

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH FORTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

July 28, 2026

Hilton Presbyterian Church

Moderator: The Reverend Dr. Garrett B. Bugg

Vice Moderator: Commissioned Pastor Sidnia B. Etherington

Stated Clerk: RE Roxie O. Holder (Carver)

Journal Clerk: Mr. Raymond Rodrigues

WORSHIP

- **Dr. Christine Luckritz Marquis** preached a sermon, "'And Don't Go Away from Here: 'Inclusion at God's Table.'" **Scripture:** Ruth 2:18-16.
- The Reverend **Clark DeSarro-Raynal** and **Dr. Christine Lukritz Marquis** led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for the Virginia Peninsula Food Pantry.
- Special music was provided by the Hilton Choir

MODERATOR

The Reverend Dr. Garrett B. Bugg, was the Moderator

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RE Gerry Ellis (Denbigh United)

Delivered a formal land acknowledgement recognizing the Indigenous people of the region. It was acknowledged that the gathering was on the traditional homeland of the Kecoughtan people, who numbered roughly 1,000 at the height of their culture and cultivated lands along the Hampton River.

All assembled were called on to acknowledge the historic injustices sanctioned by both the government and the church, and to work toward repair.

Elder Ellis read a prayer written by Reverend Patricia K. Tull, asking God to help the community understand human sin and pursue reconciliation.

The land acknowledgement was framed not as a box to check, but as a step toward correcting the erasure of Indigenous History and culture.

STATED CLERK

The report was published to the Presbytery in the packet and included the following information:

Ministers

Ordained/Deceased/Received/Dismissed/Installed/Dissolutions/Retired/Since April 28, 2026, Report:

-Ordained: None

-Deceased: the **Rev. Dr. Octavius A. Gaba**
the **Rev. Dr. John R. Monroe**
the **Rev. Dr. James A. Goodbow**

-Received: None

-Dismissed: None

-Removed from the rolls: None

-Installed: the **Rev. Carolyn B. Evans**,
Bayside, Virginia Beach, VA
the **Rev. Kimberly M. Priddy**,
Great Bridge, Chesapeake VA.

The Administrative Commission (AC) for Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, VA (the **Rev. Dr. Christian R. Shearer**, the **Rev. Dr. Donna Marie DeSarro-Raynal**, and **RE Bruce Knight**) established to assist the Stone House congregation continues its work.

The Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Caroline B. Evans met at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA, April 26, 2026, with RE and PEVA Vice-Moderator Sid Etherington presiding. Those present were Teaching Elders: Rev. Emma Ouelette, Rev. Martha Mitchell, RE Peggy Hayes and RE Kenneth Wheeler. Also present and sitting with the Commission were Teaching Elder the Rev. Dr. Richard Reifsynder and RE Tom Winter. A quorum was present. The meeting was opened with prayer. Rev. Mitchell was elected Clerk. The Commission approved the order of worship and arrangements as printed in the bulletin and then joined in a service of worship with the congregation. Rev. Dr. Reifsynder preached a sermon on Luke 6:45. The Constitutional questions were asked of Rev. Evans and the answers being in the affirmative, she was installed as Pastor of Bayside

Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rev. Ouelette gave the installation prayer. The Commission extended the right hand of fellowship. Rev. Mitchell delivered the charge to the pastor and RE Peggy Hayes delivered the charge to the congregation. The service concluded with benediction by the Rev. Caroline Bursem Evans. The minutes of the Commission were approved, and there being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer.

The Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Kimberly M. Priddy met on May 3, 2026, at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake, VA. Those present were Teaching Elders: the **Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg**, the **Rev. Marty Phillips**, the **Rev. Dr. Wilbur Douglass**, the **Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura**, the **Rev. Joel Phillips** and Ruling Elders Dr. Kate Bosley, Sue Crossland, and Jeff Horton. Present and sitting with the Commission were the **Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield** and the **Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee**. A quorum was present. Rev. Dr. Bugg presided, convened the meeting and opened with prayer. Elder Jeff Horton was elected Clerk. The Commission approved the order of worship and arrangements as printed in the bulletin and then joined in a service of worship with the congregation. Rev. Dr. Duffield preached a sermon on 1 Peter: 7-11 titled "Above All." The Constitutional questions were asked of the Rev. Priddy by Rev. Dr. Bugg. The answers being in the affirmative, the Rev. Kimberly Priddy was installed as Pastor of Great Bridge Presbyterian Church of Chesapeake, VA. Rev. Dr. Ventura gave the installation prayer. The charge to the pastor was delivered by Rev. Marty Phillips. The charge to the congregation was delivered by Rev. Dr. Lee. The service concluded with the benediction pronounced by the newly installed pastor. The minutes of the Commission were approved and there being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned by Rev. Dr. Bugg and closed with prayer.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

Reverend **Dr. Christinia M. Carrasco**, Moderator.

