

# DIGEST

## ONE HUNDRETH TWENTY NINTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

April 19, 2022  
Yorkminster Presbyterian Church  
Grafton, 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** (1<sup>st</sup> VAB)  
**Journal Clerk:** Mr. **Raymond Rodrigues**

### WORSHIP

- Ruling Elder Dianne F. Schoonover preached a sermon titled, "From Inches to Feet," based on Micah 4:5 and I Corinthians 12:14-26
- Reverend **Deborah D. Dail**, pastor of Denbigh United Presbyterian Church and the Reverend Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**, led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the Presbyterian Mission Agency-Ukraine.

### 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. Three corrections were made to the report at the meeting.

### PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

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

The Presbytery approved the following:

**MOTION:** The Presbytery elected Reverend Elnoria L. Harrison to the Nominations Committee for a term of three years in the class of 2025, and that she serve as the moderator.

**MOTION:** The Presbytery approved the addition of the Congo Network and Presbyterian Women to Appendix 1 and 2 of the Manual of Administrative Operations as presented to the Presbytery at its October 2021 meeting.

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

### SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

**MOTION:** Approved the following report: The following church records had no exceptions: Hidenwood, Groves Memorial. The following churches had exceptions as noted: Norfolk 2b, 28b; Third Norfolk 13, 27b, 30. Stone House 2a, 28a and b, 29b, 31, 34a and b; First Presbyterian Portsmouth 28b; Calvin 28b; Community Portsmouth; and Lynnhaven. No records received from Carver Memorial, First United, Bayside PC.

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery

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

**MOTION:** The Presbytery restored to ordered ministry Rev. **Francis E. Drake**.

**MOTION:** The COM RECOMMENDED to the Presbytery the approval of seventeen actions related to minister assignments, pastor searches and commissioned pastors. Rev. **Laura Carihfield**, member at large was introduced to the Presbytery.

**In Memoria** The Reverend Dr. **Robert Clement Dickey, Jr.**, age 87, died on January 12, 2022, in Haywood, VA. Dr. Dickey was the General Presbyter of the Norfolk Presbytery and thereafter the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia from November 1, 1976, until January 31, 1990. He previously was the Associate General Presbyter of the Presbytery of del Salvador of the Presbyterian Church in United States in Corpus Christi, TX. Dr. Dickey was ordained on June 19, 1959, by the San Antonio Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, now the Mission Presbytery. He became a member of the Norfolk Presbytery on November 1, 1976. He had 62 years of ordained service. Born December 4, 1934, in San Antonio, TX, he grew up in Kerrville, TX, graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and received his Master of Divinity degree from Austin Seminary and Doctorate in Ministry from McCormick Seminary, Chicago. He retired in 1990,

and moved to Mathews, VA full time with his wife Pat, and went on to run his own small business, Clergy Tax Services for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Dickey was Vice-Chair of the original board of trustees of Westminster Canterbury on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia Beach in 1982. He worked with Suffolk Presbyterian Church to establish EDMARC Hospice for Children and was Chair of the board when EDMARC became a part of Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in 1996. Dr. Dickey is survived by his wife of almost 58 years, Patricia B. Dickey, as well as his children, Lori Brooks Dusenbery, and David Clement Dickey.

The Reverend **Kenneth E. Boyer**, age 91, died on March 2, 2022, in Givens Highland Farms, Black Mountain NC. Reverend Boyer was born in Korea in 1930 to missionary parents where he received his primary and secondary education. Korea was then a Japanese colony. His family left Korea before World War II but returned at the end of hostilities. After a solid Presbyterian education at Davidson College and Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, Reverend Boyer was ordained by the Presbytery of Southwest Georgia of the Presbyterian Church in the United States on July 18, 1956. Following one year in parish ministry in Georgia, Reverend Boyer returned to South Korea in 1957 as a missionary. He met his wife Sylvia, in South Korea, where she was serving the Church as a medical missionary. She predeceased him in October 2021. They served together in South Korea from 1957 to 1979. He is survived by his daughter, the Reverend Grace Boyer, and sons Timothy and Kenneth. Returning to the United States, Reverend Boyer joined the Norfolk Presbytery in 1979 and was the pastor of Wythe Presbyterian Church, Hampton from 1980 to 1991. He was honorably retired by the Presbytery on June 30, 1993. Reverend Boyer had 65 years of ordained service.

