

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH TWENTY EIGHTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

January 22, 2022
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (via
Zoom)
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Moderator: the Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III**
Vice Moderator: Ruling Elder (RE) **Dianne F. Schoonover** (Yorkminster)
Stated Clerk: Ruling Elder (RE) **Q. John Tamm** (1st VAB)
Journal Clerk: Mr. **Raymond Rodrigues**

WORSHIP

- The Reverend Dr. Wilbur C. Douglass, III preached a sermon titled, "Obedient Leadership," based on Joshua 1: 1-9.
- Reverend **T. Clinton Mitchell** pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Reverend **Martha E. S. Mitchell**, led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the Church Professionals' Fund.

MODERATORS

- Rev. Dr. W. C. Douglass, III was the Moderator, and RE Diane F. Schoonover was the vice moderator.

STATED CLERK

The report was published to the Presbytery in the packet.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

The Reverend Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura** moderator.

The Presbytery approved the following:

MOTION: The Presbytery approved the Manual of Administrative Operations as presented to the Presbytery at its October 2021 meeting, with the approved additional members of Council.

MOTION: The Presbytery approved the Appendix 1 and 2 to the Manual of Administrative Operations as presented to the Presbytery.

MOTION: The Presbytery approved the actions taken by the Presbytery Council.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder **Jill Keifer** (Royster Memorial), Chair

MOTION: The Sessional Records Review Committee recommends to the Presbytery the following: That the following church records be received with no exceptions: Suffolk, Bethany, Naomi Makemie, Wythe, and Denbigh United. The following churches had exceptions as noted: Stone House 2a, 28a and b, 29b, 31, 34a and b; First Presbyterian Norfolk 2b, 28b; St. Andrew 28a and b; Franklin 9; King's Grant 18, 28a and 28b; Christ 20, 24, 25, 29a and 29b, 30 and 33.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery

RE **Roxie O. Holder**, moderator.

The COM RECOMMENDED to the Presbytery the approval of seventeen actions related to minister assignments, pastor searches and commissioned pastors. Rev. Donald Robert Martin, member at large was introduced to the Presbytery

In Memoria

The Reverend **Richard W. Lovingood** died in Lacombe, LA on January 1, 2022. He was a former associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, pastor at Cradock Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth and parish associate at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Suffolk.

Reverend Lovingood was born in Maryville, TN on November 19, 1935. He attended the University of Louisville as an undergraduate and thereafter Louisville Seminary.

Reverend Lovingood was ordained by the Indianapolis Presbytery, (now Whitewater Valley) of the United Presbyterian Church, USA on September 19, 1961, and joined the Norfolk Presbytery on January 17, 1976, when he accepted the call to First Church, Norfolk. Before taking the call to First Church, Norfolk, Reverend Lovingood served as an U. S. Army chaplain, in Germany and Vietnam. Reverend Lovingood remained in the Reserves after leaving active duty in 1976 and was recalled to active duty for

the Persian Gulf War. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Reverend Lovingood was the long-time moderator of Hunger Ministries of the Presbytery.

Reverend Lovingood was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Mary Yvonne Lovingood, on May 13, 2020. He is survived by daughter, Rebecca Lynn Lovingood; son, David Lee Lovingood, and wife Tonya Marlowe; sister, Anne Harmon; and two grandsons, Dominic, and Benjamin Lovingood.

Pastoral Relations

-Deceased: The Reverend **Richard W. Lovingood**, age 86, on January 1, 2022, at Lacombe, LA.

The Reverend Dr. **Robert Clement Dickey, Jr.**, age 87, on January 12, 2022, at Haywood, VA.

-Received: The Reverend **Donald Robert Martin**, on December 7, 2021, restored to ordered ministry as a member at large with a validated ministry.

-Dismissed: The Reverend **Caitilin N. Hoy** to the Presbytery of Shenandoah on November 1, 2021.

The Reverend **Kelly Anne P. Nieto** removed from the roles on November 12, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Order G-2.0509.

The Reverend **Michael A. Nieto** removed from the roles on November 12, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Order G-2.0509.

-Dissolutions: The Reverends Kelly Anne P. Nieto and Michael A. Nieto and the congregation of Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake on October 17, 2021.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

Commissioned Pastor **Marvin Brangan**, (Lynnhaven) moderator.

Motion: The narrative report was received and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Narrative Report:

The Trustees continue to monitor PEVA financial reports and overall financial health. In November the Trustees met with our representative from the New Covenant Trust Company to review the Investment Portfolio. He provided both general analysis and reported that PEVA has been prudent and well-disciplined with its distributions. Overall PEVA investments showed a 10.1% increase through October 2021. The 2021 and 2022 PEVA budgets include use of some

investment income to support operating expenses.

