

DIGEST

ONE HUNDRETH FORTIETH FIRST STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA Norfolk, Virginia

October 28, 2025

Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church

Moderator: The Reverend Dr. **Christina**

Marie B. Carrasco

Vice Moderator: The Reverend Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg**

Stated Clerk: Ruling Elder (RE) **Q. John Tamm** (1st VAB)

Journal Clerk: Mr. **Raymond Rodrigues**

WORSHIP

- The Reverend **Cecelia D. "Ce Ce" Armstrong** (Co-Moderator of the General Assembly) preached a sermon titled, "Unbound for Service," based on John 11:44
- Reverend Dr. **Melissa S. Long** and Reverend Armstrong led the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The offering was for **Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies**
- Special music was offered by Dr. **Matthew Russell**.
- The Reverend Dr. **Melissa Sumner "Lissa" Long** was installed as the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

MODERATOR

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RE **Jill Keifer**
(Royster Memorial)

The Presbytery acknowledged that it was gathered on the traditional territory of the Chesepian tribe, part of the Algonquin language group that resided on the East Coast of North America. The principal village was in what is now the Sewell's Point neighborhood of Norfolk. The Chesepian tribe were a part of the larger Powhatan Confederacy and were subjugated by the Powhatans. The Chesapeake Bay is named after this tribe.

STATED CLERK

The report was published to the Presbytery in the packet.

SALE OF CHURCH REAL ESTATE

On August 27, 2025, the **Presbyterian Center**, 801 Loudoun Avenue, Portsmouth, was sold to Sessoms, LLC, Portsmouth, a counseling service. The sale price was \$392,000 and after fees and commissions the Presbytery received \$366,000.

Reports on Administrative Commissions are a section of the stated clerk's report. An Administrative Commission (Commission) for the Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano was approved by the Presbytery on July 22, 2025, with the purpose of reviewing the church's finances for the Session and the church's Finance Committee, and to assure compliance with *Book of Order*.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (PC)

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

The Presbytery approved the following:

MOTION: The Presbytery elected RE Q. John Tamm as Stated Clerk for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2026, unanimously.

Rationale for change to one year term:

It is the intention of the Stated Clerk RE Tamm to "retire" during this one-year term. A successor has not been selected by the Presbytery Council. Consequently, RE Tamm will remain the stated clerk until a successor is selected. He will continue to report and manage the end of the year reports and the statistical reports of the congregations. When a successor is nominated by the Council, RE Tamm will conduct an orderly turnover of the office and then resign.

MOTION: The Presbytery elected the following presbyters to the Nominations Committee:

Class of 2028

The Reverend **James B. Hoy**

Class of 2029

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

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

RE **Larry H. Hull** (Second, Norfolk)

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. On August 12, 2025, the Council approved a \$1,000.00 gift to the Mission Presbytery, San Antonio, TX, to be used in disaster relief.
2. On August 12, 2025, the Council specified that the General Presbyter's housing compensation is \$44,000.00.
3. On August 12, 2025, the Council approved the minutes of the 142nd Stated meeting of PEVA held on July 22, 2025.
4. On September 9, 2025, formed a committee to do a mission study to determine if the Presbytery should add an associate general presbyter to the staff.
5. On October 14, 2025, approved a Matthew 25 grant from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic to Carver Memorial Church, Newport News, for a "Jazz Vespers" program and presentation.
6. On October 14, 2025, approved a Camp/Conference Scholarship Grant to Grace Covenant Church, Virginia Beach for attendance at the Montreat, NC Camp and Conference Center College Conference.

SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE

RE Jill Keifer, Chair, (Royster Memorial)

MOTION: That the report of the Sessional Records Committee held on September 15, 2025, be received and printed in the minutes of this meeting. The following church records were/had:

No exceptions: Community (Hampton) Grace Covenant, KirkWood, Powelton

Exceptions: Simonsdale - 28b, Second, Norfolk -28b, First, Virginia Beach - 2a and b, 29b

Not received: New Horizons, Royster Memorial Excused until the first quarter of 2026: Green Acres.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to the Presbytery

Reverend **Charles M. Tucker**, moderator.

