

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH TWENTY FIFTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

April 20, 2021
Yorkminster Presbyterian Church
Grafton, Virginia via Zoom

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

WORSHIP

- The Reverend Dr. **Marc Vernon Mason** preached a sermon titled "Of Lambs and Wolves," based on Luke 10:1-11.
- Reverend Dr. Marc V. Mason, pastor and the Reverend **Michelle D. "Mike" Burcher** associate pastor, Yorkminster Presbyterian Church led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the **Congo International Partnership Ministries**.

MODERATORS

- The Rev. Dr. **W. C. Douglass, III** was the Moderator. RE **Dianne F. Schoonover** was Vice Moderator.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

The Reverend Dr. **Helen Louise C. "Lou" Ventura**, moderator.

The Presbytery Council approved the following:

Approved an Outdoor Ministry Grant Request from **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**, Virginia Beach, for \$1,000.00 for the Montreat Youth Conference in July 2021.

Approved request to move up to \$10,000.00 from PEVA Undesignated to the Church Professionals Assistance Fund.

Concurred with the Stated Clerk's approach to schedule 2022 PEVA meetings: first refusal will be offered to those churches who were unable to host a physical gathering due to the COVID pandemic. Those churches are: **Grace Covenant, Yorkminster, Jamestown, and Stone House**.

Approved request from the Peacemaking Committee to be renamed the **Compassion, Peace, and Justice Committee**.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

MOTION: The Sessional Records Review Committee recommends to the Presbytery that the following records reviewed for the fourth quarter of 2020 be approved as indicated: The following church records had no exceptions: Lynnhaven, Groves Memorial, Community Presbyterian. The following churches had exceptions as noted: Hilton - 28b, Calvin - 28b, First Portsmouth- 28b, First United - 1, 25, 28b. No records received from Bayside, Greenbrier, Carver Memorial and Hiddenwood.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery

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

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

Pastoral Relations

-Ordained: On April 17, 2021, the Reverend **Pamela Dee Hrcir** at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.

-Deceased: On April 8, 2021, the Reverend **Richard K. Knowles**, age 81 in Richmond, VA.

-Received: On February 2, 2021, the Reverend Dr. **James "Jim" Leighton Carter** from the Presbytery of Philadelphia as honorably retired.

-Dismissed: None

-Installed: None

-Honorably Retired: None

STATED CLERK

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2020

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia submitted its annual statistical report to the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic for the year ending December 31, 2020.

The 48 particular churches had 11,922 total active members, a decrease of 641 members from 2019. Reported annual income was \$17,544,939 a decrease of \$793,732 from \$18,338,671 in 2019. Annual expenses were \$15,856,733 a decrease of 1,581,132 from \$17,437,865 in 2019. Mission expenses were \$1,643,256 personnel expenses were \$9,264,651 and facilities expenses were \$3,261,452. The Presbytery had an average Sunday worship attendance of 4,984 down from 5,193 in 2019. The membership of Oakdale Presbyterian Church, which was dissolved on July 21, 2020, is counted in this report.

Etienne Kasonga Bote-Tshiek

Etienne Kasonga Bote-Tshiek died on March 13, 2021. He was 78 years old. Known as "Papa" Bote-Tshiek, he was originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Presbyterian Church of the Congo, which is divided into two denominations, the *Communaute Presbyterienne au Congo*, (CPC) and *Communaute Presbyterienne a Kinshasa* (CPK). Papa Bote-Tshiek was on the Presbytery staff from June 1993 until June 2011 as Mission Interpreter and later Mission Facilitator for Presbytery's International Partnership Committee. During the 18 years of work and ministries in the Presbytery, several mission trips were made throughout the United States for the promotion of Congo Partnership Ministries, which assisted the development of the Congo Mission Network Group. Several mission trips to DRC occurred during the late 1990s and early 2000s. He was married to **Maman Régine Kadima-Tshiek** and is survived by her and seven children. Memorial presentations were made by Rev. Dr. **David N. Rollins** and Rev. Dr. **Lawrence L. Willis**.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

Ruling Elder **Marvin Brangan** (Providence), moderator.

