland.com or (386) 734-6212 if you would be willing to help us grow APA in Central Florida.

In Our Prayers:

- A safe journey for APA members traveling to St. Augustine.
- General Assembly commissioners and officers meeting in June (see article on page 2) to continually improve PC(USA) polity .
- Our families, friends, and colleagues who may be ill, troubled, lonely or afraid.
- Our pastors, deacons, elders, and lay ministers who teach, pray and care for us.
- The brave men and women serving in our armed forces.
- The innocent victims of war, poverty, and injustice everywhere.
- Keep Michéle Dalton in your prayers especially on May 1st.