



PEVA PACKET
PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA
146th STATED MEETING
"Come to the Table"
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Hilton Presbyterian Church

***We build bridges across divides to deepen connection
to Christ and one another to serve the world.***

Note: You can now click/tap the document name to jump to that document.

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➡ Please be sure to view and/or download other documents that
complement this report and are posted separately at
<https://www.pcusa-peva.org/meeting>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CHILD CARE – Childcare will be provided for this Presbytery Meeting with the following requirements:

- a. **Only children age 7 and under.**
- b. **Parent is to provide bag lunch for child.**
- c. **No medications or special needs to be met by caregivers.**

Must contact **Hilton Church** by Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 757-595-1313-2822.

2. NOTE TIME - MEETING BEGINS AT **10:00 A.M** on July 28, 2026, at Hilton Presbyterian Church, 34 Main St., Newport News, VA 23601.

3. MEAL –COST FOR PRE-MEETING & RECESS SNACKS IS \$5.00. Cash and checks accepted. Please make checks out to PEVA. Five dollars, payable to PEVA. There will be a **30-minute break by rule.**

4. REGISTRATION – Registration for those who do not pre-register will be of Minister Commissioners, Ruling Elder (RE) Commissioners, Commissioned Pastor Commissioners (CP) and Visitors at Presbytery Meetings using three lists -

- A roster of Minister Members, CP, CCE and RE Officers of Presbytery to initial.
- A list of churches for Ruling Elder Commissioners.
- A sheet for all others to print name, organization, and indicate position (alternate ruling elder commissioners, DCEs, visitors, etc.). Persons will be available to assist you.

5. REPORTS – Recommended actions of Commissions/Ministry Teams/Committees are listed first in the reports with other information following. Those actions recommended for the Consent Agenda are indicated with an asterisk (*).

6. ACTIONS: By action of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, at its stated meeting of January 23, 1999, held at First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, Virginia, in matters in debate before Presbytery, each speaker is limited to three minutes, with speakers alternating between those in favor of the motion and those opposed. Presbytery is reminded that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, speakers may not speak more than twice on an issue, and the second time only after everyone has had an opportunity to speak once.

7. MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS – Motions or amendments to motions are to be provided to the Clerks in writing, via email. **This rule will be enforced.** Forms are available from the Stated Clerk via email before the meeting.

8. DISTRIBUTION OF PAPERS – Any papers or other documentation not included in the Presbytery Packet or Pick-up Packet must be approved by two-thirds vote of the members present to be distributed at the meeting.

9. SPEAK OUT – Speak out has been discontinued. Any announcements may be provided in writing to the Journal Clerk for publication in PEVA News & Events around the Presbytery.

10. DISPLAYS – Will be presented in the hallway adjacent to the narthex.

11. SESSION RECORDS – The following Session records will be returned at the registration desk for commissioners to the presbytery meeting – Great Bridge, Wycliffe, and Yorkminster Presbyterian Churches.

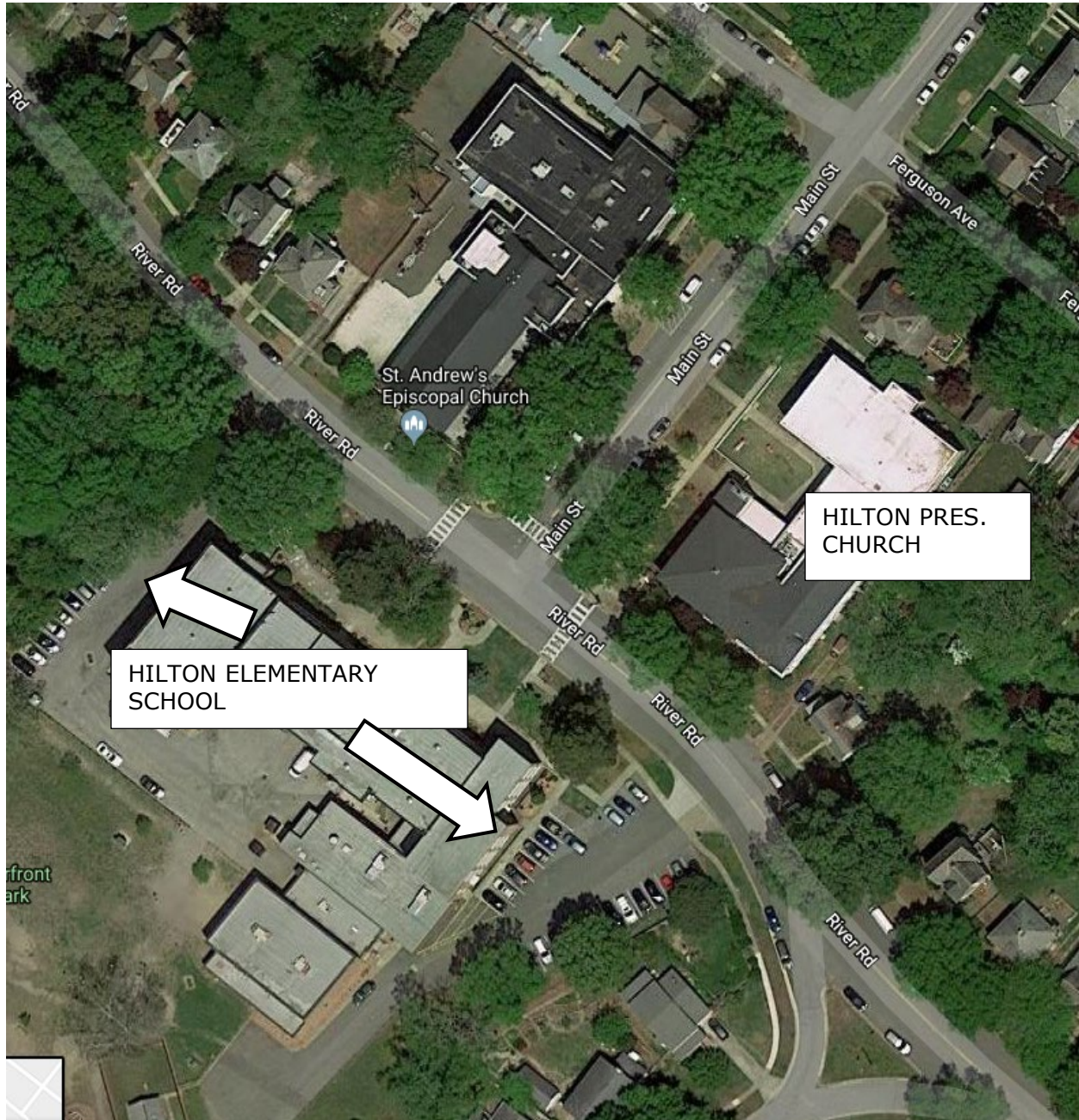
12. NEXT STATED MEETING: The next stated meeting of Presbytery is at, **First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach**, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. **As presently scheduled, this meeting will be in person.**

Hilton Presbyterian Church – Directions & Parking Guide

Click the link below to access Google Maps to navigate to Hilton PC

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/iHTcUCjbJ9eWXu3M6>

Parking will be available at Hilton Elementary School, 225 River Road, across the street from the church. There are lots on either side; attendants will direct drivers. **There is street parking** available on Main St. and River Road. There is also street parking in the neighborhood side streets.



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ZOOM Etiquette for PEVA Meetings

Good Zoom etiquette helps the PEVA meeting run smoothly and keeps everyone focused. Following standard rules ensures that all participants can hear, see, and work together without distractions.