The Reverend Dr. **Marc Vernon Mason**, Dr. Mason was ordained on All Saints' Day in 1992 by the South Alabama Presbytery. He was a graduate of Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL, Princeton Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, MA where he

was awarded a Doctor of Ministry. Dr. Mason's first call was as the associate pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Fairhope, AL, followed by pastorates at Princeton Presbyterian Church, Springfield, PA, Purity Presbyterian Church, Chester, SC and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Travelers Rest, SC. Dr. Mason was called to Yorkminster Presbyterian Church on December 1, 2019, as pastor and head of staff. He had 29 years of ordained service.

He is survived by his wife Leslie and two daughters, Jessica, and Emily.

#### **Pastoral Relations**

**-Deceased:** The Reverend Kenneth E. Boyer, age 91, died on March 2, 2022, in Givens Highland Farms, Black Mountain NC.

The Reverend Dr. Marc Vernon Mason, age 60, pastor of Yorkminster Presbyterian Church, Yorktown and trustee of the Presbytery died on March 16, 2022, in Richmond, VA.

**-Received:** the Reverend **Laura Marie Carihfield** was received as a member at large from the Presbytery of Baltimore.

**-Honorably Retired:** The Reverend **Frances D. Dille** on March 1, 2022.

**-Dismissed:** None

**-Dissolutions:** None

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)**

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

**MOTION:** The Presbytery approved the following:

RESOLVED, the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church ("Church") located at 830 25th Street, Newport News, VA 23607 has applied for a loan as follows from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. ("Lender") funded by Endowment Funded Loans:  
Amount of Loan: \$25,000.00

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc., a Virginia nonprofit corporation, ("Presbytery") having received and reviewed the Loan application of the Church, a member in good standing of this Presbytery, approves the Loan application, and guarantees the repayment of principal and interest on the loan to the Lender as described above. The officers of the Presbytery as listed on the attached

Certificate of Incumbency marked Exhibit A are authorized to sign a guarantee and any and all documents of this loan as authorized agents of the Presbytery.

**Narrative Report:**

The Board of Trustees has been busy in the past few months with various congregational requests for assistance, real estate activity, and monitoring PEVA finances.

The motion before the Presbytery is part of a response to requests for assistance from the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News for two time-sensitive projects: (1) mold remediation and repairs for damage to a substantial portion of the church building, a situation exacerbated by the COVID experience, and (2) necessary demolition of a separate un-used building. The congregation is actively engaged in fund-raising but the cost for the two projects is approximately \$120,000. The Trustees are recommending that the Presbytery approve the resolution above to allow Carver Memorial to borrow \$25,000 from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) as guaranteed by the Presbytery. The trustees also approved a grant of \$20,000 from the COVID relief fund given the urgency and extent of the remediation project.

The Trustees also received and approved a request from Ocean View PC, Norfolk for \$4800 from the Small Church Assistance Fund for urgent heating & cooling system repairs.

Real Estate matters: The Trustees are pleased to report that the final payment has been received from the purchaser, Chosen for Completion, for the former Cradock PC property in Portsmouth for a total \$100,000 principal plus interest.

The Trustees, acting on behalf of the New Horizons PC, identified and entered a contract with a new realtor to sell the former Messiah property for them and shortly thereafter, an offer was received and accepted by the congregation. The sale is contingent on a change in the zoning by Norfolk.

Efforts to manage and sell the former Makemie Woods Camp property continue. An offer of \$900,000 has been received and accepted by the trustees from an organization called Youth Challenge,

also known as Faith Recovery. The terms of the agreement are contingent on a required use permit from New Kent County and the buyer obtaining financing for a portion of the total purchase price. The prospective buyer is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization providing a long-term recovery program for those struggling with substance use disorder. Its faith-based approach to recovery includes basic recovery principles, peer recovery counseling, substance abuse counseling, as well as a biblically based spiritual emphasis with 12 step work. It is not clear at this time whether New Kent County officials will approve the required use permit, given opposition from some in the community.