MOTION: That the Presbytery sustained the ordination homily of Candidate for Ministry **Andrea Alvord Wood**, as presented at St Barnabas Jericho Church, West Oxford, England, United Kingdom, on October 5, 2025.

MOTION: Candidate for Ministry Andrea Alvord Wood, 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 an evangelist in the United Kingdom, be ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

MOTION: The Committee on Ministry recommended to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia the following policy regarding elder commissioners:

1. The Presbytery strongly encourages each congregation to elect at least one ruling elder under the age of 50, who will have additional responsibility to serve as commissioner at a Stated Meeting at least once each calendar year. This will be a means of intentionally developing younger leadership.
2. Each session should attempt (or aim) to have no individual ruling; elders serve as a commissioner to more than two stated meetings per calendar year.
3. We encourage every elder to attend at least one meeting during their term—to be informed, connected, and reminded that they are part of the connectional Presbyterian Church, (USA).

Rationale: Over time, our Presbytery has observed a trend: the majority of elected commissioners are older adults. This reflects the deep faithfulness and steady leadership of long-serving elders, whose presence has shaped and sustained our congregations. We are grateful for their wisdom and commitment. At the same time, we recognize an imbalance—and it is not a new one. Even during Rev. **Elizabeth Grace "Liza" Hendricks'** tenure, we explored ways to increase younger participation, including changing meeting times. Despite those efforts, younger elders remain largely absent from our meetings.

Actions taken by the COM:

1. On August 5, 2025, approved the Bridge Pastor Agreement between Franklin Presbyterian Church and the Rev. **Rebecca Page Lesley** effective 7/1/2025 - 12/31/2025.
2. On August 5, 2025, received as a minister member of the Presbytery, the Reverend **Geneviève Beauchamp**, from the Peace River Presbytery, Port Charlotte, FL.
3. On August 5, 2025, approved the Reverend Geneviève Beauchamp, to serve as the designated pastor to the yoked

congregations of Francis Makemie Church, Accomac, and Naomi Makemie Church, Onancock.

4. On August 5, 2025, approved the designated pastor covenant and agreement for the Reverend Geneviève Beauchamp and the sessions of Francis Makemie Church and Naomi Makemie Church.

5. On August 5, 2025, received as a minister member, contingent upon her ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament by the Grace Presbytery, Irving, TX, Ms. **Kailey Noel Stephens**.

6. On August 5, 2025, approved Ms. Kailey Noel Stephens as the associate pastor of King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach, contingent upon her ordination as a minister.

7. On August 5, 2025, approved the covenant and terms of call between the congregation of King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach and Ms. Kailey Noel Stephens.

8. On August 5, 2025, upon the recommendation of the Stated Clerk, approved a recommended 2.7% increase in effective salary, with a minimum effective salary of \$56,819.00 for ministers of the Word and Sacrament in congregational ministry.

9. On August 5, 2025, approved a proposal to pay the health care dues to the Board of Pensions, for congregations that cannot otherwise afford a pastor. The maximum grant is \$18,500 a year for two years.

10. On August 5, 2025, approved a proposal to actively recruit younger and more diverse ruling elders to serve in Presbytery leadership, committees and commissions.

11. On September 2, 2025, approved the Commissioned Pastor (CP) Agreement between Powelton Presbyterian Church, Wachapreague, and CP **Laura Chuquin-Naylor** effective September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026.

12. On September 2, 2025, approved the request to form a Presbytery commission to ordain Candidate **Mary V. Brown** as a minister of the Word and Sacrament at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, on September 21, 2025.

13. On September 2, 2025, approved a revised motion on Engaging Younger & Diverse Elders in Presbytery Leadership.

14. On September 2, 2025, received the Commission on Preparation for the Ministry's Certification of Andrea

Alvord Wood's readiness for Ordination as minister of the Word and Sacrament

15. On September 2, 2025, received the Commission on Preparation for the Ministry's Summary Report of Final Assessment of Candidate **Andrea Wood**

16. On September 4, 2025, approved the Rev. Dr. **Gerrit "Skip" Baker-Smith** as an alternate moderator for the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth.

