

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH EIGHTEENTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

April 30, 2019

First Presbyterian Church
Norfolk, Virginia

Moderator: Commissioned Pastor (CP)
William T. "Billy" Ricketts (Providence)
Vice Moderator: The Reverend **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**
Stated Clerk: RE **Q. John Tamm** (1st VAB)
Journal Clerk: Mr. **Raymond Rodrigues**

WORSHIP

- Moderator Ricketts and Vice Moderator Ventura preached a sermon titled, "21st Century Reformation" based on Romans 12:1 - 2.
- Reverend **Valena M. Hoy**, associate pastor First Norfolk and Reverend Ventura, led the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering for the Nickel a Meal Fund was 1,404.00

STATED CLERK

Ministerial Relations:

Deceased: The Reverend **J. Harold McKeithen, Jr.** on January 27, 2019 in Williamsburg, VA.

-Received: On February 5, 2019 the Reverend Dr. **James Skimins** from the Detroit Presbytery, honorably retired.

Annual Statistical Report:

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (PEVA) 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, 2018. The 52 particular churches had 13,313 total active members, a decrease of 566 members from 2017. Reported annual income was \$22,750,146 and annual expenses was \$21,765,620. Mission expenses were \$1,979,882 personnel expenses were \$11,100,562 and facilities expenses were \$5,115,890. The Presbytery had an average Sunday worship attendance of 4,812 down from 5,712 in 2017.

There were reported 146 Asian members (1.04%), 862 Black, African, and African American members (5.80%), 87 Hispanic members (0.45%), 8 Native American members (.05%), 9 Middle Eastern members (0.03%), 12,168 White members (92%), and 34 members (0.15%) listed as

"multiracial." The membership gains were 138 received by certificate of transfer, 104 youth confirmations and membership, and 172 professions of faith and reaffirmations of faith. Membership loss was 137 by certificate of transfer, 224 deaths and 619 deleted from the rolls by action of the respective sessions.

There was a new category established by the Office of the General Assembly known as "Friends of the Congregation." This category includes baptized children, adult and youth participants who are not members, in the various churches. The number of "Friends" was 1089. There were 113 Baptisms of all ages which was an increase of 25 over 2017. There is presently a total of 14,515 adherents. There were 460 ruling elders serving on sessions. 13 congregations have deacons. There were 7,618 female members (56.7%).

The Presbytery began 2018 with 121 minister members on January 1, 2018 with 5 losses (2 deaths, 2 dismissed [transferred] to another presbytery and 1 temporary member removed from the roll) and 8 gains (6 received from other presbyteries and 2 ordinations.) There are now 124 ministers. There were 8 candidates and 6 inquirers for ministry on the rolls as of December 31, 2018.

Notable was the increase in membership gained at Green Acres Church in Portsmouth. The congregation began the statistical year with 226 members and ended the year with 245 members, an increase of 10 percent. Green Acres had 11 youth professions of faith, third only to First Church Norfolk with 16 confirmations and Great Bridge with 12.

The Clerks of Session of Lynnhaven Church, Virginia Beach and Wycliffe Church, Virginia Beach submitted complete statistical reports on December 7, 2018, the day that the OGA statistical website "opened," which is appreciated by the staff of the OGA and the Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

The Ruling Elder **Diane P. Griffin**, (1st Portsmouth) moderator.

The Presbytery approved the following:
MOTION: That the narrative report be received.

MOTION: That the Presbytery establish in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Order, G-3.0109 a standing ministry team for the Presbytery known as the Congregational Vitality Ministry Team and presented an outline of purpose

for approval and inclusion in the Interim Manual of Operations.

Purpose: The Congregational Vitality Ministry Team seeks to equip, nurture and support PEVA member congregations to renew, recover and live ever more faithfully our common calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Congregational Vitality Ministry Team may use funds allocated through the budget process to develop and provide tools, resources, and training for congregations.

Composition: Ministers and members of congregations

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the proposed agreement to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church of South Norfolk, Chesapeake and transfer the church building and real estate to the non-denominational congregation being formed, in accordance with the Book of Order, G-3.0101a. and G-4.0205 for abandonment of work, upon receipt of \$100,000 payable to the Presbytery if Eastern Virginia, Inc. The official records of First Presbyterian Church, South Norfolk including but not limited to, original copies of session minutes, membership rolls, and registers, for transmission to the Presbyterian Historical Society as required by the Book of Order G-3.0107 will be given to the Stated Clerk. The name of the church will be changed and all indicia of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) affiliation not permanently affixed shall be removed.

GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. "Liza" Hendricks** will be on sabbatical leave from May 1 through July 31, 2019. The Reverend Dr. **William Reinhold** has been engaged to be the Consulting General Presbyter. Dr. Reinhold's compensation will be set at \$100.00 per day plus expenses for onsite work and \$100.00 per event for offsite work such as telephone or videoconferences. Dr. Reinhold is the recently retired General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

The Reverend Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**, moderator
MOTION: The eleven actions of the COM were approved.

In Memoria

The Reverend **J. Harold McKeithen** died on January 27, 2019 in Williamsburg
Ministers introduced to the Presbytery
The Reverend **Elizabeth M. Hilkerbaumer** from East Iowa Presbytery to serve as the pastor of Green Acres Church, Portsmouth.

The Reverend Dr. **James Skimins** from the Presbytery of Detroit, honorably retired.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder **Jill Keifer**, Chair
MOTION: The Sessional Records Review Committee recommends to the Presbytery that the following records reviewed for the first quarter of 2019 be approved as indicated:

Records reviewed without exception: Calvin, Carver Memorial (2017 & 2018), Community Portsmouth, First Portsmouth, Groves Memorial, Hidenwood, Lynnhaven
Records reviewed with exception(s): First United, Greenbrier, Hilton, Saint Andrew

Records not received: Bayside

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Report to the Presbytery
Ruling Elder **William "Bill" Espich**, moderator.

MOTION: The following were elected:
Commission on Ministry Class of 2021
Lieutenant Commander **Jeffrey C. Quinn**, Chaplain Corps, US Navy

Commissioners to 224th General Assembly June 2020

The Reverend **L. Monica Gould**, Minister Commissioner
The Reverend **Christina M. Carrasco**, Minister Commissioner
The Reverend **Deborah D. Dail**, Alternate Minister Commissioner
Ruling Elder **Kenneth I. Lucas**, (Carver Memorial), Elder Commissioner
Ruling Elder **Joseph W. Prueher**, (First Virginia Beach), Elder Commissioner
Jacob Rush (King's Grant), Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD)

PEVA TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Report to the Presbytery
The Reverend Dr. **John E. Morgan**, Moderator
The Presbytery approved the following:
MOTION: That Providence Presbyterian Church be granted \$25,000 from the Church Legacy Fund to partially fund facility upgrades needed because of the transition of the former Bow Creek Preschool to Providence and encourage congregational redevelopment.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

The Reverend **Virginia Snyder Campbell**, moderator, the Reverend **Garrett B. Bugg**, vice moderator.
MOTION: Ms. **Joanna Sydnor** and Dr. **Calvin Sydnor** (Carver Memorial) were approved as Candidates for Ministry.

MOTION: The Presbytery received the narrative report of the CPM.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

53	Ministers
63	Ruling Elders
116	Total voting members
19	Visitors
135	Total Registered

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, July 23, 2019 10:00 am,
Denbigh United Presbyterian
Church, 302 Denbigh Boulevard,
Newport News