

# DIGEST

## ONE HUNDRETH FOURTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA (PEVA)

July 28, 2015  
Hidenwood Presbyterian Church  
Newport News, Virginia

**Moderator:** RE **Kenneth M. Wheeler**  
**Vice Moderator:** the Rev. **Addie Peterson**  
**Stated Clerk:** RE **Q. John Tamm**  
**Journal Clerk:** CRE **Linda M. Smith**

### WORSHIP

- The Reverend **Clark DeSarro-Raynal** preached a sermon based on Scripture, **John 1:35-42**, titled, "Looking for Jesus? Come and See!"  
- The offering for the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** fund was \$1056.00. The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** was administered by Rev. C. DeSarro-Raynal and the Reverend **William G. Lamont**.

### REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** addressed the Presbytery and reported on the good news of mission and ministry within the Presbytery. Specific items of the good news report including the fact that first baby baptized in Hidenwood's sanctuary was the Rev. **Clayton Rascoe**, who was present for this meeting. A group from First Church, Norfolk is currently on a mission trip in West Virginia, a mission team from First Church, Virginia Beach is in Chiapas, Mexico, and members of Royster Memorial Church, Norfolk recently undertook a mission trip to the North Carolina Cherokee Nation. Seventy-seven children attended VBS at Green Acres Church and Wythe Church lately worshipped in the sanctuary, then performed a baptism by immersion in the nearby river. St. Andrew's Stop Hunger Meal packing netted twice as many volunteers as expected. She also thanked those present for a number of generous gifts to help balance the PEVA budget.

### VISION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (VIT)

The Reverend Dr. **Jeffrey S. Bell** reported that the future of the Roots and Wings campaign is being discerned and it is possible that a motion will be presented in October. He then moved the following recommendations: that the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia,

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) extend call as General Presbyter to the Reverend Elizabeth Grace Hendricks, effective August 1, 2015. The motion was approved. The second motion was: That the Makemie Woods' staff and Task Force ensure that the Eco-Eternity Forest is clearly demarcated so it is clear no trees may be used for inurnments beyond that area. The Task Force is further given authority to have a survey conducted of the Eco-Eternity Forest if necessary, in consultation with the Stewardship Ministry Team regarding costs. The motion was approved.

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

-The Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III**, and Moderator Kenneth M. Wheeler conducted the litany for the Honorable Retirements of the Reverend Dr. **John R. Monroe**, and the Reverend **Thomas K. Chadwick**.

#### Pastoral Relations

- Approved the request of the Reverend **Susan H. Cothran** to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery in the Shenandoah Presbytery, Harrisonburg, VA, at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center.

- Approved the appointment of the Reverend **James William Moore** as the moderator for Clark Presbyterian Church, Accomac.

- Approved the temporary relationship covenant pastor agreement between the Reverend Dr. **Dwight Webster** and the Ocean View Presbyterian Church, Norfolk.

- Received for membership in the Presbytery the Reverend **Alexander J. Creager** from the Whitewater Valley Presbytery, Indianapolis, IN.

- Approved the call of the Reverend Alexander J. Creager as the pastor of Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano.

- Approved for membership in the Presbytery, Candidate for Ministry **Rachel Christine Hebert**, contingent upon her ordination by Grace Presbytery, Irving, TX.

- Approved the call of Candidate for Ministry Rachel Christine Hebert as the associate pastor of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.

#### **YOUTH REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS**

- The Reverend **Deborah D. Dail**, spoke about PEVA's participation in a recent United Nations Youth Peace Conference attended by eleven young people from various PEVA churches. Rev. Dail stated that the 5-day trip included two days in the United Nations, 1 day of sight-seeing and two days of travel. They were housed at **Brick Presbyterian Church, NYC**. Each student had to submit an application and an essay about why they wanted to go. Two special projects were lifted up: **Red Hands** (to discourage the use of child soldiers in wars) and the **TAP Project** (UNICEF) to supply more fresh water in communities where it is lacking.

#### **PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY**

- The Rev. **Barry Dawson** (South Dakota Presbytery) and Ms. **Shelly Dawson**, RN, gave a presentation about their work in Southeast Asia. They live in Bangkok, Thailand and work in 9 other countries. They preach, teach, and build stronger relationships between U.S. churches and partner denominations in Southeast Asia. They pastor to their co-workers on the mission field in SE Asia. The Presbyterian Church has been in Thailand since 1940. Work is also underway in Myanmar. The Presbyterian Church of Myanmar has a hospital located in an area of great need. The Philippines is another mission field where the trafficking drugs, and humans for sexual exploitation are major issues. Christian kindergartens are being established in Malaysia to counteract the Muslim influence. Children who have received Christian pre-school instruction are not forced to learn Muslim curriculum in higher grades. Shelly Dawson teaches taught health care to children and adults. Laos is a difficult country, but house churches are succeeding. The Dawsons issued an invitation for PEVA churches to be in partnership with workers in Southeast Asia and around the world.

#### **SPEAKOUT**

- Various opportunities were lifted, such as the upcoming PEVA Golf Tournament, Union Seminary for a Day, and a Walking Tour of Galilee and

Jerusalem. There was a presentation about the **Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands**. Gratitude was expressed for contributions to Makemie Woods. There is an upcoming special worship service at Great Bridge Church with excellent music, PEVA youth leaders, and more.

#### **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

- The Rev. Dr. **John E. Morgan**, moderator moved the following motion: that the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia provide up to 37% of the outstanding loan balances for Messiah Church, Norfolk; First Church Portsmouth; and Stone House Church, Toano; structured to allow each congregation to develop a plan and a schedule for resuming full payments of their respective loans to the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, an agency of the Presbyterian Church, USA. The funds will come from a portion of the proceeds of the sale of Faith Presbyterian Church, Newport News, as approved by the Presbytery at the January 2015 meeting.

- **Messiah Church** in Norfolk:  
Up to \$28,000.
- **First Portsmouth:**  
Up to \$39,000.
- **Stone House** in Toano:  
Up to \$124,000.

The combination of a one-time principal pay-down and monthly principal payments to be as coordinated by a Stewardship Ministry Team, **Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program**, and the church. The motion was approved.

#### **TEMPORARY CLERKS**

- The Reverend **Alfred C. McCall, Jr.** and CRE **Kirk W. "Bill" McCullough** served as Temporary Clerks.

#### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

42 Teaching Elders
53 Ruling Elders
95 Voting Members
14 Visitors
109 Total Present

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday, October 27, 2014 at 1 p.m. at **Great Bridge Presbyterian Church**, 333 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA. There will be a meeting for Clerks of Session at 12:01 p.m.