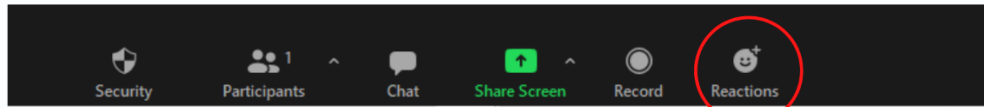
Before the Meeting Starts

- **Test your gear:** Check your camera and microphone ahead of time.
- **Dress appropriately:** Wear the same clothes you would wear for an in-person work or school day.
- **Find a quiet spot:** Pick a space with low background noise and good lighting.
- **Check your background:** Make sure your workspace is clean or turn on a professional virtual background.
- **Turn off alerts:** Close extra browser tabs and mute your phone notifications.
- **Log in early:** Arrive a few minutes before the start time to fix any last-minute tech issues.
- **Download the Packet:** Be sure to download the PEVA packet and any other supporting materials you need for the meeting.
- **Prepare for Communion:** Prior to the beginning of the meeting, set up your communion space in a way that is properly respectful of the Sacrament. Select a cup, plate and elements that represent your household. Wine or grape juice may be used. The Invitation, Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, and Words of Institution will be spoken. Once the Words of Institution are spoken, they will extend the invitation for all to partake of the elements. The Book of Order, W-3.0414 states, "At the conclusion of the Service for the Lord's Supper, the bread and cup are to be removed from the table and used or disposed of in a manner approved by the presbytery, in keeping with the Reformed understanding of the Sacrament and principles of good stewardship. This may be accomplished by consuming what remains or returning the elements to the earth."

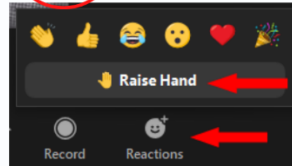
During the Meeting

- **Mute your microphone:** Keep your mic muted whenever you are not actively speaking to block out surprise noises.
- **Be Present:** Keep your camera on and be engaged in the meeting. Look directly into your webcam when speaking, not at your own face on the screen. If you need to take a quick break, you may turn your camera off, but please turn it back on when you return.
- **Do not multitask:** Avoid reading emails or working on other projects while people are talking.
- **Avoid eating:** Save your snacks or lunch for after the call, though sipping water or coffee is usually fine.
- **Follow the Chat:** Commissioners will be updated via the CHAT box. Once the meeting starts, the CHAT box will be reserved for those who need to communicate with the Moderator or other meeting leadership.
- **Use the hand-raise button:** Click the hand-raise feature to seek the attention of the moderator. You will also use the raise hand feature for voting.

Zoom Controls RAISE HAND



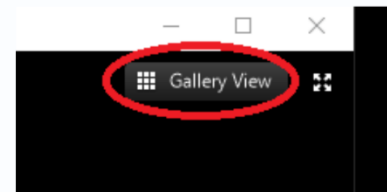
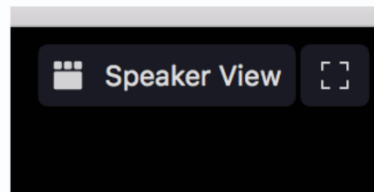
Raise Hand - At the bottom of the Zoom window, you will find the “Reactions” icon. Click on this icon to reveal the Raise Hand button which can be used to:



- Seek recognition from the Moderator
- Voting - All motions will be voted on by “unanimous consent.” If there is a dissenting vote, the motion will be polled for all members to vote yes or no.
- If you raise your hand by mistake, you can lower it by clicking on the Lower Hand icon. Note: you will need to click the Reactions icon again.

- **Voting:** Commissioners will be voting by "Unanimous Consent." The moderator will call for the vote by unanimous consent asking for any commissioner(s) who **disapprove of the motion** on the floor to raise their hand (physical or virtual). If there is disapproval, the moderator will call for a vote by show of hands. Please be patient during this process as both in person and virtual hands will need to be tallied.
- **Speaker View Recommended:** Zoom offers 2 views for meetings, Speaker View & Gallery View (Brady Bunch). The toggle control is located at the top right-hand corner of the Zoom window.

Zoom Controls SPEAKER VIEW



Speaker View (Recommended)

Zoom offers 2 views for meetings, Speaker View & Gallery View (Brady Bunch). The toggle control is located at the top right-hand corner of the Zoom window.

- **ZOOM Polls:** The polling feature will be used for voting **if needed**. The host will launch the poll, and all Zoom **Commissioners** will cast their vote on the poll. The results of the poll will be displayed. **Please note that only Commissioners are allowed to vote.** If you are a visitor, please do not vote.

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SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER:

Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

Adopted by the 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will

***Give them a
hearing
listen
before we
answer***

***John 7:15
and
Proverbs
18:13***

***Speak the
truth in
love***

***Ephesians
4:15***

***Maintain
the unity of
the spirit in
the bond of
peace***

***Ephesians
4:3***

1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ.
 - *We will keep our communications open for candid and forthright exchange,*
 - *We will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others*
2. Learn about various positions in the topic of disagreement.
3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.
5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;
 - *We will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.*
6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;
 - *We will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.*
9. Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:
 - *Urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;*
 - *Seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;*
 - *Be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;*
 - *Abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways, which are consistent with these Guidelines.*
10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

As Presbyterians, we are called to work for the “peace, unity and purity of the Church” (Book of Order) as we seek to be faithful to God’s work in the world. However, disagreements and conflicts are inevitable in the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) as we try to be faithful. They exist within committees, congregations, Presbyteries, synods, at General Assemblies and in the national life of the denomination.

Conflicts are inevitable in all of life and certainly in the church. The history of the church is filled with conflicts and disagreements. Several of Paul’s letters address the conflicts, which were common in the early church. There have been and are going to be disagreements as Christians attempt to discern God’s work in the world and as we interpret scriptures.

Conflicts can be harmful and even destructive. They can cause individuals a great deal of pain and the community of faith immeasurable damage. Congregations have been divided; denominations have experienced schisms.

At the same time, conflicts can be an opportunity for new insights, learning, and individual and corporate growth. Disagreements can illuminate a topic in helpful ways and can present solutions to problems, which previously had not been seen. The successful resolution of conflict can also bind people together in a powerful way.

The Bible contains many stories of conflict and disagreement and much advice about how they can be addressed. As those stories indicate, God is already present wherever there is brokenness, granting wholeness and peace. God promises to be with us in times of disagreement and calls us to reconciliation, trust, love and forgiveness.

We realize that our perspectives are limited, so to help us affirm each other, enhance our community, stay open to the viewpoints of others and be sensitive to cultural diversity, we commit ourselves to the Guidelines in a spirit of prayer, trust, and love, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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CIVIL DEBATE IN PEVA (EZ RROO)

SPEAK ONCE - each speaker should go to a microphone and when recognized, limit your comments to 3 minutes [Announcements 6. ACTIONS – PEVA Packet]

BE NICE – always respectful and courteous; no clapping or booing [Seeking to be Faithful Together – PEVA Packet]

MOTIONS – motions or amendments must be in writing to the Clerks [Announcements 7 – PEVA Packet]

STEPS OF THE MOTION [Adapted from *Parliamentary Procedures in Presbyterian Church (USA)* by Marianne L. Wolfe, PRP]

1. *Commissioner* rises and addresses the Moderator.
2. *Moderator* recognizes commissioner and grants the floor.
 3. *Commissioner* makes motion. (No debate)
 4. *Another commissioner* seconds the motion without recognition from the Moderator.
 5. *Moderator* states the motion.
 6. *Moderator* calls for debate. (Maker of the motion has the privilege of first debate.) All speakers must address the Moderator and be recognized by the Moderator.
 7. *Moderator* states the motion.
 8. *Moderator* takes the vote and announces the results.

