

# DIGEST

April 25, 2017  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hampton, Virginia

**Moderator:** The Rev. William G. Lamont  
**Vice Moderator:** Ruling Elder (RE) Diane P. Griffin  
**Stated Clerk:** RE Q. John Tamm  
**Journal Clerk:** RE Linda M. Smith

## WORSHIP

- Commissioned Ruling Elder **Randolph C. DuVall** preached a sermon titled "Much More Than a Fish Fry," based on John 21:9-17.
- Rev. Lamont and the Rev. Dr. **Cynthia R. Higgins**, pastor, First Church, Hampton led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering for the *Nickle a Meal Fund* was \$932.00.

## MODERATORS

- The Rev. William G. Lamont was the moderator and RE Diane P. Griffin was the vice moderator.

## VISION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (VIT)

The Rev. **Addie Naomi Peterson**, moderator

The Presbytery approved the following:

**\*MOTION:** That an Administrative Commission be appointed, as requested by the Vision Implementation Team in accordance with G-3.0109b of the Book of Order, to work with Ocean View Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, for the purpose of overseeing the governance, finances, and potential dissolution of the Ocean View Presbyterian Church.

**MOTION:** The Vision Implementation Team places the following names in nomination as indicated:

### Nominations Committee

Class of 2020

The Rev. **Veronica M. Thomas**

Ruling Elder **Jean Becker** (First Church, Virginia Beach)

Ruling Elder **William A. Espich**  
(Hidenwood)

## AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER

## ONE HUNDRETH TENTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

**16-A** Child and Youth Protection Policy - This would amend G-3.0106 add the words "and youth" to the required policy statement worded.

**16-B** Parity in Committees - This proposed amendment to G-3.0109. This seeks to allow the membership make-up of committees to maintain parity but not be as restrictive as currently is the practice.

**16-C** Ordered Ministry Titles - There are eight different proposed amendments that all deal in different ways with restoring the title, "minister of Word and Sacrament," to generally replace the title, "teaching elder."

**16-C.7.** Amending both the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline to replace "ruling elder commissioned to particular pastoral service" or "ruling elder commissioned to pastoral service" (commonly referred to as CRE or Commissioned Ruling Elder) with "commissioned pastor (also known as commissioned ruling elder).

**16-D** Relationship to the PC (USA) of a Person Who Has Renounced Jurisdiction of the Church. This amendment seeks to address what was seen as a permanent ban on teaching elders who renounced jurisdiction in the middle of a disciplinary process. This would allow a former teaching elder to publicly face accusations which s/he had halted before as a step to possible reinstatement.

**16-E** Certified Service Requirements This proposed amendment to G-2.1101, referring to people who seek a call to a certified position in the Church, deletes reference to a "handbook" of a national certifying body, relying instead on such body's certification requirements.

**16-F** Ministry of Members This proposed amendment to G-1.0304 adds the phrase "caring for God's creation" to the present list of ways in which a

faithful member of a congregation seeks to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

**16-G Access to the Lord's Table**

This proposed amendment to W-2.4011a and W-2.4011b urges sessions to encourage people who come to the Table for Communion to learn about the grace of God evidenced in Baptism, but would not require admission to the Table to be only for those who are baptized.

**16-H Directory for Worship**

This proposed amendment would replace the current Directory for Worship with a new Directory.

All amendments were approved.

**MOTION:**

1. In consideration of the historical, connectional relationship that has existed between the First Presbyterian Church of Gloucester, VA and the Presbytery of Eastern VA and the PCUSA, and for the release of property claims by PEVA, a cash payment of \$400,000.00 shall be made, in the following manner: \$200,000.00 by 5/31/2017; \$100,000.00 by 12/31/2017; and \$100,000.00 by 6/30/2018.

2. The name of the church shall be changed to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and all indicia of PCUSA affiliation not permanently affixed shall be removed from the premises.

3. The subject church shall assist and cooperate with PEVA and its representatives in identifying, reaching out to and making provision for those members who remain loyal to the PCUSA.

4. Original copies of session minutes and other historical documents related to the church's life as a Presbyterian church (PCUSA or its predecessors) will be turned over to the Presbytery for transmission to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

5. If the congregation separates for any reason from the body or its legal successor to which it is being dismissed within a period of ten years from the date of this Presbytery meeting, April 25, 2017, the property will revert to this Presbytery or its legal successor.

Vote 77 yes 8 no

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)**

The Commission on Ministry RECOMMENDED to the Presbytery the approval of twenty one actions related to minister

assignments and pastor searches. These were approved.

**Introduced to the Presbytery:**

The Reverend **Emma Lee Ouellette**, serving as the Associate Pastor, Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach.

**Pastoral Relations**

Dismissed the Reverend **Susan D. Haugh**, Honorably Retired, to the Presbytery of Baltimore.

Received as a member of the Presbytery the Reverend **Julie Anna Sterling** from the Presbytery of West Virginia to serve as the Pastor of Suffolk Presbyterian Church.

Received as a member of the Presbytery the Reverend **Emily Kathryn Béghin** from the Presbytery of Detroit to serve as the Associate Pastor of First Church, Virginia Beach.

**GENERAL PRESBYTER**

Received the Good News report of the Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** which included recognition of the Makemie Woods Management Team and recognition the ministry of Makemie Woods Camp.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Nominations Committee report was a part of the consent agenda. Moderator, the Reverend **Veronica Martin Thomas'** report requested the election of the following:

Commission on Preparation for the Ministry

The Reverend **Virginia S. Campbell**,  
The Reverend **Anita Killebrew Herbert**

These nominations were approved.

**ENROLLMENT REPORT**

38	Ministers
58	Ruling Elders
96	Total voting members
20	Visitors
116	Total Registered

**NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church, 801 Tazewell Street, Portsmouth, VA