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

Presbytery Council met May 12; June 9; and July 14, 2026, and took the following actions:

Approved the minutes of the 145th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery held on April 28, 2028, at Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

Approved a hybrid format for the 146th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to be held at Hilton Presbyterian Church, Newport News, Virginia.

Approved the docket for the 146th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

Approved breakout sessions for the 146th Stated Meeting.

Approved 2026 Camp and Conference Grants for:

- a. St. Andrew: \$2,500.00
- b. Wythe: \$2,500.00
- c. Wythe (Catawba): \$1,000.00
- d. Great Bridge: \$1,000.00
- e. Williamsburg: \$2,500.00

- Approved an amendment to the "Handbook of Administrative Operations," clarifying the role of the Worship Planning Team.
- Approved the re-organization of the Personnel Committee **[Current members:** RE Joyce Melvin Jones-Chair (Carver); RE Gail Pittman (First Portsmouth); RE Jim Cales (Green Acres); TE Virginia S. (Gini) Campbell (Honorably Retired); RE Sid Etherington-Liaison (Lafayette).
- Approved a "draft" job description for the potential addition of a PEVA Director of Spiritual Growth.
- Approved adding additional questions to PEVA meeting registration information regarding age categories, including "prefer not to answer."
- Approved sending out surveys prepared by PEVA staff and approved by Council to discern the best days and times for committee or commission meetings and stated meetings.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

MOTION: That the report of the Sessional Records Committee be received and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

The following church records were/had:

No exceptions: Great Bridge, First Hampton, Yorkminster, Wycliffe

Exceptions:

No records received from: Providence, Knox, Lafayette, Holmes, Jamestown, Francis Makemie

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to the Presbytery

Reverend **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**, Moderator.

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend **Dr. Octavius Annan Gaba**, passed away April 19, 2026, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Gaba was born on July 31, 1953. Most of his formative years were spent in Gbarnga, Bong County. At the Lutheran Training Institute, he excelled in basketball and academics. He went on to attend Cuttington College in Suacoco, Liberia, and graduated with a degree in education. Dr. Gaba later traveled to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and pursued graduate studies in education at the University of Maine, Orono. He completed doctoral studies in Systemic Theology at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia. Dr. Gaba was the former pastor of Covenant Presbyterian (now New Horizons) in Norfolk, Virginia. When his pastorate at Covenant ended, Dr. Gaba became a full-time reading specialist and educator in Virginia Beach and Washington, D.C., public schools, and taught evening classes at St. Leo University. Rev. Dr. Gaba was ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament on February 9, 1992, in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Left to cherish his memory are his son Klaus, his daughter Trudy, grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Reverend **James A. Goodbow**, age 71, passed away July 10, 2026, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Reverend Goodbow was a native of Rochester, New York. He received a B. S. Degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport in 1981. Further study was completed at Dubuque Theological Seminary and Pittsburgh

Theological Seminary from which he received an M.Div., in 1990. He was ordained December 17, 1989, by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. Reverend Monroe served First United Presbyterian Church, Niles Michigan (1990-1993), First Presbyterian Church, Gowanda, New York (1993-1997). He also served in the United States Navy Chaplain Corp (1997-2015). He was welcomed into the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia in December 2002. Reverend Goodbow was called to Royster Memorial Presbyterian as an Intentional Interim Pastor in August 2015, serving until July 31, 2016. Following his service at Royster Memorial, Reverend Goodbow served as a Hospice Chaplain at Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, a retirement community in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He retired from active ministry on July 22, 2025. He is survived by his wife Patricia, sons, and grandchildren.

The Reverend **Dr. John Roger Monroe**, age 77, passed away May 25, 2026, in Norfolk, Virginia. Reverend Monroe was born February 15, 1946, and was a native of Johnson City, Tennessee. He attended Hampden-Sydney College, in Prince Edward County, Virginia, graduating in 1971 with a B.A. in history.