USEFUL MOTIONS [Adapted from *Parliamentary Procedures in Presbyterian Church (USA)* by Marianne L. Wolfe, PRP]

1. Amend. There are only three forms of simple amendment.
 - a) to delete or strike out
 - b) to add or insert
 - c) to strike out and insertThe words proposed for deletion or addition *must be consecutive words*.
2. Commit or Refer. To commit or refer back to committee for further study.
3. Postpone to a Particular Time. This motion takes precedence over the preceding two and has the power to grant additional time to a particular member or committee or do further study or consultation. It should always be used in preference to “table” because it permits debate on the propriety of postponement.
4. Previous Question. The maker of the motion “to move the previous question” (close debate and immediately take the vote) must be recognized by the Moderator and the motion must receive a second. *It is never in order when called from the floor*. This motion should never be considered when it is used to prevent legitimate debate.
5. Lay on Table. This motion is seldom necessary. The motion “to postpone” is always preferable because of its lower rank and its debatability. Misuse of this subsidiary motion can be a strategy that seriously abridges the rights of the assembly because of its high rank and its adoption by a majority vote without debate. The Moderator is obligated to explain carefully to the assembly the implications of this motion should it be made.

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***We build bridges across divides to deepen connection to Christ
and one another to serve the world.***

DOCKET

PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

146th STATED MEETING

"Come to the Table"

Tuesday, July 28, at 10:00 am

Hilton Presbyterian Church, Newport News, VA

Offering is for Virginia Peninsula Food Bank

<https://abundant.co/peva/july2026offering>



Check in at 9 am

Prelude

Call to Order, Opening Prayer (10 am)

The Rev. Dr. **Garrett Bugg**

Moderator

Quorum

Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder (RE) **Roxie O. Holder**

Introductions

Moderator

Adoption of Docket

Stated Clerk

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk

Land Acknowledgement

RE **Gerry Ellis** (Denbigh United)

Welcome to Hilton Presbyterian Church

The Rev. **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**

Call To Worship

Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People Come" #367, Glory to God (GTG)

Confession/Assurance

Scripture

Ruth 2:8-16

Sermon

"'And Don't Go Away from Here:' Inclusion at God's Table"

Dr. Christine Luckritz Marquis

Anthem

"Order My Steps

Hilton Choir

Burleigh/Schrader

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**, moderator

Memorial for the Rev. Dr. John Roger Monroe by the Rev. Dr. Richard "Dick" Keever

Memorial for the Rev. Dr. Octavius Annan Gaba by Stated Clerk Roxie Holder

Memorial for the Rev. James "Jim: A. Goodbow by the Rev. Brian Harroff

Board of Pensions

The Rev. **Keenan Rodgers**, Church Consultant

Congregational Vitality Team

The Rev. **Joel Phillips**, moderator

Offertory Announcement

Virginia Peninsula Food Bank

*Please place your prayer request in the offering plate.

Prayer of Dedication

Breakout Sessions

Meal Break

Prayers of the People

Nominations/COR

The Rev. Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**

General Assembly Commissioners Report

Good News

The Rev. Dr. **Melissa “Lissa” Long**
General Presbyter

Unfinished Business

New Business/Announcements

Hymn “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” #523, GTG

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper Dr. DeSarro-Raynal & Dr. Luckritz Marquis

Hymn “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” # 727, GTG

Blessing and Adjournment Dr. Bugg, Moderator

The Presbytery Council (PC) of PEVA is charged with planning and organizing the meetings of the Presbytery and they would like to hear each commissioner’s thoughts or comments on the meeting. Scan the QR code to take the survey, visit <https://www.pcusa-peva.org/evaluation>, or fill in the survey form you received at registration.



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"Come to the Table"

Liturgy for the 146th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to the field of the Lord, where the margins are left unharvested for the weary.

People: We come hungry for the Bread of Life, thirsting for justice and peace.

Leader: Like Boaz, God invites us to draw near, to share the roasted grain, and to find shelter under divine wings.

People: Like Ruth, we come seeking grace, recognizing our need for community and provision.

Leader: We gather to worship the Creator who provides enough for all.

People: Let us dine with the Christ who feeds us, and the Spirit who teaches us to feed one another.

Call to Confession

When we read the story of Ruth and Boaz, we are reminded of God's ancient law: to leave the edges of our fields for the poor and the foreigner. Yet, we live in a world where food is often treated as a commodity to be hoarded rather than a gift to be shared. Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us confess our sins against God, neighbor, and creation.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of the Harvest,

You have created a world with enough to feed every mouth, yet we confess that we have built systems of scarcity. We have harvested to the very edges of our lives, keeping the surplus for ourselves while ignoring the hunger at our gates. We confess our disconnection from the food we eat. We forget the hands of the laborers, the immigrants, and the farmworkers who toil in the fields. We turn a blind eye to food deserts in our own cities, and we participate in economies that exploit the vulnerable for cheap goods.

Forgive us, Lord. Soften our hearts. Teach us the radical generosity of Boaz. Open our eyes to the Ruths among us, and transform our tables into places of equity and welcome. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: God is the bread of heaven, given freely for the life of the world. In Christ, our scarcity is transformed into abundance. God forgives our hoarding, restores our souls, and invites us back to the table of abundant grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, fed, and freed!

People: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Ruth 2:8-16

Sermon “‘And Don’t Go Away from Here:’ Inclusion at God’s Table

Dr. Christine Luckritz Marquis

PEVA Business

Invitation to the Offering

Boaz told his workers to intentionally pull-out stalks of grain from the bundles and leave them behind for Ruth to gather. This was not an accident; it was an intentional act of structural generosity. As we collect our offering today, let us intentionally leave behind a portion of our harvest so that the vulnerable may be fed and God’s kingdom may be built.

Prayer of Dedication

Lord of the Gleaners, take these gifts and multiply them. Use our time, our money, and our resources to feed the hungry, to advocate for the oppressed, and to build a world where everyone has a seat at the table. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Breakout Session

Lunch Break

Prayers of the People

Leader: God of all provision, we bring before You the needs of a hungry world. We pray for the earth, the soil, and the rain. Teach us to be stewards of Your creation, that the land may yield its fruit for generations to come.

Lord, of the harvest,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who labor in the fields and factories today—for the migrant workers, the meatpackers, the truck drivers, and the grocery clerks. Grant them fair wages, safe conditions, and the dignity that Boaz showed to Ruth. Protect them from exploitation.

Lord, of the harvest,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who glean in the modern world. For families relying on food banks, for children who rely on school lunches, and for neighborhoods where fresh, healthy food is out of reach. Break the chains of systemic poverty and guide our leaders to enact just food policies.

Lord, of the harvest,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the Church. May our faith be reflected in our food. May our grocery shopping, our voting, and our community gardens be acts of worship. Make our communion tables a reflection of Your heavenly banquet, where all have enough and none are turned away.

Lord, of the harvest,

People: Hear our prayer.

PEVA Business

Communion Invitation

Friends, this is not the table of any one church, but the table of Jesus Christ. Just as Boaz said to Ruth, "Come over here and eat some bread, and dip your morsel in the wine," Christ invites you today.