17. On September 10, 2025, approved CP **Randolph "Randy" DuVall** as the moderator for the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church for a session meeting on September 21, 2025.

18. On September 24, 2025, approved CP **Paula Bass** to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, for an indeterminate amount of time

19. On October 7, 2025, approved the Terms of Call and Covenant for **nomen obscura**.

20. On October 7, 2025, gave permission to the Reverend **Csilla Lucksay**, UCC, to seek a temporary relationship with congregations within the Presbytery.

21. On October 7, 2025, approved the Revised Visiting Pastor and Pulpit Supply document.

22. On October 7, 2025, approved a policy of support to military chaplains, and other chaplains in the Federal service.

23. On October 7, 2025, approved the Evangelist Covenant between the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia and Candidate for Ministry **Andrea Alvord Wood**.

24. On October 7, 2025, approved the waiver request in accordance with the provisions of Book of Order, G-2.0404, from Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Norfolk.

25. On October 7, 2025, approved a policy to better support the military chaplains within the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia membership as well as Presbyterian Chaplains serving within our boundaries.

26. On October 22, 2025, sustained the examination of Candidate for Ministry Andrea Alvord Wood to be ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

27. On October 22, 2025, received Andrea Alvord Wood as a minister member of the Presbytery, contingent upon her ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Pastoral Relations

-Ordained: the Reverend **Mary V. Brown**, on September 21, 2025, at KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, VA.

-Deceased: None

-Received: The Reverend **Geneviève Beauchamp**, on August 5, 2025, from Peace River Presbytery, Port Charlotte, FL, as the designated pastor to Francis Makemie Church, Accomac and Naomi Makemie Church, Onancock.

The Reverend **Kailey Noel Stephens**, on October 19, 2025, from Grace Presbytery, Irving, TX, as the associate pastor of King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach.

-Dismissed: None

-Installed: None

-Dissolutions: The Reverend **L. Monica Gould** on September 28, 2025, as the pastor of Francis Makemie Church, Accomac and Naomi Makemie Church, Onancock.

-Honorably Retired: None

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:

Actions for the August 14, 2025, meeting:

- Trustees approved transferring \$38,383.83 from PEVA Undesignated to the Small Church Assistance line to cover the negative amount of \$3,383.83 and an additional \$25,000.00 cushion for future grants. The trustees instructed the Business Administrator to proceed with the transfer as approved.

- Trustees disapproved the Small Church Grant that Christ Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach submitted for the roof and referred them to the Committee on Ministry for a discernment process and conversation. The General Presbyter will contact the pulpit supply minister and Clerk of Session of Christ Presbyterian Church and the Committee on Ministry on this matter.

- Trustees approved the concept and financial support to small congregations to support the Board of Pensions dues that congregations must pay to the Board for pension, death and disability, and health insurance of up to \$1,000,000.00 from investments.

Actions for the September 11, 2025, meeting:

- The sale of 801 Loudoun Avenue took place on August 27, 2025. The Trustees approved the total net proceeds of \$366,285.13 from the sale of the property will go into the PEVA Undesignated account for future use, aligning with the existing voted authority.

Actions for the October 8, 2025, meeting:

- Trustees approved the Business Administrator's contracted compensation, deciding to recommend a 3% increase. This may be reconsidered if there's a significant difference between the personnel committee's recommendations.
- Trustees approved the replacement for the ODU -UPM ministry house sign for the cost of \$750.00 which includes installation.

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 four 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:

MOTION: The Hunger Ministry Team recommended to Presbytery that the Hunger Action Advocate Covenant between the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Inc. 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 \$5,500 in 2026. It also outlines the PEVA CPJ - hunger advocacy and ministry program and provides a summary of projects, goals, people reached, and communication means

related to the PEVA Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP).

