

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH THIRTY SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

January 28, 2023
First United Presbyterian Church
Norfolk, Virginia

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

WORSHIP

- Ruling Elder Joel Phillips preached a sermon titled, "Gone Fishin' (sic)," based on Matthew 4: 12-23.
- Reverend **Veronica M. Thomas**, pastor of First United Presbyterian Church, the Reverend John E. Morgan, and Ruling Elder **Joyce Melvin-Jones**, led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the Church Professional Assistance Fund.

MODERATORS

- RE Diane F. Schoonover was the Moderator, and Rev. Dr. John E. Morgan was the vice moderator.

STATED CLERK

The report was published to the Presbytery in the packet, with the addition of the Reverend Dr. **Christian Shearer's** name to the LaCrosse administrative commission report.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

The Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III** moderator.

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the actions taken by the Presbytery Council. The motion was approved.

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve as a consent motion, the amendments to the Constitution (Book of Order) passed by the 225th General Assembly. There are 33 amendments, numbered 22-A through 22-GG. Commissioners removed five amendments for separate consideration thus approving the remaining amendments.

The five amendments were, 22-A F-1.0302 "The Marks of the Church," 22-B "F-1.0404 Openness," 22-E "G-2.0503 Categories of Membership, Honorably Retired" 22-I "G-2.0804 Terms of Call, Family Leave," and 22-T "W-3.0205 Confession and Forgiveness." The Presbytery voted as follows:
22-A 52 for and 31 against,
22-B 54 for and 29 against,
22-E 15 for and 68 against,
22-I 65 for and 23 against,
22-T 33 for and 49 against.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

MOTION: The following church records had no exceptions: Wythe, Suffolk, St. Andrew, Denbigh United, First Norfolk, Naomi Makemie, Bethany, King's Grant. Exceptions: Stone House 2, 22, 28a and b, and 31. No records received from Franklin PC.

The motion was **approved**.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery
RE **Roxie O. Holder** (New Horizons), moderator

MOTION: the Presbytery approved the actions taken by the COM.

MOTION: Upon examination the Presbytery approved the ordination of RE **Joel Phillips** as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Pastoral Relations

-Removed from the roll: James Selden Harris, renunciation of jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.), on January 4, 2023, in accordance with Book of Order, G-2.0509.

-Dismissed: Johanna M. Creager to the Presbytery of the James, on August 2, 2022.

-Installed: Andrew P. Whitehead, Hidenwood, Newport News on October 30, 2022.

-Honorably Retired: Donald E. McLean, Jr., effective December 31, 2022.

Helen Bessent Byrd, effective January 10, 2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

Ruling Elder **Marc Steiner** (Green Acres), moderator.

MOTION: 1. Approved the disbursal of \$385,401.96 the congregation of New Horizons Church, Norfolk following the sale of 1485 Johnston Road, Norfolk.
2. Approved the disbursal of \$5,000.00 the congregation of Christ Church, Virginia Beach, for repairs to the church caused by storm damage and vandalism.

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

Narrative Report

The Board of Trustees met in November and in early January to review the Presbytery finances and property matters. In November trustees met with CPA Douglas Hall to go over the 2021 Financial Review. He concluded that there were 'no material modifications that should be made' to those financial statements. He was asked and agreed to work with PEVA's business administrator to determine net proceeds from the sale of Makemie Woods, which will appear in the year-end 2022 financial reports. In January the trustees heard that the investments with the New Covenant Trust Company were down approximately 17% from the previous year which was anticipated given the volatility of the market. The trustees received the report that the sale of the former Messiah property at 1485 Johnston's Road, Norfolk, closed on November 15, 2022. The trustees had managed the sale and maintenance of the property on behalf of New Horizons Presbyterian Church and disbursed the net proceeds of \$385,401.96 to the congregation. They approved a grant of \$5,000.00 to the Christ Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, to assist with costs due to storm damage and vandalism -thirteen windows were broken! The trustees also received reports from the Ocean View and Squires Memorial Churches' administrative commissions about the status of those properties. The Ocean View property is now listed for sale and the Squires Memorial property will be listed in the near future.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

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

MOTION: The Presbytery received the narrative report of the CPM. The Presbytery has 3 inquirers and 14 candidates for ministry under care.

