

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH TWENTY-FOURTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

January 23, 2021
Stone House Presbyterian Church
Toano, Virginia via Zoom

Moderator: the Reverend Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**
Vice Moderator: the Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. "Doug" Douglass, III**
Stated Clerk: Ruling Elder (RE) **Q. John Tamm (1st VAB)**
Journal Clerk: Mr. **Raymond Rodrigues**

WORSHIP

- The Reverend **T. Clinton Mitchell** preached a sermon "The Other Side of the Wilderness" based on Psalm 139. Reverend **Alexander J. Creager**, pastor, Stone House Church, and the Reverend **Johanna M. Creager**, chaplain, Williamsburg Landing led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the **Church Professionals Assistance Fund.**

MODERATORS

- Rev. Dr. **H.L. "Lou" Ventura** was the Moderator, and the Rev. Dr. **W. C. Douglass, III** was the vice moderator.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

Commissioned Pastor **William T. "Billy" Ricketts**, moderator
Actions taken by the Council and Narrative Report:

- Received the report of the General Presbyter for the months of November 2020 and January 2021.
- Received the report of the Stated Clerk for the months of November 2020 and January 2021.
- Reviewed and approved Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Handbook of Personnel Policy and Procedures.
- Approved the dismissal of the Oakdale Church, Norfolk Administrative Commission with the sincere thanks of the Presbytery. The motion to dismiss the Administrative Commission will appear in the Stated Clerk's report.

- Received a report from the Reverend **Addie N. Peterson**, that the Reverend Dr. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** worship service will be held on January 17, 2021. The service will be held at New Horizons Church, Norfolk at 4:00 pm. The service will be live streamed and on Zoom.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

MOTION: That the Presbytery receive the following report:

The following church records had no exceptions: Bethany PC, Suffolk PC, First PC Norfolk, Denbigh PC, St. Andrews PC, and Naomi Makemie PC. Wythe had the following exceptions: 2b and 13. Stone House had the following exceptions: 2, 18, 28, 29b, 30, 31, and 34b. Christ PC had the following exceptions: 20, 25, 29a, and 29b. Franklin PC had the following exceptions: 20, 34a, 34b and 11 due to Covid 19 restrictions. King's Grants PC had the following exception was 28b. Grace Covenant PC had the following exception was 28b.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery

The Reverend Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**, moderator.

The COM RECOMMENDED to the Presbytery the approval of thir5teen actions related to minister assignments, pastor searches and commissioned pastors.

In Memoria

The Reverend Dr. **J. Scottie Griffin** died peacefully at the age of 85 on December 9, 2020 surrounded by beloved family at his home at Westminster-Canterbury in Virginia Beach.

He was a native of Texas and a graduate of Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX and Princeton Seminary, Princeton, NJ. Dr. Griffin was ordained by the Plains Presbytery, the

predecessor presbytery to Palo Duro Presbytery, Lubbock, TX, on June 25, 1960 as a minister of the Word of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Dr. Griffin served as pastor to congregations in Tulsa, OK; Philadelphia, PA (First Church, Holmesburg and the Germantown Church) Wilmington, DE, Scarsdale, NY; and Virginia Beach, VA. Dr. Griffin joined the Presbytery in 1987 and was the Pastor at First Presbyterian Church from 1987-2000, and the Covenant Pastor at Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church from 2000 - 2018. Dr. Griffin was honorably retired by the Presbytery on March 31, 2000.

Pastoral Relations

-Deceased: On December 9, 2020, the Reverend Dr. J. Scottie Griffin, age 85, in Virginia Beach.

-Received: None

-Dismissed: On December 1, 2020, the Reverend Dr. **Ralph R. Herbert** to the Presbytery of Charleston-Atlantic, North Charleston, SC.

-Installed: On October 25, 2020, the Reverend Dr. **Christian R. Shearer** as the pastor of KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown.

On November 15, 2020, the Reverend **Deidre Porter "Dee Dee" Carson** as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach.

-Dissolutions: On December 24, 2020, the Reverend **Martha Elizabeth Mitchell** and the congregation of Simonsdale Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth. On December 31, 2020, the Reverend Dr. **Cynthia Rosser Higgins** and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hampton.

-Honorably Retired: On December 31, 2020, the Reverend Dr. Cynthia Rosser Higgins.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

Ruling Elder **Larry H. Hull** (Second), moderator.