At this table, there are no foreigners, no outcasts, and no margins. Here, the Bread of Life is broken so that the world might be made whole. Come, for all things are ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (The Great Thanksgiving)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to You, God of the harvest. You spoke, and the fields brought forth grain. You scattered seeds across the earth and called it good, providing enough for every mouth and margins enough for every stranger. When we harvested to the edges and hoarded the surplus, You did not abandon us. You gave the law of the gleaners, that the poor and the foreigner might gather and be filled. You sent prophets to call us back to the open field and the shared loaf.

And so, we join our voices with the laborers and the gleaners, with all the company of heaven, forever singing to the glory of Your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are You, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Like Boaz at the threshing floor, He drew near to the outsider and said, "Come, eat, and be welcome." He fed the crowds on the hillside until all were satisfied, and there was more left over than when they began. On the night He was betrayed, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His friends, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

And so, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of grain and vine. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that we who gather at these margins may become one body, gleaned from many fields and gathered into one harvest. Feed us here, that we may go and feed one another, until all are welcomed, all are dignified, and none are turned away from Your table.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, God of the harvest, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Leader: God of the gleaners, we thank You that You have fed us at this table, not from our own harvest but from Your abundance. We came hungry, and You have satisfied us; we came as strangers, and You have named us kin. Now send us back into the fields of the world with full hearts and open hands. Let the grace we have tasted here spill over into every place of scarcity, that others may gather what we have been given the courage to leave behind. Strengthen us to seek justice, to honor the worker, and to make our tables wide, until the whole earth is fed at Your banquet of plenty. In the name of Christ, the Bread of Life, we pray.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Leader: Go forth from this place into the fields of the world. Do not harvest to the very edges of your life—leave room for grace and leave resources for those in need.

See the dignity in every worker.

Share your roasted grain with the foreigner.

And may the God of the harvest provide for you, the Bread of Life sustain you, and the Holy Spirit empower you to seek justice, this day and forevermore.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

July 28, 2026

(NOTE: On request, any item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion at the time of the affected report if there is docket time remaining, otherwise at the time for new business.)

A Summary of the motions has been published separately.

MOTION: That Presbytery approve the following **RECOMMENDATION(S)** (items in the reports indicated by an asterisk (*) are recommended for consent agenda approval):

***REPORT of the STATED CLERK** [16-19] That the narrative report be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting and that the RECOMMENDATIONS #1, #2, and #3 be approved.

***COMMISSION ON MINISTRY** [20-21] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: that the ACTIONS taken by the Commission on Ministry and the narrative report be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

NOMINATIONS/COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION [22] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be considered at the time of the report and that RECOMMENDATION #2 be approved: That the report of the Nominations committee be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

***PRESBYTERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES** [23-25] That RECOMMENDATIONS#1 that the Presbytery receive the report of the Presbytery Board of Trustees and the report be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

***PRESBYTERY COUNCIL** [26] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: 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

***COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** [27] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: that the narrative report, be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.

***COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES (CPJ)** [28-35] That RECOMMENDATION#1 be approved: that the narrative report of the CPJ be received and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

***SESSION RECORDS REVIEW** [36] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: That the Presbytery receive the report for the First Quarter of 2026 and that it be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

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STATED CLERK
Report to Presbytery
Ruling Elder **Roxie O. Holder**, Stated Clerk
July 28, 2026

A. RECOMMENDATIONS to Presbytery: The Stated Clerk **RECOMMENDS** to Presbytery:

***1. MOTION:** That Chairs of Presbytery agencies and committees, not otherwise members of Presbytery for this meeting, be given privilege of the floor with voice but not vote.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

***2. MOTION:** Those churches based on the 2025 Statistical Report and the parity rules, be authorized to elect ruling elder commissioners to presbytery meetings as follows:

Churches with 2000-2500 members (4 elders each) – First Norfolk

Churches with 501-1000 members (2 elders each) – First Virginia Beach, Great Bridge, Williamsburg.

Racial Ethnic Churches (2 elders each) – Carver Memorial, Community Portsmouth, First United, New Horizons

Churches authorized an additional elder based on number of pastors (less than 501 members) – Bayside, Denbigh United, King's Grant, KirkWood, Second Norfolk, Wycliffe
Remaining churches authorized one elder commissioner.

Note: In accordance with the Book of Order, G-3.0301 and the Manual of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, a recommendation is made annually to the Presbytery concerning any imbalance of ministers and ruling elders based on the determination of resident ministers less those ministers that have not attended meetings in the past two years as approved at the January 26, 2013, Presbytery meeting.

As of July 1, 2026, there were:

- 108 minister members, minus 17 honorably retired ministers who had not attended meetings for the past two years for a total of **91** ministers.
- 60 Ruling Elder Commissioners from Sessions
- 2 Ruling Elder members of Presbytery by virtue of office
- 1 Certified Christian Educator
- 7 Commissioned Pastors (CP)
- 3 Ruling Elder members of the Presbytery Council
- 73 total Ruling Elders eligible to vote

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

***3. MOTION:**

A. ACTIONS:

BY ACTION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA, AT ITS STATED MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 1999, HELD AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA, IN MATTERS IN DEBATE BEFORE PRESBYTERY, EACH SPEAKER IS LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES, WITH SPEAKERS ALTERNATING BETWEEN THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION AND THOSE OPPOSED. Presbytery is reminded that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, speakers may not speak more than twice on an issue, and the second time only after everyone has had an opportunity to speak once.

B. MINISTERS:

ORDAINED/DECEASED/RECEIVED/DISMISSED/INSTALLED/DISSOLUTIONS/RETIRED/ SINCE THE JANUARY 24, 2026, REPORT

-Ordained: None

-Deceased: The **Rev. Dr. Octavius A. Gaba**, April 19, 2026, in Cincinnati, Ohio.
The **Rev. Dr. John R. Monroe**, May 25, 2026, in Norfolk, Virginia.
The **Rev. James A. Goodbow**, July 10, 2026, in Virginia Beach, Virginia

-Received: None

-Dismissed: None

-Removed from the rolls: None

-Installed: The **Rev. Carolyn B. Evans**, April 26, 2026, Bayside Presbyterian Church.
The **Rev. Kimberly M. Priddy**, May 3, 2026, Great Bridge Presbyterian Church.

-Dissolutions: None.

-Honorably Retired: None.

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Communication with a minister regarding completion of boundary training.
2. Communication to another presbytery regarding the dismissal of a minister member who has been received in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.
3. Received correspondence regarding review of PEVA minutes for 2025 with the notation that the minutes were in exceptional order.
4. Forwarded correspondence regarding review of the 2025 minutes of Shenandoah Presbytery.
5. Communicated with CLC to update the Stated Clerk's information
6. Received Minister Cards online.
7. Communicated with a GA Committee Assistant regarding the availability of a loaner laptop/tablet for use at GA.
8. Communicated with the AC for Christ Church regarding the incorporation of Christ Church.
9. Forwarded information regarding PC(USA) technology grants to several churches.
10. Prepared a marriage letter for a minister to present to their local Circuit Court Clerk to receive an order granting permission to perform marriages.
11. Requested and received a letter from the session of Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church granting permission for the presence of private security on the church campus during the Service of Affirmation and following reception.
12. Signed the contract with ONYX Security to provide security for the Service of Affirmation at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church on June 7, 2026.
13. Communicated with a pastor regarding information for church incorporation.
14. Communicated with the Presbyterian Historical Society regarding information about Christ Church.
15. Received copies of correspondence sent to churches receiving maintenance assistance grants from the Board of Trustees.
16. Communicated with staff and a Clerk of Session regarding proof of baptism when the original Baptism Certificate has been lost or destroyed.
17. Forwarded (through staff) information on a preaching fellowship opportunity to PEVA ministers.
18. Received information from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry regarding a candidate certified to be ordained.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS (*MOTION # 3 CONSENT AGENDA)

Reports:

1. The Administrative Commission (AC) to Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, VA.
The Reverend Dr. **Christian R. Shearer**, convener

The Reverend Dr. **Donna Marie DeSarro-Raynal**
Ruling Elder **Bruce Knight** (KirkWood)

The Presbytery established an Administrative Commission (AC) for Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, (SHPC) on January 24, 2026, to assist the SHPC congregation over the next 12-18 months. The Administrative Commission continues its work.

