

# DIGEST

## 105<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

October 27, 2015  
Great Bridge Presbyterian Church  
Chesapeake, Virginia

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

### WORSHIP

- The Reverend **Albert G. Butzer, III** preached the sermon on "The Mission of the Church" based on scripture from Acts 27:13-26, 33-38.

- The Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks** was installed as the General Presbyter. The Rev. **William G. Lamont** gave the charge to the General Presbyter and RE **Roxie O. Holder** gave the charge to the Presbytery.

- Rev. Hendricks and the Rev. Dr. **Ralph R. Herbert** led the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

- The offering for the Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering was \$1,159.00.

### VISION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (VIT)

- Approved the recommendation that Ruling Elder Q. John Tamm (First Church, Virginia Beach) be elected as Stated Clerk for a term of 2 years effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, under the same terms as 2015.

- Approved the housing allowance for the General Presbyter, the Reverend Elizabeth G. Hendricks.

Approved the establishment of a fund to support outdoor ministry named "Outdoor Ministry Fund."

- Approved that the Presbytery abandon the Roots and Wings project.

- Approved a loan of up to \$8,000 from the Makemie Woods Endowment Fund to the Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center to conduct a viability study of the Camp.

### Makemie Woods Management Team

- Approved a pledge in principle by the Presbytery to support the Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center for a three year period with an appropriation of \$50,750 *per annum*.

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

- Approved an Administrative Commission for Oakdale Presbyterian Church, Norfolk to assist that congregation in administrative and financial matters  
- Approved the request of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, to establish an Administrative Commission to assist the congregation of First Church, Gloucester in a discernment process relative to leaving the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.).

### PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Approved the Intentional Interim Pastor agreement between the Reverend **James A. Goodbow** and the session of Royster Memorial Church, Norfolk.  
- Approved the sabbatical request of the Reverend Albert G. Butzer, III.  
- Approved a modification to the temporary relationship agreement between the Reverend **Helen Louise C. Ventura** and the session of the Franklin Church.  
- Approved the United Campus Ministries Campus Minister position description at Christopher Newport University and employment contract for the Reverend Dr. **Donna M. DeSarro-Raynal**.  
- Accepted the resignation letter of Commissioned Ruling Elder **Kirk William McCullough** as temporary relationship pastor of Groves Memorial Church, Hayes.  
- Approved the appointment of the Reverend Helen Louise C. Ventura as moderator of the session of Groves Memorial Church.  
- Approved the Intentional Interim Pastor agreement renewal for the Reverend **Libby McIntosh Rollins** and the session of Suffolk Church.  
- Approved the revised Covenant and Terms of Call as associate pastor, for

Candidate for Ministry **Rachel Christine Hebert** and the congregation of Williamsburg Church, if the way be clear. Ms. Hebert will be ordained a teaching elder, (also known as minister of the Word and Sacrament) by Grace Presbytery, Irving, TX, on November 22, 2015.

- Approved the revised temporary relationship agreement between the Reverend **Barry L. Phillips, Sr.** and the session of Thalia Trinity Church, Virginia Beach.
- Dismissed the Reverend **William Richard Goodman** to the New Hope Presbytery, Raleigh, NC to serve the First Presbyterian Church, Ahoskie, NC.
- Approved the temporary relationship agreement between the Reverend Dr. **Edward A. Hanawalt** and the session of Lafayette Church, Norfolk.
- Approved the temporary relationship agreement between Commission Ruling Elder **Marvin Brangan** and the session of Lafayette Church, Norfolk.
- Introduced to the Presbytery new minister members the Reverend **Autumn Butler-Saeger**, Lieutenant Commander, Chaplain Corps, US Navy and the Reverend **Alexander J. Creager**, Pastor, Stone House Church, Toano.

#### NOMINATIONS

- On the motion of the Reverend **Veronica M. Thomas** the Presbytery elected the Reverend Addie Naomi Peterson as Presbytery Moderator, effective following the January 23, 2016 Presbytery meeting.
- Elected teaching elders and ruling elders to various commissions, committees, boards and agencies.

#### SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW

- Approved the report of the Sessional Records Review Committee.

#### PRESBYTERY PROGRAMS/ACTIONS

Received a presentation by the Reverend **Berthe Kalombo Nzeba, or Maman Nzeba** as she is more popularly known among Congolese church women. Rev. Nzeba is the General Secretary of the Women and Families Department of the Protestant Church of Christ in Congo, *Eglise du Christ du Congo* (ECC). A Presbyterian minister ordained in 1978, she is believed to be the first female Protestant clergy in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rev. Nzeba requested

that American Presbyterians contact their political leaders to demand that American corporations cease removing the Democratic Republic of the Congo's natural resources without fair compensation.

#### GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

The Reverend Elizabeth G. "Liza" Hendricks reported on the good works of the ministers and congregations of the Presbytery. Rev. Hendricks noted that Green Acres Church, Portsmouth, has decided to shift their stewardship emphasis from money to mission and to focus on celebrating their ministries. The Hilton Church in Newport News organized officer training for the churches on the Peninsula that was so well subscribed the event had to be moved to a larger meeting room at Hidenwood Church. Naomi Makemie Church, Onancock partnered with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to conduct Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the first time in ten years. 25 children were students of VBS and four families began attending Naomi Makemie Church as a result of this community outreach. Wycliffe Church, Virginia Beach completed the renovation of their sanctuary, administration building and impressive steel girder Cross which is in the church yard. The dedication service for the renovation featured the participation of the General Presbyter.

- The Revs. Autumn Butler-Saeger, Alexander J. Creager, **Virginia S. Campbell** and Dr. **Craig Wansink** served as Temporary Clerks.

#### ENROLLMENT REPORT

46	Teaching Elders
59	Ruling Elder
105	Total voting members
29	Visitors
134	Total Registered

#### NEXT STATED MEETING

- Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at **Calvin Presbyterian Church**, 2901 East Little Creek Road, Norfolk, Virginia.