



# WESTMINSTER

presbyterian church | epc

## **Rest.                  Renewal.                  Relationships.**

Dear Fellow Gulf South Presbyters and Friends:

By God's grace, we have made it to the year 2021. There are any number of words one might use to describe the experience of living and working—inside the church and out—through the last 12 to 18 months, but I think it fair to say, generally, that none of us expected all that came to pass, and that many of us have arrived at this point with a degree of fatigue—and perhaps a bit of anxiety.

When the presbytery convenes here at Westminster April 23-24, we pray it will be for all who come first and foremost a time of rest, renewal, and relationship building. We cannot wait to welcome you, both to our church and to this beautiful spot on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Enclosed you will find hotel details, a list of favorite restaurants and attractions, and a general schedule overview, but here are a few highlights:

- **Come early!** Bryan Rhodes, pastor of Grace Alexandria and chairman of the presbytery's pastoral care committee, will facilitate two small group discussions for teaching elders focusing on their identities, particularly as pastor and husband. Pastors will also have the chance to serve together at Feed My Sheep, one of Mississippi's largest soup kitchens by number of meals served and a homegrown ministry of our church.
- **Bring your families!** Two of our recommended hotels are located directly on the Gulf, including The Oasis at Centennial Plaza, which includes a water park perfect for children. We will also have passes to Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, our local children's museum. The Coast has plenty of parks—near the church and near the beach-front hotels—miles of free beaches, and a brand-new aquarium.
- **Eat well and socialize!** Friday night dinner will be on the Gulf-front patio overlooking Gulfport Harbor at Patio 44. We'll have red beans and rice, shrimp and grits, beef sliders, kid-friendly pecan fried chicken tenders, and the fixings. As always, Jason Wood of Faith EPC Covington, and his crew will host an after-hours event—just steps from where supper will be! *We are grateful to Medical Benevolence Foundation for sponsoring Saturday breakfast for us.*
- **Learn together!** Gerrit Dawson, pastor of First EPC Baton Rouge and Brandon Queen, ruling elder at First EPC Thibodaux, will present the seminar, "Beyond Critical Theory to Gospel Reconciliation," to address fallacies of cultural Marxism and point toward a Biblical model of reconciliation and justice.
- **Worship together!** Above all, we will worship together and pray together through a Friday evening traditional Reformed service of worship and Saturday morning service of Psalms and prayer.

We look forward to seeing you and your families!

With Christian hope and love,

TE Will Shurley, for Westminster EPC Gulfport



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## Hotels, Restaurants & Attractions

### Hotels:

- Courtyard by Marriott: \$109/night plus tax  
1600 East Beach Boulevard in Gulfport  
Book online or at (228) 864-4310 with the code WPC  
*This hotel is nearest Patio 44 and Downtown Gulfport.*
- The Oasis at Centennial Plaza: \$105/night plus tax and resort fee  
200 East Beach Boulevard in Gulfport  
Book online or at (228) 206-3386 with the code WPC2021  
*This hotel is a resort property with a water park and restaurants on site.*
- Home2 Suites by Hilton: \$119/night plus tax  
15600 Daniel Boulevard in Gulfport  
Book online or at (228) 357-9684 with the code Presbyterian Church  
*This hotel is nearest Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport and Interstate 10, and rooms include kitchenettes.*

### Restaurants:

- Downtown
  - Fine dining: The Chimneys
  - Fine Italian: Salute
  - Steakhouse: The Rackhouse
  - Semi-casual local and seafood: Half Shell Oyster House
  - Gourmet popsicles: Pop Brothers
  - Casual pizza: Tony's
  - Casual Mexican: El Agave
  - Casual barbecue: Murky Waters
- Near the church
  - Seafood and po-boys: Lil' Rays
  - Indian: Orchid
  - Casual pizza: Brooklyn's
  - Fast food: Wendy's, McDonald's, and Sonic
  - Ice-cream: Chillville Creamery



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## Hotels, Restaurants & Attractions, Cont.

- Near the airport and I-10
  - Casual seafood: The Shrimp Basket
  - Casual Mexican: Azteca's
  - Chains: Chili's, Cracker Barrel, Newk's, TGI Friday's, Logan's, and Appleby's
  - Fast food: Subway, McDonald's, Wendy's, Cane's, Zaxby's, and Chicken Salad Chick

### Attractions

- Downtown
  - Mississippi Aquarium
  - Lynn Meadows Discovery Center (passes available)
    - Children's museum*
  - Jones Park
    - Marina, playground, and seasonal splashpad*
  - Ship Island Cruises
    - Day and half-day trips to the Ship Island, one of the Mississippi barrier islands and location of Ft. Massachusetts*
- Near the church
  - Bayou View Park
    - Playground, walking trails, and tennis courts*
- Near the airport and I-10
  - Gulfport Premium Outlets
    - Large outlet mall*
  - Crossroads Shopping Plaza
    - Collection of retail stores*



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## Schedule Overview

*To be approved, formally, by the Coordinating Council at its March meeting. Times may vary.*

Thursday, April 22

- No official events. Feel free to check in and enjoy the Mississippi Gulf Coast!

Friday, April 23

- Optional pastors' gathering: Families welcome to enjoy all the coast has to offer, including free passes to Lynn Meadows Discovery Center. All events at Westminster unless otherwise noted.

9 a.m.: Pastors' small group with Bryan Rhodes.

10:30 a.m.: Pastors serve at Feed My Sheep and lunch.

1 p.m.: Free time.

- 2 p.m.: Committees meet as needed.
- 3 p.m.: Presbytery convenes.
  - Worship
  - Seminar: "Beyond Critical Theory to Gospel Reconciliation" by Gerrit Dawson and Brandon Queen.
  - Other Presbytery business
- 6 p.m.: Dinner at Patio 44 in downtown Gulfport
- 8 p.m.: Presbytery afterhours at Patio 44

Saturday, April 24

- Optional pastors' gathering: Families welcome to enjoy breakfast at hotels or at Westminster. *Many thanks to Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) for sponsoring this breakfast!*

8:30 a.m.: Pastors' small group and breakfast with Bryan Rhodes.

- 9:30 a.m.: Presbytery reconvenes.
  - Service of Psalms and prayer
  - Other Presbytery business

Sunday, April 25

- No official events. Attendees are welcome to enjoy the Coast, and it is hoped sessions might allow teaching elders the opportunity for preaching relief this day. All are welcome to worship at one of the EPC churches along the Mississippi coast: First Pascagoula, First Ocean Springs, Westminster Gulfport, Diamondhead Community in Diamondhead, and First Wiggins.



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## Registration Form

*You may also register online at [gulfportchurch.org](http://gulfportchurch.org)!*

*Please register by April 15.*

Name:

Name for tag:

Church:

Are you a (*circle one*)      ruling elder      teaching elder      non-commissioner

Email:

Phone: (      )

Address:

Will you be attending (*circle one*)      in-person      via Zoom

*Zoom links to all business sessions and the two pastor's study will be sent via email as needed to those who choose the Zoom option.*

For those attending in-person:

Where will you be staying?:

Guests (*family members or other observers; if guest is a child, please include age*)

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Would you like free passes to Lynn Meadows Discover Center? Number:

Number attending Friday dinner at Patio 44:

Number attending Saturday breakfast at Westminster:

For teaching elders

Will you attend the optional pastors' gathering on Friday?:

Will you attend the optional pastors' study on Saturday?:

Please return to [office@gulfportchurch.org](mailto:office@gulfportchurch.org) along with \$30 registration fee per person attending in person. Zoom registration is free.