

# DIGEST

CALLED MEETING OF March 12, 2015

March 12, 2015  
Providence Presbyterian Church  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Moderator:** Ruling Elder (RE) Kenneth M. Wheeler (Green Acres)

**Vice Moderator:** Rev. Addie N. Peterson

**Stated Clerk:** RE Q. John Tamm (1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Beach)

**Journal Clerk:** Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Linda M. Smith (Simonsdale)

## WORSHIP

- The Reverend **Kathryn R. Rascoe** was worship leader and led the Presbytery in the hymn "Lord, listen to your children praying." Rev. Rascoe then led the call to worship based on *John 12:26*. Moderator RE Kenneth M. Wheeler offered the opening prayer.

**Vision Implementation Team---**the Reverend Dr. **Jeffrey S. Bell**

Rev. Bell offered a short report that served to introduce the report from the Makemie Woods Management Team.

**Makemie Woods Management Team Report and Motion for Action of the Presbytery**

Members of the Team made a report to the Presbytery. The members making a presentation were the Reverend **Clayton T. Rascoe**, RE Jean Knapp (Green Acres) and RE William A. Espich (Hidenwood).

Rev. C. Rascoe explained how Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center (Camp) would be operated this year with two one-week, volunteer-led camping sessions planned from July 12-14, and 19-24, 2015. Information sheets regarding this plan were distributed. Rev. C. Rascoe spoke of the Team's desire to provide camping opportunities for those children for whom the experience is important. The Team will endeavor to inform Presbytery by Monday, March 23 whether enough volunteers have been secured and if plans may go forward. Volunteers will be trained prior to camp sessions.

20-25 volunteers will be needed per session, with 11-12 counselors per session and others to supervise crafts, special classes and activities. American Camping Association standards will be used for this year, even though Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center will not be a member during 2015.

Recruitment of volunteers in congregations will be appreciated. The particular areas of medical (EMT training and above), music, Bible Study, etc. are needed. Camp Jordan will also run simultaneously. Camp Jordan is a camp experience for children with juvenile diabetes.

RE Knapp shared the history of the Camp's relationship with the Presbytery and how funding issues have developed. She pointed out that almost the entire year will now be available for retreats, which are revenue positive. The Team plans to aggressively market the Camp to many community, church, and other target groups. Further considerations are that eventual upgrades are desired should the camp and conference program move forward, it might be possible to partner with another religious organization, and the sale of the property may also be considered.

RE Espich thanked former Team members, and introduced current Team members. He explained that a Task Force will explore what would happen and what actions would be necessary if the facility no longer offers programs. This discernment is necessary because the financial and leadership landscape is changing. A closed facility is not cost-free. For a similar dollar commitment, the Presbytery can provide a spiritual place for retreats and camping in the near future. RE Espich highlighted a spreadsheet that compared the cost of a fully-functioning camp, a limited camp/retreat year, and maintaining a closed facility. The 2015 plan is designed to break even or be cost positive due to more retreats. For 2015, staff expenses are less and the budget is very conservative. The budget will be monitored monthly and the Team will report any pertinent information to the VIT and Stewardship Ministry Team with recommendations on how to keep within the budget.

Comments were made by several ministers and commissioners that the marketing budget for the Camp was underfunded.

**Table Group Discussions** followed, focusing on these two questions:

- What more do you want to know about this proposal?
- How does Makemie Woods fit into the mission of PEVA?

One question for clarification was entertained:

- How is the infrastructure maintained in the off season? There being no further questions, the Moderator declared the motion on the floor and coming from a commission, did not require a second. An amendment to the motion was made by the Reverend **William G. Lamont**, and seconded, that section 1b. of the motion be amended to read: (additional language in bold) 1b. that the Makemie Woods Management Team, in conversation with the Presbytery begin a process of discernment **to propose a new mission for Makemie Woods** regarding the mission of Makemie Woods and ~~How that mission relates to the mission~~ of the Presbytery: and.....

Discussion followed. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment and it was approved.

At that time, a further amendment to the motion was proposed by RE Kevin Mooney (Kings Grant), and seconded, to add a section 1d to the original motion: 1d. **that the Management Team and the Vision Implementation Team together develop an implementation plan for executing the new Makemie Woods Mission proposed under paragraph 1b.**

Discussion followed, and the question was called by the Reverend Dr. **Kerry Westervick**, seconded, and approved. The voice vote on the amendment was unclear, so a vote by show of hands was called. The amendment was defeated: 23 yes, 27 no.

The question was called by the Reverend Dr. **Louis Weeks** on the original motion as amended, which was seconded and approved.

The vote was taken on the amended motion by paper ballot. Temporary Clerks Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell and CRE William T. Ricketts collected the ballots, which were counted by the Stated Clerk and the Journal Clerk while commissioners took a short break.

The Stated Clerk advised the Moderator, who announced the result of the vote: 54 Yes / 6 No. He announced that the motion was approved as amended.

The Stated Clerk made two announcements:

- The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be on April 28 at Third Church, Norfolk at 4 p.m.
- Minister ID Cards are available.

There was a motion to adjourn with prayer made by Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell at 8:45 p.m., seconded, and approved by common consent. Rev. Bell offered the closing prayer.

#### ENROLLMENT REPORT

<u>24</u>	Ministers
<u>36</u>	Elder Commissioners
<u>60</u>	Total voting members
<u>06</u>	Visitors
<u>66</u>	Total Registered

#### NEXT MEETING

-Stated Meeting on April 28, 2015 at 4:00 pm, at Third Church, Norfolk