The Trustees regularly review PEVA's financial statements and church giving. The year-end 2021 financial reports reflect a balanced budget with some use of budgeted investment income and overall expenses. It should be noted that in 2021 PEVA commissions and ministry teams provided over \$146,000 in grants for 34 congregations in 2021, including online technology grants of approximately \$90,000.

**COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)**

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

**MOTION:** That the narrative report of the CPM be received by the Presbytery.

**Narrative Report:** The Reverend **Kimberly Harper Coyle** was ordained by the Presbytery on February 6, 2022, at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach. Reverend Coyle is a chaplain at the University of South Carolina Medical Center in Columbia, SC.

The Reverends **Calvin** and **Joanna Sydnor** were ordained by the Presbytery of the James on February 12, 2022, to become the co-pastors of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Richmond.

**HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM**

**Motion:** The Presbytery received the narrative report.

PEVA WIDE CEREAL CAMPAIGN: Children who rely on free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch at school often go without enough to eat during the summer at home. You and your church can help by collecting cereal and oatmeal from April - June 15th. The Southeastern Food

Bank, the Food Bank on the Eastern Shore, and the Peninsula Food Bank of VA will be using collected cereal & oatmeal for the mobile pantries and summer school sites for those in need. Please make sure donations are received in the PEVA office by June 16th. RE Jessica Fitzgerald is more than willing to arrange for pick up.

**MIGRANT FARM WORKERS AND SEASONAL AGRICULTURE WORKERS:** Continue to keep them in your prayers as they work in the fields with their families this season, especially those on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Please consider adding the Migrant Ministry to your outreach projects. Wycliffe PC has been busy collecting clothing since August as members cleaned closets as the season changed and children outgrew clothing. They recruited a few faithful volunteers to organize the clothing by men, women and especially by size for children (fall, spring & summer clothing) and even labeled the boxes. PEVA's Hunger Action Advocate was excited to see a room full of organized boxes recently. Please try to recruit a few faithful volunteers to organize the clothing by men, women and especially by size for children (fall, spring & summer clothing only). PEVA's Hunger Action Advocate will be more than happy to arrange for pick up from your church, or you may also bring donated items to the PEVA office between July 5th - July 15th Mon. - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Donations are due by July 15th, 2022. A trip to deliver the needed supplies is planned for late July early August and an opportunity to engage with families at the Migrant Head Start Centers. If you are interested in taking the trip and helping, please contact Jessica@pcusa.peva.org.

**GENERAL PRESBYTER GOOD NEWS**

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. "Liza" Hendricks**

The Maundy Thursday service at Yorkminster Church was a testament to the resiliency of the congregation. Ocean View Church, Norfolk is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ten Presbytery churches have participated in the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's Healthy Congregations Seminar. RE Roxie Holder will serve as the moderator of the General Assembly's Policy and Procedures Committee. Green

Acres, Portsmouth has an iPhone application "App" for its members.

**NOMINATIONS:** The Nominations Committee RECOMMENDED to Presbytery the election of:

**MOTION:**

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2023 RE **Karen Harris** (First Church, Virginia Beach)

Class of 2025 the Reverend **Andrew P.**

**Whitehead**

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

Class of 2023 Nominating Committee

Reverend **Leigh B. Gillis**

Class of 2023 Commissioner

RE **Amanda Pine** (King's Grant)

Class of 2027 Permanent Judicial

Commission

Rev. **Elnoria Lofton Harrison**

**INSTALLATION**

The Reverends **Garrett B. Bugg** and **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura** and Ruling Elder **Jessica Fitzgerald** were installed as Commissioners to the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**ENROLLMENT REPORT**

40	Ministers
46	Ruling Elders
86	Total voting members
21	Visitors
107	Total Registered

**Offering for the Presbyterian Mission**

**Agency-Ukraine** \$1,010 contributed at the meeting, \$1,010 matched by the Presbytery. \$2,020.

**NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 10:00 am, Second Church, Norfolk