

# DIGEST

## ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

January 24, 2015  
Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Moderator:** Rev. Dr. Jeffrey S. Bell  
**Vice Moderator:** RE Kenneth M. Wheeler  
**Stated Clerk:** RE Q. John Tamm  
**Journal Clerk:** CRE Linda M. Smith

### WORSHIP

- Rev. Bell preached the sermon on "Are we Comfortable with a Little Pot" based on 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Rev. Dr. J. **Scottie Griffin** and Rev. Bell led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

- The offering for **Church Professionals Assistance Fund** was \$952.50.

### AMENDMENTS

- Proposed amendments forwarded from the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly for a "yes" or "no" vote were voted as follows:

1.14-A.On Amending G-2.0509;  
**Renunciation of Jurisdiction** by a Teaching Elder in the Midst of a Disciplinary procedure...the teaching elder shall not be permitted to perform any work...in any entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church, USA  
Yes-96 No-33 Absention-1

2.14-B.On Amending G-2.0607; **Concerning the approval of candidates for the ministry** by the presbytery of care and the administration of ordination exams for teaching elders...  
Yes-119 No-10 Absention-1

3.14-B.2.On Amending G-2.0610;  
**Accommodations to Particular Circumstances for Ordination**...When a Presbytery concludes there a good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to a particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three fourths vote waive any of the requirements...a full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the Presbytery...  
Yes-116 No-13 Absention-1

4.14-C.On Amending G-3.0106; **All councils shall adopt and implement a**

**sexual misconduct policy and a child protection policy**  
Yes-121 No-09

5.14-D.On Amending G-3.0301; **Minimum Composition of a Presbytery**... an exception to the minimum size of a presbytery, which is presently ten sessions and ten teaching elders...  
Yes-120 No-09 Absention-1

6.14-E.On Amending G-5.0102;  
**Interreligious Stance**, the Presbyterian Church, USA "will be open and will seek...respectful dialogue...with entities and persons from other religious traditions..."  
Yes-108 No-21 Absention-1

7.14-F.On Amending W-4.9000, **Marriage; Permitting but Not Requiring Same Gender Marriage** by striking the current text and replacing it with the following:  
[Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

*"Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community. In "civil law," marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges."If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder, who may agree to the couple's request only if, in the*

*judgment of the teaching elder, the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values. In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.*

*"The marriage service shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to this covenant and to the forms of Reformed worship, under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the session (W-1.4004-.4006). In a service of marriage, the couple marries each other by exchanging mutual promises. The teaching elder witnesses the couple's promises and pronounces God's blessing upon their union. The community of faith pledges to support the couple in upholding their promises; prayers may be offered for the couple, for the communities that support them, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness.*

*"A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction." "Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder's or the session's discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God."*  
Yes-77 No-53

#### **Vision Implementation Team**

- The Vision Implementation Team (VIT) RECOMMENDATION that the Reverend **Robert G. White** and Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) **Alice T. "Lisa" Cross** be elected to the Nominations Committee in the Class of 2018, was passed. Rev. White is the Covenant Pastor of LaCrosse Church and Community Hampton Church, and CRE Cross is the Pastor of Older Adult Ministries at St. Andrew Church.

- The VIT RECOMMENDATION that the Manual of Administrative Operations of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia as adopted at the 92nd Stated Meeting be amended as follows at page 8, section XI, paragraph 1:

[ Struck through text deleted; text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

The VIT of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia membership includes the VIT Moderator (immediate past PEVA Moderator), Moderator of PEVA, Vice Moderator of PEVA and ~~the last three moderators of PEVA...~~ *three persons who are teaching or ruling elders of PEVA with at least one committee member reflecting the African-American constituents of the Presbytery...*, was approved.

-The VIT RECOMMENDATION that the Reverend **Kathryn R. Rascoe** be elected as a member of the VIT was approved.