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

Narrative Report:

The trustees continue to assess the Covid 19 financial impacts on PEVA's current year revenue and expenses and 2021 pledges. We are grateful that congregations have been so faithful this

year in keeping up their support for the Presbytery and hope that will be able to continue for 2021. We recognize however that Covid 19 makes the entire PEVA budgeting process more tentative.

The trustees held our 2019 Financial Review meeting with reviewer, CPA Doug Hall. His report indicated that no material modifications to the 2019 financial statements are needed. The final report with agreed upon minor revisions will be received by the trustees for PEVA, Inc. this month.

The sale of the former Coleman Place Presbyterian Church, Norfolk property closed in October. Financing by the purchasing church is independent of PEVA, thus eliminating future PEVA liability for the property. It is the goal of the PEVA trustees that future sales of former churches should be financed independent of PEVA unless circumstances require PEVA participation in the financing.

Payment of the loan to Frances Makemie Church was completed by an outside donation as was payment of the balance of the ODU House mortgage.

The trustees continue to manage the former Clark and Messiah Church properties and the sale of Makemie Woods Camp property which are in various states of lease, lease to purchase, and vacant for sale.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

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

Motion: Donna P. Herring (Williamsburg) 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 8 inquirers and 11 candidates for ministry under care.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY TEAM (CVT)

The Reverend T. Clinton Mitchell, Chair

NARRATIVE REPORT

- The Congregational Vitality Team is busy planning for a new 2021, trying to take what we have learned in 2020 to help us empower PEVA congregations to grow stronger.

- Technology Assistance grants are still available for congregations that have not yet received them. These grants of up to \$2000 are meant to help congregations improve their A/V technology to improve their ability to reach out in worship beyond the walls of the church building. More can be found on the PEVA website.
- Yorkminster Presbyterian Church has completed their CAT Assessment through Holy Cow Consulting. Rev. Lou Ventura and Rev. Clint Mitchell will be assisting them with their interpretation at the end of January. If your congregation is interested in taking the CAT, please contact Rev. Clint Mitchell.
- CVT is working to develop a clergy coaching network for the Presbytery. Our second cohort of clergy coaches will be starting their coursework soon. The first cohort is working on completing the hours of coaching required for certification. For more information about the clergy coaching network, please contact Rev. Chris Carrasco.
- We continue to offer Mission InSite to our congregations free of charge. If you would like to find out more about Mission InSite and how it can help your congregation connect with your community, please contact Rev. Garrett Bugg.

GENERAL PRESBYTER

The General Presbyter, the Reverend **Elizabeth G. "Liza" Hendricks** spoke about the Good News of the Presbytery during the Covid-19 pandemic. Rev. Hendricks noted that a number of our congregations used creative and novel methods for Christmas pageants and displays that continued worship traditions in a manner that maintained safety.

Rev. Hendricks also commended the hospital and institutional chaplains in the Presbytery for their ministry to those afflicted by Covid-19 and their families. The food shelves maintained by the Presbytery's congregations have continued to be fully stocked because of the efforts of their members. Rev. Hendricks also complimented Williamsburg

Church and Stone House Church for their work with Habitat for Humanity reconditioning and rebuilding housing in the area.

First Church, Norfolk has committed to house homeless people through out the winter at the church campus. First Church has developed a Covid-19 safety protocol that provides separate living spaces separated by Plexiglass for the residents. Additionally, First Church is feeding the homeless in the program.

Finally, there were kudos for the well organized and spiritually up lifting Reverend Dr. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** Day service and those who participated in the service, broadcasted from New Horizons Church, Norfolk.

NOMINATIONS:

The Reverend **Elnoria Lofton Harrison**, moderator.

The Presbytery approved the report of the Committee as follows:

Motion: The Committee placed in nomination the following to be elected by the Presbytery:

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

Ruling Elder **Marvin Brangan** (Providence) Treasurer of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc.

Ruling Elder **Marc T. Steiner** (Green Acres)

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Nominations Committee class of 2024

Rev. **Mary Newbern-Williams**

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Jubilee Fund Committee class of 2024

Rev. **Veronica Martin Thomas**

MODERATORS

The Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. "Doug" Douglass, III** was installed as Moderator and Ruling Elder **Dianne Schoonover** (Yorkminster) was installed as Vice-Moderator.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

50	Ministers
61	Ruling Elders
111	Total voting members
12	Visitors
123	Total Registered

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 10:00 am, Yorkminster Church, Grafton, with the method of meeting yet to be determined.