With regard to property matters, the Trustees continue to manage the facilities and work toward sale of the Makemie Woods property. They are in negotiation with a potential buyer from a Christian non-profit organization. The trustees also continue to work on behalf of New Horizons Presbyterian Church assisting with issues regarding lease and sale of the former Messiah Presbyterian Church property. Plans are in process to list the property with a different realtor.

The Trustees approved a COVID relief grant for New Horizons of \$5000 toward the cost of cleaning air ducts and remediation of mold in the church. They appreciated the work the congregation had already accomplished during 2021 to address several interior and exterior building issues.

The Trustees also want to point out that PEVA grants to congregations for community & hunger ministries, online technology, small church assistance, COVID relief, and Outdoor Ministry during 2021 totaled \$146,372.00. They give thanks to all those congregations who have fulfilled their pledges, for the blessing of restricted funds to support specific purposes, and the ways in which ministries are flourishing in spite of and in some cases, because of the impact of the pandemic.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

The Reverend **Emma L. Ouellette**, moderator.

Motion: **Madison Winters** (First, Virginia Beach) was approved for candidacy for ministry in the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.)

Motion: The Presbytery received the narrative report of the CPM. The Presbytery has 7 inquirers and 12 candidates for ministry under care.

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Motion: The Presbytery received the narrative report.

2021 Hunger Grants Overview : The Hunger Team disbursed \$8,500.00 in Hunger Church Community Grants and \$8,750.00 in Nickel-a-Meal Grants.

PEVA's CPJ is interested in hearing from you! The Peacemaking & Hunger Ministry Teams are reaching out to gauge interest in working on a couple of issues that have a Matthew 25 focus that have not been addressed on a Presbytery level before. We are building small core groups to begin the groundwork on each issue below and grow from there.

- Gun Violence is disproportionately felt in communities of color and under resourced neighborhoods . The Peacemaking Committee and the Racial Dialogue Team (RDT) are discussing the issue. They are trying to get a sense of how churches are involved in addressing gun violence and more specifically preventing gun violence. Are there discussions at your church, Session , Sunday School classes around gun violence prevention? Is this something you would give some time to?

- Creation Care & Eco Justice - Are you or is someone you know passionate about stewardship of our amazing home "earth"? Are you concerned that the most vulnerable effects of climate change have the least to do with causing it? Peacemaking & Hunger would love to develop a small core group to help congregations learn more and do more in this area.

- Systemic Poverty - Work for long-term solutions to systemic poverty and injustice. Challenge systems of oppression; advocate and amplify the voices of those whom society marginalizes.

GENERAL PRESBYTER GOOD NEWS

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** reported that: Notwithstanding the pandemic, several congregations were able to feature Nativity scenes with live animals including King's Grant, Wythe, First Church, Norfolk and First Church, Virginia Beach. Great Bridge continued its tradition of an a Chrismon tree in the Sanctuary of the church. Rev. Hendricks commented on the creativity and generosity of churches in the Presbytery for supplying over \$66,000 worth of school supplies to children in need on the Eastern Shore. An additional \$50,000 in support was provided for Afghan refugees at Massanetta Springs Retreat Center in Harrisonburg. First Portsmouth will celebrate its 200 anniversary, Second

Norfolk its 150 anniversary and First Virginia Beach its 100 anniversary.

NOMINATIONS:

Ruling Elder **Linda Marley Smith** (Simonsdale).

The Presbytery approved the report of the Committee as follows:

At-Large Members of Council

Class of 2023 Rev. Dr. **Helen Bessent Byrd**

Class of 2024 Rev. Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg**

Class of 2025 Ruling Elder (RE) **Jaime Ambrose** (Lynnhaven)

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2023 RE **Sandra "Sandy" Adams** (Grace Covenant)

Presbytery Board of Trustees

Moderator of the Board of Trustees and President of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc.

RE **Marc Steiner** (Green Acres)

Treasurer of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc.

RE **Sandra W. Poole** (St. Andrew)

Class of 2023 RE **Pax Goodson** (Hilton)

Class of 2025 RE **Lorri Richardson** (Community Portsmouth)

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Committee on Representation

Class of 2025 Rev. **Rachel C. Hébert**

INSTALLATION

Ruling Elder **Dianne Foster Schoonover** (Yorkminster) was installed as Moderator and the Reverend Dr. **John Edward Morgan** was installed as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

44 Ministers
53 Ruling Elders
97 Total voting members
16 Visitors
113 Total Registered

Offering for the Church Professional's Fund

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 10:00 am, Yorkminster Church, Grafton