2. The Commission for the installation of Rev. Caroline B. Evans met on April 26, 2026, at Bayside Presbyterian Church.

By appointment of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, the Commission to install the Reverend Caroline Burslem Evans as Pastor of the Bayside Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, Virginia, met at the church on April 26, at 1:30 P.M.

Members present were Teaching Elders: Rev. Emma Ouellete, Rev. Martha Mitchell, Commissioned Pastor and Presbytery Vice-Moderator Sidnia Etherington, and Ruling Elders Peggy Hayes and Kenneth Wheeler.

Also, present and sitting with the Commission were Teaching Elder Rev. Dr. Richard Reifsynder and Ruling Elder Tom Winter.

A quorum was present.

Vice-Moderator Sidnia Etherington convened the meeting and opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. Martha 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 congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Reifsynder preached a sermon on Luke 6:45.

The Moderator recited the proceedings of the Presbytery leading up to this service. The Constitutional questions were asked of the Rev. Caroline Burslem Evans and the congregation. The questions being answered in the affirmative, the Rev. Caroline Burslem Evans was installed as Pastor of Bayside Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, Virginia, agreeably to the Word of God and the Book of Order. The Rev. Emma Oulette gave the installation prayer, and then the Commission extended the right hand of fellowship to the newly installed pastor. The Rev. Martha Mitchell delivered the charge to the pastor and RE Peggy Hayes delivered the charge to the congregation. 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 declared adjourned by the Moderator and closed with prayer by the Rev. Caroline Bursem Evans.

3. The Commission for the installation of Rev. Kimberly M. Priddy met on May 3, 2026, at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church.

By appointment of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, of the Commission to Install the Rev. Kim Priddy as Pastor of the Great Bridge Presbyterian Church of Chesapeake, VA met at the church on May 3, 2026, at 1:50 PM.

The members 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.

Also present and sitting with the Commission were the Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield and the Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee.

A quorum being present, the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Bugg convened the meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bugg, and elder Jeff Horton was elected clerk.

The Commission approved the order of worship and arrangements as printed in the bulletin and then joined in the service of worship with the congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Duffield preached the sermon on 1 Peter 7 - 11 titled "Above All."

The moderator recited the proceedings of the presbytery leading up to this service the constitutional questions were asked of the teaching elder by the Rev. Dr. Bugg and of the congregation by the Rev. Dr. Douglass. These being answered in the affirmative, the Rev. Kim Priddy was installed as pastor of Great Bridge Presbyterian Church of Chesapeake, VA agreeably to the word of God and the book of order.

The installation prayer was given by the Rev. Dr. Ventura the charge to the pastor was delivered by the Rev. Marty Phillips at the charge of the congregation by the Rev. Dr. Lee.

The service was 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 declared adjourned by the moderator and closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bugg at 3:20 PM.

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COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)
Report to the Presbytery
Reverend **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**, Moderator
July 28, 2026

Members: Rev. Dr. **Jeffrey S. Bell**, Rev. Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**, Ruling Elder (RE) **Robin Cowherd** (First Norfolk) Rev. **L. Monica Gould**, RE **Bruce Knight**, (KirkWood) Rev. **Catherine Hart Monroe**, Rev. Jay **Pi**, Rev. Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass**, RE **Karen Harris**, Rev. **Pamela D. Hrcir**, Reverend Dr. **Lyndsey McCall-Gilliam**, RE **David McKercher**, Reverend Dr. **Christian R. Shearer**, Rev. Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**, RE **Gail Pittman**, (First Portsmouth), RE **Yvette Young Myrick** (First United), Commissioned Pastor (CP) **Laura Chuquin-Naylor**, (Powelton/Eastern Shore), Rev. **Laura M. Carihfield**, Rev. **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**, Rev. **Leigh B. Gillis**, Rev. **Valena M. Hoy**, RE **Linda Ricker**, (Jamestown) RE **Ken Wheeler**, (Providence) and RE **Marcy Wright** (Carver Memorial), Rev. Dr. **Melissa Sumner Long**, General Presbyter, (*ex officio*), Ruling Elder **Roxie O. Holder**, Stated Clerk, (*ex officio*).

RECOMMENDATION to Presbytery: The Commission on Ministry **RECOMMENDS** to the Presbytery the following:

1. ***Motion:** That the ACTIONS taken by the COM be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

Actions taken by the COM:

On May 5, 2026:

1. Approved the minutes of the April 7, 2026, meeting.
2. Approved the request for Commissioned Pastor Marvin to preside over the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church on June 7, 2026.
3. Received the Annual Report of Ministers in non-parish ministry from Rev. Andrea Wood.
4. Received the results of e-Vote #2026-0414 approving the formation of an Installation Commission to install Rev. Kimberly Knowles Priddy at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 3, 2026.
5. Received the Stated Clerk Report.
6. Received and reviewed recommendations for revision of the Commission on Ministry Manual.

On June 3, 2026:

1. Approved the minutes of May 5, 2026, meeting.
2. Approved suggested guidelines for considering shared ministry.
3. Approved the sabbatical request for Rev. Diedra P. (Dee Dee) Carson, First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia.
4. Participated in a discussion and training drawn from the *Book of Order*, Chapter 3, "Councils of the Church," and the PEVA Commission on Ministry Handbook.

IN MEMORIAM

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 systematic theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Gaba was the former pastor of Covenant Presbyterian (now New Horizons Presbyterian) 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 collegiate evening classes at St. Leo University.

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 Pittsburg 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, Youngstown, New York (internship, 1987-1988), First 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.

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. 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 Rev. Dr. Richard Kever. Reverend 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 Scarce, and his sisters Martha Monroe Kreitemeyer and Marilyn Monroe Candler.

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NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE/COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Report to Presbytery

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

July 28, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS to Presbytery: The Nominations Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Presbytery:

1. **MOTION:** The Nominations Committee places the following names in nomination:

Trustee of John Knox Homes, Inc.

Stated Clerk Roxie Holder (Class of 2027)

Ruling Elder Larry Hall (Second) (Class of 2028)

Motion Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

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

Motion Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

Narrative Report

The members of the Nominations Committee are as follows: The Reverend Dr. **Jeffery S. Bell** Class of 2029, The Reverend Dr. **Michael T. Condrey** Class of 2029, CP **Sidnia "Sid" Etherington** Class of 2027, the Rev. **James B. Hoy** Class of 2028, Elder **Larry Hull** (Second) Class of 2029, the Reverend **Linda K. Rainey** Class of 2027, the Reverend Dr. **Melissa Sumner Long**, General Presbyter (ex officio) and Ruling Elder **Q. John Tamm**, Stated Clerk (ex officio).