A motion was approved to authorize the trustees to use an initial sum of \$230,000 received in 2020 from the real estate sales of closed churches to reduce congregational loans guaranteed by the presbytery and provide additional funds available for small church grants as specified below:

a) Up to \$30,000 to pay off the loan with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) for First PC, Portsmouth as a legacy of the former

Cradock Presbyterian Church, many of whose members are now members and friends of First PC, Portsmouth.

b) Payment of \$150,000 to assist **Stone House P.C.** in paying down and refinancing their loan (currently \$550,000) with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Fund, contingent upon the congregation using a recent bequest of \$24,000 to add to the amount from the Presbytery for a total principal payment of \$174,000 and a reduction in monthly mortgage payments of approximately \$1500/month. The PILP loan provided financing for the original building for Stone House as a new church development, a PEVA initiative.

c) Add \$50,000 to the Small Church Assistance Fund which provides grants or loans primarily for capital needs/repairs for congregations. The **Congregational Vitality Team** has approved technology improvement grants to 21 churches totaling \$41,479 to support their need for virtual worship & other programs. These grants will enhance the churches' ministry abilities both now and, in the post, Covid future.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

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

Motion: Carter Jones (Carver Memorial) 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.

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

RE Kelvin Jackson, (First United) moderator, **RE Jessica A. Fitzgerald**, (Third) Hunger Action Advocate
The Hunger Ministry Team, believing that hunger is unacceptable, leads and challenges the churches of PEVA and its entities, in Christ's name, to alleviate chronic hunger and its immediate causes at home and abroad through information dissemination, education, advocacy, and the provision of resources. There is a need for new members and new initiatives. The Hunger team is looking for members with the passion for alleviating hunger, new vibrant ideas, and those willing to act and advocate. Are you interested in serving? Please contact jessica@pcusa-peva.org or jtamm@pcusa-peva.org at the PEVA office.

PEVA WIDE VIRTUAL OFFERING OF LETTERS

Letters are a strong witness of community concerns and personal testimonies, it is an act of faith. PEVA's Hunger Team has joined with the Peacemaking Team to advocate for the least of these in a "PEVA Wide Virtual Offering of Letters" with Bread for the World.

GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** Reverend Hendricks' Good News for the Presbytery included the ordination of the Reverend **Pamela Dee Hrcncir** at the **Williamsburg Church** on April 17th. Rev. Hrcncir will serve as the Covenant Pastor at Williamsburg Church. **King's Grant Church**, Virginia Beach is a finalist for the Annual Achievement Award from Volunteer Hampton Roads for the congregation's work in various Tidewater projects. **First Church, Norfolk** is continuing its ministry to the homeless population of Norfolk by providing temporary shelter and over 10,900 meals. The City of Norfolk, based on the work of First Church, has decided to build permanent homeless housing. **Bayside Church**, Virginia Beach has recently completed a renovation of their sanctuary. **St. Andrew, Suffolk** is beginning a six-week program titled "Come to the Table" on how the church can become an agent of change to alleviate hunger in America.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY TEAM (CVT)

- Clergy Coaching Network: The Congregational Vitality Team approved a proposal by Rev. Dr. **Christina M. B. Carrasco** to begin a PEVA Coaching Network. The purpose of this network is to use International Coaching Federation (ICF) trained and certified coaches from the Presbytery to develop greater vitality, effectiveness, resiliency, leadership, courage, confidence, and risk-taking adaptability in gifted clergy and church leaders in order to create healthier and more dynamic churches. Eight ministers will receive coach training: Rev. Dr. Christina Carrasco, Rev. Dr. **Cynthia Rosser Higgins**, Rev. **Martha Mitchell**, Rev. **Addie Naomi Peterson**, Rev. **Linda K. Rainey**, Rev. Dr. **David Nolan Rollins**, Rev. Dr. **Christian Shearer**, and Rev. Dr. **Helen Louise Cashman "Lou" Ventura**.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

53	Ministers
44	Ruling Elders
97	Total voting members
23	Visitors
120	Total Registered

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:00 am, **Bethany Presbyterian Church**, Zuni. Whether this will be an in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting has yet to be determined.