

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH THIRTY FIRST STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

October 25, 2022
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Zuni, Virginia

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

WORSHIP

- The Reverend **Emma L. Ouellette** preached a sermon titled, "Waiting by the Well," based on John 4:5-30.
- Reverend **Peter T. Atkinson**, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church and the Reverend Emma L. Ouellette, led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the **Peace River Presbytery**, Port Charlotte, FL.

MODERATORS

- RE Diane F. Schoonover was the Moderator, and Rev. Dr. John E. Morgan was the vice moderator.

STATED CLERK

The report was published to the Presbytery in the packet.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

The Reverend Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III** moderator.

MOTION: That an Administrative Commission be appointed, in accordance with G-3.0109b of the Book of Order, in response to a request from the Session of Squires Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia to work with the congregation to implement dissolution of the Squires Memorial Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: That an Administrative Commission be appointed, in accordance with G-3.0109b of the Book of Order, in response to a request from the Session of LaCrosse Memorial Presbyterian Church, Hampton, Virginia to work with the congregation to implement

dissolution of the LaCrosse Memorial Presbyterian Church.

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the published 2023 Budget with a congregational income goal of \$501,500.00 with additional revenues totaling \$687,750.00, and total expenses of \$688,509.89, for a deficit of \$759.89.

MOTION: That the General Presbyter receive an increase of 4.0% on effective salary, with \$23,000.00 of that as housing allowance.

MOTION: Recommend to the Presbytery that \$90,000 of funds received from the sale of the Makemie Woods property be divided into gifts of \$30,000 each to Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Montreat Conference Center, and Camp Hanover to support their continuing ministries for children, youth, and adults.

MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the actions taken by the Presbytery Council.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

MOTION: Approved the following report: The following church records had no exceptions: Community Hampton, Powelton, First Virginia Beach, Kirkwood, Providence, and Green Acres. Squires unable to review, no Session Record Review documentation. The following churches had exceptions as noted: Royster 2b; Second 34 a and b; Williamsburg 28a, 29a and b, 34b; Grace Covenant 8, 15, 28b, 34b; Simonsdale 28b; and Holmes 2b, 25, and 28b.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery

RE **Roxie O. Holder**, moderator.

Motion: That the Presbytery approve the actions taken by the COM.

Pastoral Relations

-Deceased: None

-Received: the Reverend **Jaechul Pi** as pastor of Lynnhaven Church, Virginia Beach from the Presbytery of the James.

-Dismissed: None

-Dissolutions: None

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

Ruling Elder **Marc Steiner** (Green Acres), moderator.

Motion: The narrative report was received and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Narrative Report:

The Board of Trustees met with the Presbytery's investment representative, David English, from the New Covenant Trust Company who provided a briefing on PEVA investments and perspective on the economy. He noted that investors should anticipate volatility and potential drawdowns in the near term. PEVA has a spending policy based on 3% of the previous twelve quarter average principal, so past growth still allows for investment income to support the operating budget of the Presbytery. Following his report, the Trustees approved including up to \$90,000 investment income in the 2023 proposed budget.

The Trustees also heard a presentation from **Olanda Carr**, Ministry Relations Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation, about a program called "Project Regeneration" which works with individual congregations to engage in conversations about the future, discern where the Spirit is leading; do some financial and property analysis. The trustees requested the presentation because they had heard praise for Project Regeneration from the Suffolk Presbyterian Church.

The trustees approved a Small Church Assistance grant for \$5000 for the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church on the Eastern Shore to help them pay for replacement of an air conditioning unit.

The Makemie Woods Camp was sold to New Kent County for \$1,000,000.00.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

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

Motion: Patrick Long (Bayside, Virginia Beach) was approved for candidacy for

ministry in the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.)

Motion: Mary Brown (Kirkwood, Yorktown) 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 5 inquirers and 14 candidates for ministry under care.

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Motion: The Presbytery received the narrative report.

MOTION: The Hunger Committee RECOMMENDS to Presbytery that the Hunger Action Advocate Covenant between the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia and the Presbyterian Hunger Program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) be approved.

Note: Proposed covenant requests PCUSA funds to help support the PEVA Hunger Action Enabler in the amount of \$4,000 in 2023. It also outlines the PEVA hunger ministry program and provides a brief summary of projects, goals, people reached, and communication means related to the PEVA Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP).

PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

Elder **Gerry Ellis**, Moderator

Peacemaking RECOMMENDATIONS to Presbytery: NONE

NARRATIVE REPORT:

Several gun violence prevention related resources were discussed. This included Living Room Conversations, Trigger; The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence video study and action guide. (Five DVDs available to Congregations), Cameron Bertrand's Trauma Recovery Center in Newport News, and the Youth Outreach Urban Resources and Services (YOURS) housed at Lafayette PC and also supported by First PC Norfolk.

Council has established a mini-task force - Rev. **Deborah Dail** and Ms. **Jamie Ambrose**- to consider a recommendation from Peacemaking and Congregational Vitality that PEVA become a Matthew 25 mid-council. (Peacemaking Poverty team will have a Hybrid meeting of those implementing Matthew 25 in their respective churches on October 19 at

10:00 am which the Council task force will also attend.)

Rev. **Warren Lesane** will be one of the guest speakers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. service in January 2023. Rev. Lesane is the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION RECOGNITION

Ruling Elders **Jeanette Muncie and Bob Wilks** (Great Bridge), presented a certificate of appreciation to Rev. **Brian Harroff**, Rev. **Beth Hilkerbaumer** and Ruling Elder **Joyce Melvin-Jones**, as representatives of the Administrative Commission to Great Bridge Church. Rev. **Liza Hendricks**, Rev. Dr. **Jeff Bell** and RE **Roxie Holder** were also thanked for their work on this challenging assignment.

GENERAL PRESBYTER GOOD NEWS

The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** reported that:

- First Portsmouth (200), Second (150), Carver Memorial (130), First Virginia Beach (100), and Stone House (20) Presbyterian Churches all celebrated milestone anniversaries in ministry this year.
- Bethany Presbyterian Church collected 270 stuffed animals for backpackbeginings.org.
- Hidenwood Presbyterian Church collected 500 pounds of plastic and was rewarded with a bench made from recycled plastic from the Trek Company
- Royster Memorial and First United Presbyterian Churches have joined other area churches in conversations regarding "Disrupting the School-To-Prison Pipeline."
- The Makemie Woods property has been sold to New Kent County. She recognized Elder Larry Hull (Second) for his work over the years in the shut-down and sale of the property.

She then recognized two PEVA Minsters who have begun a new journey in the Presbytery. The Rev. Eric Peltz is now the pastor at Frist Presbyterian Church, Hampton and Rev. Laura Crihfield is now the Designated Pastor at Yorkminster Presbyterian Church.

She thanked First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach for the card she received

for Pastor Appreciation Month and asked for prayers for the Rev. Catheryn Hart Monroe who is recovering from a fall.

NOMINATIONS:

The Reverend **Elnoria Lofton Harrison**, moderator.

The Presbytery approved the report of the Committee as follows:

Presbytery Moderator

Rev. Dr. John E. Morgan

Council Moderator

RE Diane F. Schoonover (Yorkminster)

Presbytery Vice-Moderator

RE **Joyce Melvin-Jones** (Carver)

Council Class 2026

Rev. **Brian H. Harroff**

Rev. **Libby M. Rollins**

COM Class 2026

Rev. **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**

Rev. **Elizabeth M. Hilkerbaumer**

Rev. **Veronica M. Thomas**

Rev. **Charles M. Tucker**

RE **Charles Shefelton** (Hilton)

RE **Kenneth Wheeler** (Providence)

RE **Marcy Wright** (Carver)

RE **Leslie Brooks** (Hidenwood)

CPM Class of 2026

Rev. Dr. **Brian J. Wells**

RE **Karen Harris** (First Virginia Beach)

Board of Trustees Class of 2026

RE **Sandra Poole** (Saint Andrew)

Board of Trustees Class of 2024

RE **Pax Goodson** (Hilton)

Rev **T. Clinton Mitchell**

ENROLLMENT REPORT

37	Ministers
53	Ruling Elders
90	Total voting members
34	Visitors
124	Total Registered

Offering for **the Peace River Presbytery**, Port Charlotte, FL of \$1,352.00 which the Presbytery will match.

NEXT MEETING

- Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 10:00 am, First United Church, Norfolk