The Nominations Committee is made up of three classes, having two members in each. One term of service is three years, and the members are nominated by the Presbytery Council. The Nominations Committee meets at the call of its moderator.

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PRESBYTERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Trustees)

The Rev. Dr. **John Morgan**, moderator,
and President of PEVA, Inc.
Report to the Presbytery
July 28, 2026

Members: RE **Michael Broadhurst** (First Portsmouth) Class of 2027, RE **Pax Goodson** (Hilton) Class of 2027, RE Larry H. Hull (Second) Class of 2028, Reverend **Donald E. McLean** Class of 2027, Reverend Dr. **John E. Morgan** Class of 2028, Rev. **Donald P. Troast** Class of 2028, RE **Karen Dixon** (Providence) Class of 2029, **Rev. Dr. Helen 'Lou' Ventura** Class of 2029, **Regan Knutson**, Business Administrator, RE **Jessica Fitzgerald**, Administrative Assistant, (Third), Reverend Dr. **Melissa Sumner Long**; General Presbyter *ex officio*, RE **Roxie O. Holder** Stated Clerk, (Carver Memorial) *ex officio*

RECOMMENDATION to Presbytery:

***1. Motion:** That the Presbytery receive the report of the Board of Trustees and that the report be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

ACTIONS

Actions for the May 14, 2026, meeting:

- Trustees approved and accepted the 2024 financial review as submitted by CPA Aaron Leshner of Leshner Tax Services. No material misstatements were identified.
- Trustees 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 70% of the mortgage (2030), Stone House PC 100% of the mortgage (2031) 5 years.
- Trustees approved unanimously that the Rev. Dr. Melissa "Lissa" Long be added as a decision maker to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Inc.'s Truist Bank Account.

Actions for the June 11, 2026, meeting:

- Trustees approved \$200,000 in Capital Needs Grants funded by PEVA. Fully funded grants included Calvin Presbyterian Church for 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)

NARRATIVE REPORT

The Board of Trustees did not meet in July 2026, as there was no business requiring Board action or discussion during the month.

On May 14, 2026, the Trustees reviewed the 2024 Financial Review for the year ended December 31, 2024. The review included the draft accountant's review report, draft financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements required under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). These materials were presented by PEVA's CPA, Aaron Leshner of Leshner Tax Services. No material misstatements were identified during the review. Loan guarantees decreased by \$200,000 across five loans, as expected. The functional allocation of 2024 expenses was approximately 50% Program Services and 50% General and Administrative expenses, consistent with 2023.

Mr. Leshner explained that PEVA's financial review has historically been presented in October of the following year. The 2024 review was delayed due to the transition from Doug Hall's practice and the demands of tax season. He expressed his commitment to ensuring the 2025 review is completed in a timely manner.

Dr. Long presented the Stone House Presbyterian Church mortgage repayment proposal developed by the Administrative Commission. Four repayment schedule options were provided for consideration. It was reported that Stone House Presbyterian Church is currently unable to make mortgage payments; however, any repayment schedule agreed upon could be renegotiated should circumstances change. The Presbytery continues to back the mortgage loan through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP).

The Trustees also received a report regarding the Presbytery's transition to a new insurance carrier for commercial insurance and workers' compensation coverage.

On June 11, 2026, the trustees reviewed and discussed the Capital Needs Grant recommendations presented by the subcommittee. Funding from John Knox Homes, Inc. (JKH) was not originally anticipated when the grant program was developed. However, it has become evident that JKH can provide meaningful supplemental support to PEVA funding. Subject to approval by the JKH Trustees, these funds would be distributed directly to recipient churches in a seamless and largely transparent manner. In addition, JKH support is expected to remain available in future grant cycles, creating an opportunity for sustained partnership.

Several grant requests, including those from Calvin Presbyterian Church, Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Hilton Presbyterian Church, were identified as addressing critical facility needs that align clearly with the intent of the program and therefore warrant full funding. Calvin Presbyterian Church has already completed its air-conditioning project, and the requested grant would reimburse costs currently being financed through the contractor.

In developing its recommendations, the subcommittee consulted with all COM liaisons and conducted site visits for most, though not all, applicant churches. The subcommittee determined that site visits were not necessary in every case and that reviewers could exercise discretion based on the nature and scope of each request.

The requests from Simonsdale Presbyterian Church, Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church, and Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church were initially considered appropriate for full funding through PEVA. However, after discussions with JKH leadership, these projects were determined to align closely with JKH's mission. Recommending these projects for JKH funding enables PEVA to remain within its \$200,000 budget while still providing partial funding to additional churches and maximizing the overall impact of available resources.

The only grant request not approved for funding at this time was Knox Presbyterian Church.

The Board of Trustees expressed sincere appreciation to the subcommittee and graciously thanked its members for their faithful, diligent, and dedicated work throughout the review process.

Pax Goodson agreed to communicate with each church by outlining its grant outcome, including the rationale for the decision and any necessary next steps, particularly for applicants that were not fully funded. Future funding cycles may explore opportunities for shared funding between Knox Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery for individual grant requests.

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PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Report to Presbytery

July 28, 2026

Rev. Dr. Christina M. Carrasco, Moderator

The following are members of the Presbytery Council:

Rev. Dr. **Christina M. Carrasco** (Kings Grant), Rev. **Dr. Garrett B. Bugg** (Wycliff),
Commissioned Pastor **Sidnia B. Etherington** (Lafayette), Reverend **Brian H. Harroff**
(Royster Memorial), Rev. **Martha E. Mitchell** (Member-at-Large), Rev. **Emma L.**
Ouellette (Bayside) Ruling Elder **Clyde Parker** (Community Portsmouth), Ruling Elder
Dianne Schoonover (Yorkminster), and *ex officio* Rev. Dr. **Melissa S. Long**, General
Presbyter, and Ruling Elder **Roxie O. Holder**, Stated Clerk.

***1. MOTION:** That the Presbytery receive the narrative report of the Council and approve the actions of the Council.

Motion Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL MET ON MAY 12, 2026, JUNE 9, 2026, JULY 14, 2026, AND TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. The minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting of the Presbytery Council were approved.
2. The minutes of May 12, 2026, meeting of the Presbytery Council were approved.
3. The minutes of June 9, 2026, meeting of the Presbytery Council were approved.
4. The minutes of the 145th Stated Meeting on April 28, 2026, were approved.
5. Approved a hybrid format for the July 28, 2026, Stated Meeting at Hilton Presbyterian Church, Newport news, Virginia.
6. Approved the docket for the 146th Stated Meeting on July 28, 2026, at Hilton Presbyterian Church.
7. Approved breakout sessions for the 146th Stated Meeting on July 28, 2026.
8. Approved the following 2026 PEVA Camp and Conference Grants:
 - a. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church: \$2,500.00
 - b. Wythe Presbyterian Church: \$2,500.00.
 - c. Catawba Endowment Grant: Wythe Presbyterian Church: \$1,000.00.
 - d. Great Bridge Presbyterian Church: \$1,000.00.
 - e. Williamsburg Presbyterian Church: \$2,500.00.
9. Approved an amendment to the "Handbook of Administrative Operations," clarifying the role of the Worship Planning Team.
10. Approved the re-organization of the PEVA Personnel Committee. **[Personnel Committee: RE Joyce Melvin Jones-Chair; RE Gail Pittman; RE Jim Cales; TE Virginia S. (Gini) Campell; RE Sid Etherington-Liaison)]**
11. Approved a "draft" job description for the potential addition of a PEVA Director of Spiritual Growth.
12. Approved adding additional questions to registration information regarding age categories, including "prefer not to answer."
13. 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.

