

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH FORTY SECOND STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

July 22, 2025
Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church
Newport News, Virginia

Moderator: The Reverend Dr. **Christina Marie B. Carrasco**
Vice Moderator: The Reverend Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg**
Stated Clerk: RE **Q. John Tamm** (1st VAB)
Journal Clerk: Mr. **Raymond Rodrigues**

WORSHIP

- The Reverend **Jimmie Ray Hawkins** (New Hope) preached a sermon titled, "God Calls Us to Be Repairers of the Breach," based on Isaiah 58: 1-12 and Matthew 23: 23-24
- Reverend **Leigh B. Gillis** and Reverend Hawkins led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for Foodbanks of Southeastern Virginia, the Peninsula, and the Eastern Shore
- Special music was offered by Ms. **Diane Drury**.

MODERATOR

- The Reverend Dr. Christina Marie Carrasco, was the Moderator

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RE **Gerry Ellis** (Denbigh United)

The Presbytery acknowledged that it was gathered on the traditional territory of the Kecoughtan tribe, part of the Algonquin language group that resided on the East Coast of North America. The principal village was in what is now Hampton, VA. The Kecoughtan were a part of the larger Powhatan Confederacy. Many institutions and areas are named after the Kecoughtan Tribe, including Kecoughtan High School.

STATED CLERK

The report was published to the Presbytery in the packet.

Reports on Administrative Commissions are a section of the stated clerk's report. **MOTION:** That the Administrative Commission, to Knox Church, call the congregation to meet on June 29, 2025, for the purpose of reestablishing the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church in accordance with Book of Order G-3.02 and

returning original jurisdiction to that body. The Session will conduct business under the guidance of the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. By this action the Administrative Commission is dissolved with the sincerest thanks and appreciation of the Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

The Ruling Elder **Joyce Melvin-Jones** (Carver Memorial), moderator.

The Presbytery approved the following:

MOTION: That the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) extend a call as General Presbyter with a ballot vote, to the Reverend Dr.

Melissa Sumner "Lissa" Long, effective September 1, 2025, and that she also be elected as an officer of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc., for the term of her service as General Presbyter. Dr. Long's effective salary will be \$94,000.00 and the total cost to the Presbytery of \$154,821.00. If the way be clear, she will be installed at the October stated meeting.

***MOTION:** That the Presbytery approve the establishment of an Administrative Commission at Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, for the purpose of assisting the congregation with the financial management of the church. The Moderator will appoint the members.

***MOTION:** That the Presbytery receive the actions taken by the Presbytery Council as reported in the Narrative Report and that they be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. On May 13, 2025, approved the minutes for the 141st Stated Meeting (April 29, 2025).

2. On May 13, 2025, approved a Camp/Conference Scholarship Grant Application, for Denbigh United Church, Newport News for attendance at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center Kaleidoscope for \$1,600.00.

3. On May 13, 2025, the ODU House lease extension was approved for one year with same the same terms.

4. On June 10, 2025, recommended that the Rev. Dr. Melissa Sumner Long be called as the General Presbyter of the Presbytery with an effective salary of \$94,000.00.

5. On June 10, 2025, approved a Camp/Conference Scholarship Grant Application, for Holmes Church, Cheriton, at Camp Hanover for \$500.00.

6. On July 8, 2025, approved a \$1,000.00 gift to the Mission Presbytery, San Antonio, TX, to be used in disaster relief.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

RE **Jill Keifer**, Chair, (Royster Memorial)

MOTION: That the report of the Sessional Records Committee held on June 9, 2025, be received and printed in the minutes of this meeting. The following church records were/had:

No exceptions: First Hampton, Jamestown, Lafayette, Wycliffe, Yorkminster
 Exceptions: None
 Not Received: Great Bridge, Holmes, Knox, Providence

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to Presbytery
 Reverend **Charles M. Tucker**, moderator.

Motion: The Presbytery sustained the ordination sermon of Candidate for Ministry **Mary V. Brown**, as presented at the KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, on June 15, 2025

Motion: That Candidate for Ministry Mary V. Brown, having fulfilled the ordination requirements of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery, and having received the call of God to serve as the covenant associate pastor at KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, be ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Actions taken by the COM:

1. On May 5, 2025, approved the covenant associate pastor job description for Candidate for Ministry Mary V. Brown at KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown.