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Ruling Elder **Jessica A. Fitzgerald**, Hunger Action Advocate

Motion: The Presbytery received the narrative report.

NARRATIVE REPORT

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY CHALLENGE: PEVA's Hunger Team is hosting a PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY CHALLENGE (goal 150 jars) benefiting First United PC and those in need in our communities). The Hunger Committee wants to keep hunger in the forefront of PEVA members minds. What better way to do that than by supporting the churches that are hosting the quarterly Presbytery meetings in 2023 with needed food items for their hunger & outreach ministry. So, the first church hosting in January of 2023 is First United Presbyterian Church. First United Presbyterian Church has a Bread Ministry that has been operating for several years.

PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

Elder **Gerry Ellis**, Moderator

Peacemaking RECOMMENDATIONS to Presbytery: NONE

ACTIONS TAKEN:

The Peacemaking Ministry Team approved the peacemaking grant submitted by Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk in the amount of \$1,000 for their Path to Peace on Earth LAUNCH program. Funds are to be disbursed as follows \$500 from the Racial Dialogue Team line 10-13-5431 and \$500 from the Peacemaking Program & Committee Expenses line 10-13-5410.

NARRATIVE REPORT:

The document "Why a Land Acknowledgement?" was included in future Presbytery Meeting packets. Beginning in November, Denbigh United PC is offering a four-week adult study using Trigger-the Ripple Effects of Gun Violence as a springboard for gun violence prevention discussion.

Goals for 2023 include:

- 1. Ways to better share information and events with PEVA
- 2. A more active role in creation care
- 3. Continued emphasis on gun violence prevention including sponsoring training for pastors in trauma informed care, PASTORS-Please indicate your interest in participating in such an event by signing up at the registration table at the PEVA meeting on January 28, 2023.

GENERAL PRESBYTER GOOD NEWS

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** reported that: recent events that had occurred in the Presbytery including:

- The Peanut Butter & Jelly Challenge raising 276 jars of PB & J
- A gracious thank you from **Peace River Presbytery** for PEVA's support that was collected at the October Presbytery meeting for Hurricane Ian relief.
- Thank you letters and calls from Camp Hanover, Montreat, and Massanetta for the \$30,000 they each received from PEVA due to the sale of Makemie Woods. In addition, Squires Memorial gave \$5000 to Massanetta, and we now have a room at Massanetta named after Makemie Woods.
- The many Angels' Trees that she saw especially Bethany Presbyterian Church's that raised Food Lion gift cards for 17 families and First Presbyterian Church's (Hampton) that supported 10 families and 150 gifts.
- Norfolk churches Pathway to Peace partnerships
- Wythe Presbyterian Church's "Gift Away" drive for its creativeness.
- First Presbyterian Church's (Virginia Beach) gala celebration and worship service in honor of their 100th year in ministry.
- The Rev. Dr. Wilbur Douglass' contribution the book From Sea-to-Sea Stories by U.S. Navy Chaplains of African American descent.
- The Recent passing of former PEVA Minister the Rev. Dr. **Kerry Knox Westerwick**.
- The Shine video that was today's anthem was a commissioned work to honor the 40th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church's Dir. of Music Ministries Edna Broadhurst. The work was composed by **Robert Shoup**, Dir. of Music Ministries at Second Presbyterian church, and performed by the combined

choirs of First and Second Presbyterian Churches.

- She thanked Dr. Douglas for his service as Vice-Moderator and Moderator of the Presbytery and as Moderator of the Presbytery's council. She also thanked all those who will be departing PEVA's various Commissions, Councils, and Committees at the end of the month.

NOMINATIONS:

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

The Presbytery approved the report of the Committee as follows:

MOTION 1: Trustees to the board of John Knox Homes, Inc.

RE **Pax Goodson** (Hilton)

Rev **T. Clinton Mitchell**

The motion was approved.

MODERATORS

The Reverend Dr. John E. Morgan was installed as Moderator and Ruling Elder RE Joyce Melvin-Jones (Carver Memorial) was installed as Vice-Moderator.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

40	Ministers
54	Ruling Elders
94	Total voting members
37	Visitors
131	Total Registered

Offering for the Church Professionals Assistance Fund was \$667.00.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 10:00 AM at Williamsburg Church.