Reverend Dr. Monroe was a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary. He began his ministry in 1976, as an Associate Pastor in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In February 1981, he was called to pastor Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, Virginia. Reverend Monroe was received by the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia October 22, 1991, and installed as the pastor of Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church November 17, 1991. The installation sermon, "Celebrating the Church," was preached by the Rev. Dr. Richard Keever. Rev. Monroe retired May 31, 2015, having faithfully served Royster memorial for twenty-four years.

Reverend Dr. Monroe was predeceased by his wife Susan K. Monroe. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter Sarah Monroe Rogis, his son Miles Monroe, his grandchildren Evelyn Rogis and Joseph Searce, and his sisters Martha Monroe Kreitemeyer and Marilyn Monroe Candler.

NOMINATIONS

The Reverend Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**,
moderator

MOTION: The Presbytery elected the following slate of Trustees to John Knox Homes as recommended by the Nominations Committee:

Trustee of John Knox Homes

Stated Clerk Roxie Holder

(Class of 2027)

Ruling Elder Larry Hull

(Second) (Class of 2028)

***MOTION:** That the report of the Nominations Committee be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Reverend Dr. **John E. Morgan**,
moderator.

***MOTION:** That the Presbytery receive the report of the Presbytery Board of Trustees and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

ACTIONS:

Actions for the May 14, 2026, meeting:

- Trustees approved and accepted the 2024 financial review as submitted by CPA Aaron Leshar Tax Services.

- Approved Schedule 3 for the Stone House repayment plan. Stone House PC pay 25% of the mortgage (2027); Stone House PC 40% of the mortgage (2028); Stone House PC 55% of the mortgage (2029); Stone House PC pay 70% of the mortgage (2030); Stone House PC 100% of the mortgage (2031).

- Trustees approved unanimously that the Rev. Dr. Melissa "Lissa" Long be added as decision maker to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc.'s, Truist Bank Account.

Actions for the June 11, 2026, meeting:

- Trustees approved \$200,000.00, in Capital Needs Grants funded by PEVA. Fully funded grants included: Calvin Presbyterian Church Social Hall AC replacement (\$76,195); Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church for gutters, drainage, and painting (\$21,591); and Hilton Presbyterian Church for an exterior stairway (\$13,000). Grants funded at 50% by PEVA included: Denbigh United Presbyterian Church for parking lot and driveway work (\$50,000, to be held until the project begins); First

Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, for a van (\$20,000); Great Bridge Presbyterian Church for ADA compliant entry doors (\$10,000); and Hidenwood Presbyterian Church for a Narthex AC unit (\$10,000).

- The Trustees of John Knox Homes, Inc., approved Capital Needs Grants as follows: Simonsdale Presbyterian Church for roof replacement (\$33,128); Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church for LED lighting (\$7,800); and Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church for smoke detectors to meet code (\$8,353).

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

The Reverend **Carter Melvin Jones**,
moderator.

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

Narrative Report

We currently have one candidate under care. Three candidates are ready to receive a call.

COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES (CPJ)

Elder **Gerry Ellis** (Denbigh United),
Moderator

***MOTION:** That the Narrative Report of the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Team be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Actions taken at the May 16, 2026, meeting:

- Approved a disbursement of \$3,000.00 to Dos Santos Food Pantry on the Eastern Shore from the temporary restricted fund for the Migrant Farm Workers and Seasonal Agriculture Workers Ministry.
- Approved that the offering at the June 7th Service of Affirmation and Inclusion be dedicated to the LGBT Life Center.
- Approved funding for the fellowship reception following the June 7th Service of Affirmation and Inclusion.

Actions taken the week of June 26, 2026, by email:

- Approved and awarded a Church Community Hunger Grant to Green Acres Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$1,000. These funds will help bridge the gap between rising demand and reduced food availability by allowing Green Acres Presbyterian Church to purchase food directly, maintain consistent inventory levels, and ensure families continue to receive nutritious food.

Actions taken the week of July 6, 2026,
by email:

- Approved and awarded a Church Community Hunger Grant to Greenbriar Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$1,000. These funds will be used for their community food pantry to help bridge the gap between rising demand and reduced food availability.

***ENROLLMENT REPORT**

36 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
47 Ruling Elders
84 Total voting members
22 Visitors
105 Total Attendance

**The offering was for the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank in the amount of \$874.00.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday October 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m.,
First Presbyterian Church, 300 36th
Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451-
2763. The Rev. T. Denise Anderson will
be the preacher.

**Revised enrollment Report*
37 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
47 Ruling Elders
84 Total voting members
22 Visitors
106 Total Attendance

***Revised offering 1,169*