#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Nominations Committee RECOMMENDATION for the election of the following candidates was approved:

-Commission on Ministry  
Class of 2018  
Vernon Bell (Powelton)  
Stephen W. Griffin (Community Hampton)

-Commission on Preparation for the Ministry  
Class of 2018  
Rev. **Garrett Bugg**

-Stewardship Management Team  
Class of 2016  
Rev. **Jeremy M. Jenkins**

-Officer of the Presbytery-Treasurer and Treasurer of the Presbyterian League  
Class of 2016  
Marc Steiner (Green Acres)

#### **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

- Approved the request of the Stated Clerk that the Reverend **William R. Goodman, III** be given permission to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery in New Hope Presbytery (Raleigh, NC) on November 4, 2014.

-Received into membership in the Presbytery the Reverend **Christina Marie B. Carrasco** from the Charlotte Presbytery to be the pastor of King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach, on November 18, 2014.

#### **PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS**

- Approved Ruling Elder (RE) **Linda Marley Smith**, Simonsdale Church, to be commissioned to a pastoral service at Simonsdale Church, Portsmouth, on November 4, 2014.

-Approved the Reverend Dr. **Donna Marie DeSarro-Raynal** as the intentional interim pastor of Stone House Church, Toano on November 4, 2014.

-Approved the updated temporary relationship agreement between King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach and the Reverend **Jennifer McCann Spivey** on November 4, 2014.

-Approved the terms of call and covenant for King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach and the Reverend Christina Marie B. Carrasco as pastor on November 18, 2014.

-Approved the parish associate agreement between Providence Church and the Reverend **Thomas K. Chadwick**.

-Approved a modification to the terms of call and covenant between First Church, Portsmouth and the Reverend Dr. **Kerry K. Westerwick** on January 6, 2015.

-Approved the temporary relationship agreement between Knox Church, Norfolk and the Reverend **Ronald T. Blade** on January 6, 2015.

-Approved the renewal of the interim associate pastor agreement between Williamsburg Church and the Reverend **Lindsey K. Santamaria** on January 6, 2015.

-Approved the temporary relationship agreement as bridge pastor between Thalia Trinity Church, Virginia Beach and the Reverend **Barry L. Phillips, Sr.**, on January 6, 2015.

- Approved the validation of ministers for 2014.

#### **INSTALLATION**

- Received Commission Report for the installation of the Reverend **Clark DeSarro-Raynal** as Pastor of Hilton Presbyterian Church, Newport News

#### **PRESBYTERY PROGRAMS/ACTIONS**

- Received and approved the report of the Sessional Records Committee.

- Received report of the Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks**, Transitional General Presbyter.

- Received written reports from the University Presbyterian Ministry at ODU, Stewardship Ministry Team, Peacekeeping Committee, Commission on Preparation for Ministry and Stated Clerk.

#### **PRESBYTERIAN LEAGUE OF PEVA, Inc.**

-The Reverend Elizabeth G. Hendricks, Vice President, convened the meeting of the Presbyterian League for the purpose of electing a board of trustees. The following were nominated by Rev. Hendricks, and elected by the Presbytery:

##### Class of 2016

The Reverend Dr. **Helen B. Byrd**

The Reverend Jeremy M. Jenkins

##### Class of 2017

The Reverend Dr. **John E. Morgan**

##### Class of 2018

RE Carolyn Knowles (Providence)

RE Larry Hull (Second Norfolk)

#### **MODERATORS**

- Received report of the outgoing Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey S. Bell

- Installed Ruling Elder Kenneth M. Wheeler as moderator and the Rev. **Addie Naomi Peterson** as Vice Moderator.

#### **TEMPORARY CLERKS**

- The Reverend **James B. Hoy**, the Reverend **Frances D. Dille**, the Reverend Jennifer Mc. Spivey and the Reverend Dr. Donna M. DeSarro-Raynal served as Temporary Clerks.

#### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

61 Ministers  
70 Elder Commissioners  
131 Total voting members  
33 Visitors  
164 Total Registered

#### **NEXT MEETING**

-Called Meeting on February 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm, at St. Andrew Church, Suffolk

-Stated Meeting on April 28, 2015 at 10:00 am, at Third Church, Norfolk