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

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Approved by email in the month of August a Church Community Hunger Grant for Simonsdale's PC (Food Pantry Ministry) in the amount of \$1,000. Simonsdale provides a bag full of groceries per month to clients that are food-challenged due to various circumstances. This ministry serves approximately 40 people per month. This grant will assist them to expand their ministry and offer fresh produce/fruit and some frozen products to those who receive non-perishable groceries. They have already purchased a stand-alone freezer that can accommodate some items.

At the stated meeting on September, 20, 2025 several hunger grants were approved such as Church Community Hunger Grants for First United PC (Lindenwood, Park Place Outreach), Lynnhaven PC (Food Pantry Ministry), and Second PC Norfolk (Feed my Sheep), in the amount of \$1,000 each and Nickel -A- Meal Grant for Community Portsmouth (Feeding the Unhoused of Downtown Portsmouth, Community Garden, Thanksgiving & Christmas Baskets), Community Hampton (A Nights Welcome, Langley Community Site Ministry), First Portsmouth (Simple Sunday morning breakfast) and First United (Food Ministry Villa Heights Outreach) in the amount of \$1,250 each. Due to the ongoing needs of so many in our communities, many churches continue to see a rise in requests for assistance from those in their beloved community struggling with food insecurity and other needs. Local Food banks have also seen roughly a 35% increase in those seeking assistance.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Migrant Farm Workers and Seasonal Agriculture Workers 2025 Season

Overview: The Truck was packed the night of July 28th, full of 204 Food Kits, 104 Hygiene Kits, 72 Bottle of Laundry Soap, 79 Packs of Baby Wipes, 2,448 Diapers, 215 Bags/Boxes of Clothing, Shoes, Hats Extra Toiletries and Food, Children's Books, 21 School Bags filled with School

Supplies, 72 Food Lion/21 Visa Gift Cards ranging from \$15-20 and the trip to deliver took place on July 29th.

Thanks to churches and individuals that have donated items in kind and their members, and volunteers that assemble kits: Grace Covenant PC, Groves Memorial PC, Royster Memorial PC, Kirkwood PC, Lynnhaven PC, Christ PC, Wycliffe PC, First PC Portsmouth, Kings Grant PC, Hidenwood PC, New Horizons PC, **Connie & Calvin Jones** (Grace Covenant), **Roxie Holder** (New Horizons), **Donna Stockburger** (Royster Memorial), **Gerry Ellis** (Denbigh United), **Claudette Gravely** (New Horizons), **Rev. Addie Peterson**, **Rev. Brain Harroff** and **RE Jill Keifer** (Royster Memorial).

Special thanks to all those on CPJ that assembled Food and or Hygiene Kits to help fill the gap of needed items.

Churches and individuals that have donated funds: PW of Bayside, **Connie Jones** (Grace Covenant), **Kirkwood PC**, **Providence PC**, **Saint Andrews PC**, **Lynnhaven PC**, **Jean Saunder** (New Horizons), **Clorah Matthews** (New Horizons), **Mary Urquhart** (New Horizons), **Bettie Greene** (New Horizons), **Nathaniel Parker** (New Horizons), **BNY Mellon TRUST** (Kirkwood PC), and **PM of Grace Covenant PC**.

Volunteers that helped deliver to PEVA, packed and unloaded the truck, and the truck driver: **Danny Lovell**, **Gary Meyers** (Saint Andrew), **Oralie Whilwhite**, **Raymond Rodrigues**, **Gail Pittman**, **Rev. Skip Baker-Smith** (First Portsmouth), **Roxie Holder** (New Horizons), **Jessica Fitzgerald**, **Ray Fitzgerald**, **Samantha Root** (Third PC), **Ben Ellis** and **Gerry Ellis** (Denbigh United PC). All the wonderful staff at the Head Start Centers including several teenagers in high school of the parents employed at the centers, who were seeking to fulfill their volunteer hour requirements.

\$500 was disbursed to the East Coast Head Start Project for the two centers on the shore for the Family Emergency Fund. An additional \$2,000 will be sent as approved by CPJ.

\$400 was disbursed to the Legal Aid Justice Center to use for their work with the workers.