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COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Report to Presbytery of
Eastern Virginia July 28, 2026
Chaplain Carter Jones, moderator

*1. **MOTION:** That the narrative report of the CPM be received by the Presbytery.

Motion Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

NARRATIVE REPORT

The members of CPM: Rev. **Carter M. Jones**, Rev. **Michelle D. Burcher**, RE **Charles Reece** (Kirkwood), Rev. **Andrew P. Whitehead**, and Rev. **Nelson Steinert** (1st Pres. Virginia Beach)

We currently have the following Candidates under our care:

	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Marcy Wright		May 2018	Union	GD	19	Carver Mem.	C. Jones

Summer Moore has completed all CPM requirements and has been certified to move forward in the ordination process as of June 11, 2026.

We have 3 candidates ready to receive a call:

	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
Summer Moore		Sept. 2023	G. Conwell	GD	22	2nd Pres.	A. Whitehead
Donna Herring		June 2018	Union	GD	21	Wmsburg	M. Burcher
Donna Graves		Sept 2021	Union	GD	24	Carver Mem.	C. Jones

*Status: FT=Full Time; PT=Part Time; DL=Distant Learning; NC=No Classes;
GD=graduated

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COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES (CPJ)

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

Report to Presbytery

July 28, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

*1. **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.

Motion Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

ACTIONS:

Actions taken at the May 16, 2026, meeting:

- The Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team approved to disburse \$3,000 to Dos Santos Food Pantry on the Eastern Shore from the temporary restricted fund for the Migrant Farm Workers and Seasonal Agriculture Workers Ministry.
- The Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team approved that the offering at the June 7th Service of Affirmation and Inclusion service is dedicated to the LGBT Life Center.
- Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team approved that the funding for fellowship reception following the June 7th Service of Affirmation and Inclusion.

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

- The Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team 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:

- The Compassion Peace and Justice Ministry Team approved and awarded a Church Community Hunger grant to Greenbrier 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.

NARRATIVE REPORT

CPJ awarded the Dos Santos Food Pantry \$3,000, which was part of the \$7,000 we raised to support migrant and seasonal workers. It was suggested that the donation include encouragement to address summer hunger needs for school-age children of migrant farm workers and seasonal workers who lose access to school meals.

They serve many of the same families we reach through the Head Start Centers some overlap. They reach many more individuals than PEVA is through partnership with the Head Start Centers alone. Don Santos is an ecumenical nonprofit food pantry. On average, they serve up to 400 individuals per month during the season, with a particular focus on workers in the largest camp, that camp alone has 500 workers per season. They operate a thrift store to support the food pantry, offering items at very low cost—and sometimes free—for workers. In addition to food distributions at the store, they also host mobile food

distributions on the first, second and fourth Sundays at other church sites on the shore. They mainly purchase food from the Food Bank for distribution until they had a \$9,000 bill and now offer USDA food also, so they alternate every other week they have two separate storage places for each. Dos Santos started about six years ago out of AWAC Agricultural Workers Advocacy Coalition.

CPJ's goal is to broaden our network and collaborate with others who have a heart for those often unseen, especially migrant and seasonal workers. I'm not, we are not yet sure what this collaboration might look like, but I'm wondering how CPJ and our PEVA churches might assist Dos Santos through volunteers, raising awareness, and other forms of support. This is something we can explore further with God's help. CPJ looks forward to continuing this conversation and discerning how we can deepen our impact, and how our churches can partner with Dos Santos. One immediate opportunity is volunteering. Dos Santos is currently seeking volunteers for a variety of roles. If you are interested in serving, please contact Betty Mariner 757-710-4352. thepmariners@gmail.com We would also appreciate hearing from you if you have volunteered or are planning to assist Dos Santos in the future. Please let the PEVA Hunger Action Advocate know about your involvement so we can celebrate and encourage these partnership efforts throughout our churches. Thank you for your willingness to serve and support this important ministry.

At the May meeting of CPJ RE Amanda Pine, Development Director for Friends of Foster Care, gave an overview of the challenges facing foster youth in Virginia and described how the organization's programs improve outcomes through education, support, and community engagement. Approximately 5,600 children are in foster care each year in Virginia, and about 7,000 move through the system annually. The average length of time in care is 24 months. Many children experience significant trauma: 48.3% report four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which are associated with poorer long-term health and shorter life expectancy. Without intervention, 22% of youth in Virginia age out of foster care without reunification or adoption, and 40% experience three or more placements. These outcomes are linked to trauma, disrupted education, and a lack of consistent support. The mission and vision of Friends of Foster Care are to create opportunities and environments in which foster youth and families can thrive and to serve as an innovative, inclusive partner providing community-based support.

Programs and services provided by Friends of Foster Care include tutoring and educational support to address academic disruption, extracurricular activities such as YMCA programs, arts, and sports, birthday and holiday gifts, emergency assistance and resources, and foster parent recruitment and training. Since 2016, the organization has served 6,085 children, provided 80,717 tutoring hours, and supported 1,875 families. Reported student outcomes include 95% promotion to the next grade, 89% passing all tutored classes, and 98% of seniors graduating. The programs also contribute to reduced juvenile detention rates and improved well-being. The Dorm Days program, a college-exposure initiative for high school foster youth, reported that 68% of participants improved their outlook on the future, 61% reported increased hope, and 73% reported stronger social connectedness. Due to growing need, Friends of Foster Care served more than 2,500 children in 2025 alone and plans to expand into additional regions, with a goal of serving more than 3,000 youth annually. The presentation emphasized that although foster youth face significant trauma and systemic challenges, targeted, relationship-based, community support can greatly improve life outcomes. To learn more and be part of Friends of Foster Care please visit www.friendsoffostercare.org

At the May meeting of CPJ RE Roxie Holder and RE Jill Keifer, board members of St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries, presented the organization's history, programs, and 2025 outcomes in serving unhoused and food-insecure people in Norfolk. St. Columba grew out of St. Columba Presbyterian Church near Robin Hood Apartments, was incorporated in 1987, helped establish A Dwelling Place and Samaritan House, operated the Virginia Beach Winter Shelter for three years before Volunteers of America assumed that work, and opened its Day Center in 1995. About 70% of the ministry is devoted to serving the unhoused

population. Funding comes from federal, local, and foundation grants, as well as support from churches, businesses, and individuals. The Day Center, open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., offers showers, sandwiches, coffee, snacks, phone access, and assistance from a homeless advocate. The Food Pantry, open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., provides up to three days of food per household every 30 days, with no residency restrictions. Additional services include housing-assessment referrals, medication assistance, vision and dental vouchers, and seasonal programs such as Easter baskets, school supplies, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and gifts. Reported 2025 outcomes included 282 Day Center clients served, 961 showers, 967 hygiene kits, 13,229 sandwiches, 146 laundry cards, 261 sets of men's clothing, food assistance for 641 households (2,034 people), 697 prescriptions for 116 unhoused individuals, 20 dental vouchers, and 14 eye exam or glasses vouchers. Of Day Center guests, 75% are male and 13% are veterans. In addition, 54 families receive food monthly, 96 families were served at Thanksgiving, 75 at Christmas, and 79 children received Easter baskets. RE Jill Keifer, who has served on the board since approximately 1992–1993, noted that the sale of four transitional houses that had become unmanageable improved the organization's finances. New Horizons, formerly Covenant, continues to provide sandwiches each month, and Mary Urquhart, a church member, works in the back office. The ministry is ecumenical and receives support from Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, and other churches. In response to a question about whether former foster youth may be among those served, RE Roxie Holder said that the ministry serves homeless teenagers and families, including those with young children, although the Day Center itself is limited to adults. Current needs include nonperishable, ready-to-eat food items such as canned soup, ravioli, and tuna, rather than additional sandwiches. The committee was reminded of ongoing opportunities to support St. Columba through financial gifts, in-kind food donations, and volunteer service.

