

DIGEST

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

July 20, 2021
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Zuni, 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 James B. Hoy preached a sermon titled "From Compassion to Purpose," based on Psalm 103:11-18 and 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
- Reverend **Peter T. Atkinson**, Bethany Presbyterian Church led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

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 Yorkminster PC for \$1,000.00 for Camp Hanover in June-July 2021.

Approved a request from the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry that the Presbytery adopt the practice of reading a Land Acknowledgement to begin presbytery meetings.

Concurred with the General Presbyter's suggestion that Presbytery churches be encouraged to publicly mourn pandemic losses with their communities in a way that best fits their church and community.

Elected Rev. **Walter Hunting** and RE **Jaime Ambrose** (Lynnhaven) to the Nominating Committee.

Received a report on a church in conflict and called a special presbytery meeting for further action.

Heard a report on the YAYA Communications Intern position. Voted to recommend to the presbytery that the Trustees of PEVA be authorized to approve, execute, and sign all documents to complete the sale of the former Makemie Woods camp property in New Kent County, VA, for a price not less than \$750,000.00. Council approved the minutes of the April 20, 2021, Presbytery meeting on May 10, 2021, and ratified and here reports its prior approval of the Minutes of the PEVA meetings on January 23, 2021; October 20, 2021; July 21, 2020; and January 25, 2020.

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 second quarter of 2021 be approved as indicated: The following church records had no exceptions: Knox, Providence, Third, Wycliffe, Community Portsmouth, Jamestown, Yorkminster. The following churches had exceptions as noted: First PC Hampton had the following exceptions - 28b. Holmes had the following exceptions 25, 28b, Bayside had the following exceptions 2b, 29a, 29b, and 30. Hidenwood PC had the following exceptions: 13, 28b. Lafayette PC had the following exceptions 20, 24, 28b, 29b, and 31. Great Bridge had the following exceptions: 2b, 13, 14,15.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

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

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

Pastoral Relations

-Ordained: None
-Deceased: On April 16, 2021, the Reverend **Fred Rockwell Archer**, age 81 in Norfolk, VA.
-Received: On June 1, 2021, the Reverend **Andrew Patrick Whitehead** from the Presbytery of the James as pastor of Hidenwood Church, Newport News.
-Dismissed: None
-Installed: On June 26, 2021, the Reverend **Gillian Elizabeth Weighton** as the Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Suffolk.
-Dissolutions: None
-Honorably Retired: None
STATED CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

Commission to Ordain **Pamela Dee Hrcncir**

By appointment of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, the Commission to Ordain Pamela Dee Hrcncir, member, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg met at the church on April 17, 2021, at 1:30 pm. Members present were the Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III**, Moderator, the Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks**, General Presbyter, the Reverend Dr. **John E. Morgan**, Pastor, Williamsburg Church, the Reverend **Rachel C. Hébert**, Associate Pastor, Williamsburg Church, Ruling Elders (RE) **Betsy McCarter** (Williamsburg), **Jaynelle Oehler** (First Hampton) and **Brenda Jackson** (Williamsburg). Also, present was the Reverend Dr. **Carol L. Schnabl Schweitzer** (the James), the Reverend Dr. **Samuel Adams** (the James), and Ms. **Joy Crawford**.

the Commission to install the Reverend **Gillian Elizabeth Weighton**

By appointment of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, the Commission to Install the Reverend Gillian Elizabeth Weighton as the Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Suffolk, Virginia, met at the church on June 26, 2021, at 10:30 am. The Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III**, Moderator of the Presbytery presided. Other members commission present were ministers of the Word and Sacrament; the Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks**, General Presbyter, the Reverend **Dr. Michael T. Condrey**, the Reverend Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**, the Reverend **Steven Fringer**, (Milwaukee Presbytery), and

Commissioned Pastor (CP) **Alice T. "Lisa" Cross** (St. Andrew), Ruling Elders (RE) **Bonnie B. Condrey** (First Hampton), **David McKercher** (St. Andrew) and **Curtis Corl** (St. Andrew).

The Administrative Commission to Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake, VA

the Reverend **Brian H. Harroff**, moderator
the Reverend **Elizabeth Hilkerbaumer**
the Reverend Dr. **David Nolan Rollins**
Ruling Elder **James A. Cales, III** (Green Acres)
Ruling Elder **Charity Houghton** (Wythe)
Ruling Elder **Joyce Melvin-Jones** (Carver Memorial)

The Commission has recently begun its work.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

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

The Trustees of Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc. were authorized to approve, execute, and sign all documents to affect the sale of the former Makemie Woods camp property in New Kent County, VA. for a price not less than \$750,000.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Reverend **Elnoria L. Harrison**, moderator
2022 GA Commissioners

Ministers

The Reverend Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**

The Reverend Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg**
Ruling Elders (RE)

RE **Jessica A. Fitzgerald** (Third)
RE **Clyde Parker** (Community Portsmouth)

Alternate

The Reverend **Elizabeth Hilkerbaumer**
SYNOD of the Mid-Atlantic Vice Moderator (Class of 2022)

The Reverend Addie Naomi Peterson
Permanent Judicial Council Class of 2024
The Reverend Dr. **James Skimins**

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

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

Motion: Lauren Hoak (Williamsburg) 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 6 inquirers and 13 candidates for ministry under care.

COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES

RE **Gerry Ellis**, (Denbigh United)
RE **Jessica A. Fitzgerald**, (Third) Hunger Action Advocate

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Approved motion to propose that PEVA Council adopts the practice of reading a Land Acknowledgement to begin Presbytery meetings.

Approved a motion to approve the updated Peacemaking Award description received from the Robert Nusbaum Center (formerly the Center for Study of Religious Freedom) at Virginia Wesleyan University.

Approved a motion to disburse the \$500 William Granville Sale, Jr. Peacemaking Award to the Robert Nusbaum Center allowing the Center to choose how to use the award within the guidelines of the Award Opportunities described in the William Granville Sale, Jr. Peacemaking Award document.

GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** Reverend Hendricks' Good News for the Presbytery included the recognition of the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries support for the migrant farmworkers on the Eastern Shore. Season Donations collected for the Eastern Shore Migrant & Seasonal Farmworkers Ministry included: 114 Food Kits, 178 Hygiene Kits, 500 Children's books, 2,000+ Items of clothing, shoes, and hats, Bar soap, toothpaste, sun block, diapers, wipes, and more. The General Presbyter acknowledged following congregations for their generosity and support: First PC (Portsmouth), Hidenwood PC, King's Grant PC, Lynnhaven PC, New Horizons PC, Olaf Shalom Temple, Providence PC, Royster Memorial PC, St. Andrew PC, Suffolk Christian Fellowship, Third PC, and Wycliffe PC. We also thank David McKercher & Terry Phelps (St. Andrew PC) and Ray & Jessica Fitzgerald (Third PC) for loading and delivering the donations to the Eastern shore.

The General Presbyter held up the various ministers who served as chaplains during the past and current COVID 19 pandemic. These chaplains are Reverends James B. Hoy, (Sentara), Johanna Creager (Williamsburg Landing),

Caitlin Hoy, (Williamsburg Landing), James Goodbow (Hospice), Brandon Hood, (Naval Hospital), Jeffrey Quinn, (Naval Station), Autumn Butler-Saeger (Naval Air Station Key West), Barbara B. Shefelton Mary Immaculate Hospital) and Jennifer Spivey (Westminster Canterbury).

The General Presbyter also reported on the various churches of the Presbytery that were reopening for worship in stages. All but two of the churches were worshiping in their sanctuaries, with choirs and congregational singing.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY TEAM (CVT)

Clergy Coaching Network:

Reverend **Martha E. Mitchell** spoke to the Presbytery about the Presbytery Coaching Program. The Reverend Dr. **David N. Rollins** gave a testimonial on the value of clergy coaching to his ministry. The Reverend Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg** provided information to the Presbytery on Online Worship Technology grants that are now available. He also announced an upcoming Zoom webinar with Tom Bandy on August 10th.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

44	Ministers
50	Ruling Elders
94	Total voting members
07	Visitors
101	Total Registered

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 10:00 am, **First Presbyterian Church**, Virginia Beach. This will be an in-person meeting.