\$300 was disbursed to the Dos Santos Food Pantry. They provide healthy, culturally appropriate food to the immigrant and agricultural worker communities in Accomack and Northampton Counties of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

An additional 22 (\$20) Food Lion Cards and 3 (\$15) Food Lion Cards from the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church's Men Group was sent to the Centers in early September.

An additional 1 (\$50) Food Lion Card from the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church's Men Group for an urgent need in early October.

Presbytery received a wonderful thank you card from LaShaundra Blake and Rhonda Strand, directors of two Eastern Shore Head Start programs.

The Global Food Week of Action includes World Food Day October 16, International Day for Rural Women Oct. 15, and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Oct. 17. Learn about the Farmland for Farmers Act as Congress prepares to pass a Farm Bill [Click here to download this fact sheet.](#)

FOOD CLOSET, PANTRY, OUTREACH, CREATION CARE & GOOD NEWS AROUND PEVA: MATTHEW 25 IN ACTION: September was Hunger Action Month, and your support is making a world of difference. What a privilege it is to serve as the hands and feet of Christ, impacting hunger in our communities and around the world.

Royster PC - Once a month a group of faithful volunteers make about 125 sandwiches and take them to St. Columba. They also participate in Let's Make a Difference' group through educational meetings, as well as volunteering to take school supplies and birthday tributes to some local schools who serve at-risk students. Royster partner with Granby HS and provide snacks, personal and hygiene items, school supplies, and other needs for the students and staff. Royster Memorial also hosts 'Second Crossing' which teaches special ed

Highschool students on how to cook and serve a meal. They continue to assist those who are experiencing food insecurity through a robust food pantry ministry, open three days a week, that serves 100 families weekly.

Yorkminster PC & Kirkwood PC - 115 volunteers, hailing from our Yorkminster PC and Kirkwood PC, Northside Church of Christ and Yorkminster PC's Cub Scout and Boy Scout Packs packed 20,088 meals. at a recent Rise Against Hunger event. Providence PC - had a Rise Against Hunger 2025 meal packing event that was a huge success. Over 15,300 meals packed in just a few hours!! What a privilege it is to serve as the hands and feet of Christ, impacting hunger around the world.

Hilton PC - has had a partnership with THRIVE Peninsula, Hilton PC volunteers give their time and or resources at the THRIVE MARKET. Mid-September thru October Hilton PC collected Hispanic food for THRIVE's new market honoring culture and nourish with dignity for the growing number of Hispanic clients they serve.

Saint Andrew PC - had a Rise Against Hunger event in late September. In just a couple of hours, 70 volunteers packed 15,000 meals.

First United PC & Royster PC - First United PC and Royster Memorial PC have combined for several book studies in the past few years. They are in the middle of a fall book series right now reading and discussing Poverty in the Promised Land by Walter Brueggemann. This book refers to, and uses, Matthew Desmond's book Poverty by America (which was highlighted at the July presbytery meeting. PEVA's CPJ Team encourages others to read the book which may also lead to faithful action.

PEACEMAKING:

ACTIONS TAKEN:

At the stated meeting on September, 20, 2025 approved a Peacemaking Grant for Second PC for their Peace on Earth LAUNCH (Learning, Access, Unity, Nutrition, Career and Health) Christmas event in the amount of \$1,000.

At the stated meeting on September, 20, 2025 approved guidance that any gift for the Peace and Global Witness Offering under \$100 sent directly to the national office (instead of PEVA) can be retained by the national office for that purpose and the Mid-Council (PEVA) does not need the 25% forwarded.

TEMPORARY CLERKS:

The Reverend Mary V. Brown
The Reverend Kailey N. Stephens
Ruling Elder John Keifer (Royster Memorial)
Ruling Elder Gail Pittman (1st Portsmouth)

ENROLLMENT REPORT

47 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
47 Ruling Elders
94 Total voting members
45 Visitors
139 Total Registered
•The offering was for the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies in the amount of \$1,342.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday January 24, 2026, at 10:00 am,
at King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach.