

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH THIRD STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

April 28, 2015
Third Presbyterian Church
Norfolk, Virginia

Moderator: Ruling Elder (RE) **Kenneth Wheeler**
Vice Moderator: The Reverend **Addie Naomi Peterson**
Stated Clerk: RE **Q. John Tamm**
Journal Clerk: CRE **Linda M. Smith**

WORSHIP

Teaching Elder (TE) the Reverend **Susan Haselden Cothran**, Chaplain, Christopher Newport University (CNU) and CNU student Logan Whitley preached the sermon titled "A Place for Grace" based on **John 1:16**. Reverend Cothran and the Reverend **Virginia Snyder Campbell**, Pastor, Third Church, Norfolk led the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The offering collected for the Campus Ministries was \$951.00

MODERATORS

RE Kenneth M. Wheeler was the Moderator and the Reverend Addie Naomi Peterson was the Vice Moderator.

Amendment to the *Book of Confessions*

The Vice Moderator, Rev. Peterson, on the behalf of the 221st General Assembly, made the following motion:

"Shall the Confession of Belhar be included in the *Book of Confessions*?"

A paper ballot vote was taken with the following result: Yes-69 No-21. The questioned passed and the results will be promptly reported to the Office of the General Assembly.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR THE

MINISTRY: The Reverend **Rebecca Page Lesley**, moderator, presented Inquirers Elnoria Harrison (Community Portsmouth) and Timothy T. N. Lim (Great Bridge) as prospective candidates for ministry.

The Presbytery examined the inquirers and approved them to be received as candidates for ministry under the care of the Presbytery.

VISION IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (VIT)

The Reverend Dr. **Jeffrey S. Bell**, moderator

VIT Actions:

- Review of the PEVA meeting held on January 24, 2015. Stated Clerk Tamm reported that the digest had been published, the votes on amendments had been forwarded, that one church facility had a sale date while another was under contract.
- Received a copy of communications from Stated Clerk the Reverend **Gradye Morton Parsons** regarding the 2014 GA request to distribute five (5) affirmations on peacemaking for a recorded, advisory vote.
- Established stated meetings of the VIT for 2015.
- Discussed the February 24, 2015 Called Meeting of PEVA and established the agenda for the meeting.
- Discussed the April 28, 2015 Stated Meeting of PEVA focusing on Campus Ministry.
- Approved the Jan. 28, 2015 VIT Minutes.
- Approved Jan. 24, 2015 PEVA Stated Meeting Minutes.
- Heard the report of PEVA staff on the PEVA office renovation as well as the completion of Staff Evaluations for the Administrator and the Administrative Assistant/Hunger Action Enabler.
- Heard a report from the Transition Team.
- Reviewed comment cards from the January 24, 2015 PEVA Stated Meeting.
- Received communications from Stated Clerk Gradye Parson regarding a request for feedback on GA Peacemaking Affirmations
- Established a time on April 13 2015 to gather Ministry Team Leaders so as to make necessary reductions in the 2015 PEVA budget due to lower than expected church pledges.
- Approved the minutes of the VIT conference call on Feb 27, 2015, the VIT meeting on March 11, 2015, and the Called PEVA Meeting on March 12, 2015.
- Agreed to enter into a study and discussion as a VIT on "Journey in the Wilderness" by the Reverend **Gil Rendle**, United Methodist Church.
- Heard the report of Stated Clerk regarding the status of church closings.
- Discussed the budget of PEVA relative to the income shortfall. Said shortfall is due to churches that have not yet

made a pledge, those that have cut their pledge from previous years, and those that are in financial difficulties and cannot pledge at this time. The VIT discussed other ways in which revenue may be obtained.

- Heard the report of the MWMT and the effect a harsh winter has had on the camp facilities. In addition, the VIT reviewed the current conference schedule with deposits made and potential income.
- Approved the PEVA staff to research and choose a company to provide "robo-call" capabilities for PEVA emergency notifications. Funds will come from the telephone line item in the budget.
- Planned the timeline for the April PEVA meeting.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass** introduced Rev. McKeithen who made a memorial presentation in honor of Rev. Baggs.

IN MEMORY

The Reverend **J. Harold McKeithen, Jr.**, gave remarks in memory of the Rev. **Jeannette Ford Baggs** who died on January 9, 2015 in Williamsburg, VA, at the age of 77. Rev. Baggs was ordained by Shenandoah Presbytery on August 15, 1999 and served as the pastor of Fairfield Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, VA. She subsequently was a spiritual counselor in Williamsburg, VA.

Actions Taken:

- *On February 3, 2015 approved the parish associate agreement between the Reverend **Thomas K. Chadwick** and Providence Church, Virginia Beach.
- *On February 3, 2015 approved the covenant pastor agreement between Commissioned Ruling Elder **Kirk William McCullough** and Groves Memorial Church, Hayes.
- *On March 3, 2015 approved the covenant associate pastor agreement between the Reverend **Michelle D. Burcher** and Yorkminster Church, Yorktown.
- *On April 7, 2015 approved the Sabbatical Leave Proposal of the Reverend Dr. **Lawrence L. Willis**, Pastor, Carver Memorial Church, Newport News.
- *On April 7, 2015 approved the Reverend **Elizabeth Ann McCormick**, Department of Veterans' Affairs chaplain and member of the Shenango Presbytery (Pulaski, PA) as temporary moderator of First Church, Hampton during the sabbatical leave of the pastor, the Reverend Dr. **Cynthia Rosser Higgins**.
- *On April 7, 2015 approved the annual terms of call for installed pastors and

associate pastors to be promulgated to the Presbytery in the Stated Clerk's report.

Pastoral Relations

- *On February 3, 2015 received into membership in the Presbytery the Reverend **Autumn Butler-Saeger** (Lieutenant Commander, CHC, USN) from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as a Navy Chaplain.
- *On February 3, 2015 received into membership in the Presbytery the Reverend Dr. **Larry O. Toney** from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina as a member at large.
- *On March 3, 2015 approved the request of the Reverend Dr. **John Roger Monroe** to be honorably retired on May 31, 2015.
- *On March 3, 2015 dismissed to the Presbytery of Winnebago (Neenah, WI) the Reverend **James E. Gates**.
- *On April 7, 2015 approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Reverend James E. Gates and First Church, Norfolk.

TRANSITIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER

Received the Good News report of the Reverend **Elizabeth G. Hendricks**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee report was a part of the consent agenda. Moderator, the Reverend **Veronica Martin Thomas'** report requested the election for the Commission on Ministry as follows:

- Class of 2018
- Rev. **James A. Goodbow** (Commander, CHC, USN)
- Pax A. Goodson (Community Portsmouth)

TEMPORARY CLERKS

The Reverends **Garrett B. Bugg** and **Anita Killebrew Herbert** served as Temporary Clerks.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

48 Teaching Elders
52 Ruling Elders
100 Total voting members
14 Visitors
114 Total Registered

02 Excused Absences Granted

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 4 p.m. at Hidenwood Presbyterian Church, 414 Hidenwood Blvd., Newport News, Virginia.