2. On May 5, 2025, approved the covenant and agreement, including terms, for Candidate for Ministry Mary V. Brown, at KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, if ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

3. On May 5, 2025, approved the honorable retirement of the Reverend **James A. Goodbow**, as of July 22, 2025.

4. On June 3, 2025, approved the Commissioned Pastor (CP) Covenant between the session of First Church, Virginia Beach and CP **Randolph C. DuVall** effective April 21, 2025, through April 21, 2026.

5. On June 3, 2025, dismissed (with regret) the Rev. **Elizabeth Grace "Liza" Hendricks** to the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Louisville, KY.

6. On June 3, 2025, approved the Parish Associate Agreement between First Church, Virginia Beach and the Rev. Dr. **Richard J. Keever** effective April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

7. On June 3, 2025, the sabbatical request from the Rev. **Boone D. Clayton** was approved, from November 3, 2025, to February 1, 2026.

8. On June 3, 2025, approved the salary adjustment request (max \$60,000) for the associate pastor position at King's Grant Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach. It was previously approved by the Session of King's Grant Church.

9. On June 3, 2025, sustained the examination of Candidate for Ministry Mary V. Brown to be ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

10. On June 3, 2025, agreed to recommend to the Moderator and Presbytery the dissolution of the Administrative Commission to Knox Church, Norfolk. The motion will be placed in the Stated Clerk report in paragraph C.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS.

11. On June 3, 2025, appointed the Reverend **Brian H. Harroff** the moderator of Knox Church, Norfolk.

12. On June 3, 2025, recommended to the Presbytery Council that an Administrative Commission be established for Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano whose main purpose will be to help the church get its financial business in order.

Pastoral Relations

-Ordained: None
 -Deceased: None
 -Received: None
 -Dismissed: The Reverend **Elizabeth Grace "Liza" Hendricks** (with regret) to the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Louisville, KY, as honorably retired.
 -Installed: None
 -Dissolutions: None

-Honorably Retired: The Reverend **James A. Goodbow** on July 22, 2025.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP TEAM (SMT)

Ruling Elder Lorri Richardson,
(Community Portsmouth), moderator.

***MOTION:** The Presbytery received the report of the Presbytery Board of Trustees and said that the report be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

ACTIONS:

At the stated meeting on May 14, 2025:

1.Approved request from the new PEVA Worship Planning Team for \$1500.00 and a new line item created.

2.Approved Ruling Rev. Helen "Lou" Ventura (Class of 2027) and RE Lorri Richardson (Class of 2028) become authorized signers for the New Covenant Trust and that Rev. Dr. Melissa Sumner Long is added on the Presbytery account to receive reports and be able to talk to them about PEVA accounts.

3.PEVA Office officially moved to a new office at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church at 6901 Newport Avenue, Norfolk, VA. The Trustees approved the listing with S.L. Nusbaum Realty Company for 801 Loudoun Avenue, as is, at \$485,000 as advised by the real estate agent.

At the stated meeting on June 12, 2025:

1.An offer was received for purchase of property at 801 Loudon Ave. for \$400,000. The Stated Clerk requested to counter the offer for \$440,000.00, which was accepted by the potential buyer. The potential buyer has agreed to remove language about closing before August 1st and to correct the corporate name on the agreement.

2.Reviewed the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Melissa Sumner Long as General Presbyter for the Presbytery. The Presbytery will vote on them at the July Stated Presbytery meeting by ballot.

3.Small Church Grant requests from Grace Covenant and Hilton Presbyterian Churches were tabled to July 10, 2025, meeting.

At the stated meeting on July 10, 2025:

1.Approved the Small Church Grant request of Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, for \$10,000.00, to have gutters installed, water heaters replaced, drainage infrastructure

installed in the playground, and mold remediation.

2.Approved the Small Church Grant request of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, for \$7,000.00, to replace the flooring in four classrooms used by the pre-school.

3.Approved the Small Church Grant request of Hilton Presbyterian Church, Newport News, for \$5,500.00 to make improvements to the sanctuary.

4. Approved 0% loan up to \$80,000, with no term, for HVAC replacement for Calvin Presbyterian Church to be supported by invoices submitted to the Presbytery. The loan is to be partially repaid by funds received from previously restricted funds. The provided funds may not be used for personnel costs.

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

The Reverend **Michelle D. "Mike" Burcher**, moderator.

***MOTION:** The narrative report of the CPM was received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Narrative Report

We currently have eight candidates under care. Three candidates are actively seeking a call.

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Ruling Elder **Jessica A. Fitzgerald**, (Third), Hunger Action Advocate
Ruling Elder **Kelvin Jackson**, (1st United) Co-moderator

Ruling Elder **Gail Schwartz**, (Wycliffe), Co-moderator

***MOTION:** That the report of the Hunger Ministry Team be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

NARRATIVE REPORT

HUNGER GRANTS: The Compassion Peace & Justice Team reviewed and voted on two grants by email in June. Greenbrier PC and First Portsmouth PC each received Church Community Hunger Grants in the amount of \$1,000.00 each.

Did you know that PEVA has funds available to assist churches in this very important work? Visit www.pcusa-peva.org/grants to learn more.

2025 PEVA WIDE CEREAL CAMPAIGN: The goal for 2025 bowls in 2025 has been reached! PEVA Collected 3,001 servings of cereal, oatmeal, and grits in May and June of 2025. Children who rely on free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch at school often go without enough to eat

during the summer at home. You and your church can step up to the bowl by collecting cereal and oatmeal, and grits to provide breakfast for children throughout Hampton Roads. Special thanks to those churches and individuals that participated.

FOOD CLOSET, PANTRY, OUTREACH, CREATION CARE & GOOD NEWS AROUND PEVA: MATTHEW 25 IN ACTION: BELOW are a few things that the Hunger Action Advocate is aware of within the presbytery.

- Hiddenwood PC - Hiddenwood holds a blood drive once a month. Their next drive is July 15, from noon - 6 pm. Hiddenwood also runs a Food Closet Ministry. They receive referrals from the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula's First Call program. Hiddenwood is entirely dependent on donations from the congregation, and their preschool donates peanut butter and jelly as an offering during their chapel time twice monthly. Hiddenwood's Mission Committee purchases perishables for holiday meals and keeps the food pantry stocked with staples. They have an annual Rise Against hunger multicultural event that packs 100,000 meals.

- Hilton PC - Hilton's volunteers helped their neighbors at Hilton Baptist Church by serving dinner at their community dinner and open pantry, on June 27. They are lending a loving hand on July 27 and August 29 also. Hilton PC collects non-perishable food items year-round and gives them to partner local organizations such as Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and THRIVE. Hilton PC volunteers give their time to TRIVE's market especially for the market late hours. The Market is a free grocery-style food pantry where you choose all your own items including fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods. It is open to residents of Newport News, Hampton, Yorktown, and Poquoson. There are no income limits for the market; however, residents are restricted to just one visit every 30 days. Did you know that THRIVE assists clients apply for SNAP (food stamps), Childcare Assistance, Medicaid and other benefits?

- Denbigh United PC - Denbigh United held a "clothing & more" giveaway for their community on May 25. Many volunteers came together to make this event a

success. Not only are they helping those that need it, but they are also making an impact on the environment. That unwanted clothing found a new home and did not end up in the landfill! Their next event will be Sunday, August 17, 2025. On May 5, several DUPC faithful volunteers provided snacks and drinks to the students at CNU during their stressful exams. DUPC also collected diapers for ECHO Family Care Partners.

TEMPORARY CLERKS

- The Reverends **Michelle D. Burcher** and **Eric Peltz**, Commissioned Pastor **Randy DuVall** (First VAB and RE **Leslie Brooks** (Hiddenwood).

ENROLLMENT REPORT

44 ministers of the Word and Sacrament
50 Ruling Elders
94 Total voting members
21 Visitors
115 Total Registered

- The offering was for the Food Banks of the Peninsula, Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, in the amount of \$1,346.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday October 28, 2025, at 10:00 am, location to be determined.