AFFIRMATIVE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICE: History was made in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia on Sunday, June 7, 2026, as 128 people gathered at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church for the Presbytery's first-ever Affirmative and Inclusive Worship Service. Sponsored by the Presbytery's Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Team in partnership with Presbytery leadership, this landmark event brought together individuals and congregations from across the region in a powerful witness to God's love, welcome, and justice for all.

The gathering reflected both the spirit of unity and the generosity of those in attendance. Through a special offering, worshipers contributed \$956 to support the vital ministry of the LGBT Life Center, extending the service's message of affirmation and compassion beyond the walls of the church and into the broader community.

The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Team is honored to support the work of the LGBT Life Center through this gift. We give thanks for the Center's steadfast commitment to fostering dignity, compassion, hope, and belonging for all people. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to stand alongside those who work for justice, build inclusive communities, and care for the well-being of their neighbors. We hold the LGBT Life Center, its staff, volunteers, clients, and supporters in our prayers and are grateful for the hope, healing, and encouragement they provide each day. We offer this gift as a sign of partnership and shared commitment to creating a more just, compassionate, and welcoming community for all.

The worship service itself was deeply meaningful and inspiring. The Rev. Don Martin delivered a powerful sermon that challenged and encouraged those gathered to embrace Christ's call to love boldly, welcome generously, and affirm the sacred worth of every person. Music enriched the service through the gifts of Dr. Matthew Russell, the beLOVED chorUS Project, and the choir of The Great Awakening United Church of Christ in Portsmouth, whose voices helped create a vibrant and Spirit-filled atmosphere of praise and celebration.

Participants were also blessed by moving personal stories and reflections from Commissioned Pastor Stuart Nesbit (First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach), the Rev. Dr. Joy Carrington (The Great Awakening UCC), Laura Beth Buchleiter of the Coalition for Peace and Restoration (1001 New Worshiping Communities), and the Rev. Dr. Matthew Russell. Their stories offered powerful reminders of God's presence in the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities and underscored the importance of creating spaces where all people are welcomed, valued, and celebrated as beloved children of God. Following worship, attendees gathered for a time of fellowship, conversation, and celebration, providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships, build new connections, and reflect on the significance of this historic occasion.

The Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Team extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, volunteered, worshiped, provided music, shared their stories, and supported this event. Together, we celebrated not only a significant milestone in the life of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, but also a vision of the Church that seeks to embody Christ's radical hospitality, affirm the dignity of every person, and reflect God's boundless love and grace in the world.

OCTOBER PEVA MEETING: The Rev. Addie Peterson reported that Rev. Dr. Denise Anderson, Director, Restorative Justice Ministries PC(USA) has agreed to preach during the October Presbytery meeting. Rev. Dr. Anderson has been informed of the worship theme, "Come to the Table," and has been asked to deliver a message that speaks honestly to present realities while offering hope and a call to action for congregations of all sizes and capacities. She will arrive on October 26, 2026 attend dinner with the group that evening and depart following the postlude reception on October 27, 2026. PEVA staff support will arrange hotel accommodations in Virginia Beach (one night) and provide details directly to Rev. Dr. Anderson. Rev. Peterson will contact Rev. Chris Carrasco to connect Rev. Dr. Anderson with the PEVA Council Worship Planning Committee.

PCUSA OFFICE of PUBLIC WITNESS: the Rev. Dr. Lissa Long is arranging a visit to Rev. Jimmy Hawkins at the PCUSA DC Office of Public Witness to explore the logistics of a future group trip to Washington D.C. Dr Long will report back to the CPJ after her visit.

GENERAL ADVOCACY REMINDERS: RE Gerry Ellis encouraged members to attend school board meetings, participate in local elections, and advocate for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Members were encouraged to stay civically engaged at the local level. Several new Virginia laws took effect on July 1, 2026, impacting housing, education, workplace fairness, and public safety:

Expediting Affordable Housing – Localities can now pass ordinances to streamline the zoning process for affordable housing projects. (*VICPP led efforts on this bill!*)

School Nurse Funding – School districts may now use at-risk add-on funding to support school nurse positions. (*VICPP led efforts on this bill!*)

Clean Slate – To help individuals successfully re-enter society and access housing and employment opportunities, this law seals the records of people with certain misdemeanor and felony convictions.

Styrofoam Containers – The statewide ban on Styrofoam food containers in schools and restaurants is now in effect.

Seat Belt Requirement – Adult passengers are now required to wear seat belts in both the front and back seats of a vehicle.

Salary History Protections – Employers may no longer ask job applicants about their salary history and must include good-faith salary ranges in job postings.

Landlord-Tenant Protections – Landlords must accept rent and security deposits by check or money order, may charge only actual third-party processing costs, and must provide 14 days' notice for nonpayment before terminating a lease.

GUN VIOLENCE: Rev Leigh Gills noted that the Virginia governor also signed legislation banning magazines with a capacity greater than 30 rounds, including bump stocks. Assault-Style Weapons & Magazine Bans: The laws are scheduled to ban the future sale, manufacture, or transfer of certain newly defined "assault firearms" and high-capacity magazines.

NICKEL A MEAL: Nickel-A-Meal Grant (NAM) grant applications are Due August 31, 2026. Is your church assisting those in the community or is your church working with a community organization that is assisting those struggling with food insecurity and seeking funds for direct food relief? Please do apply. Priority will be given to those that have not applied! The Nickel-A-Meal Grant Applications are Due Aug 31st.

PRAYER COMMITMENT INITIATIVE: The committee reaffirmed its daily 7:00 p.m. prayer commitment for peace and CPJ's work, as shared at the last Presbytery meeting, and continues to invite participation from across the Presbytery.

REPORT: STATUS OF THE 2026 FARM BILL: The 2026 Farm Bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is now before the Senate. The House approved the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 on April 30, 2026, with bipartisan support. On June 23, 2026, the Senate Agriculture Committee released its draft bill and is expected to begin review and amendments in July.

Before becoming law, the Senate must pass its version of the bill, and any differences between the House and Senate versions must be reconciled. The final bill would then go to the President for signature.

The primary SNAP concern is the proposed shift of costs from the federal government to the states. Under the House-passed bill, states would be responsible for a larger share of SNAP expenses, potentially straining state budgets.

¹Bread for the World welcomed several House bill provisions, including support for international food aid and nutrition programs, but raised concerns about SNAP funding changes and the absence of food insecurity data collection. The organization warns that the cost shift could lead states to reduce SNAP eligibility, cut administrative services, or redirect funds from other programs. Bread for the World urges Congress to phase in any changes gradually to avoid disrupting food assistance for those who depend on SNAP. In short, the Farm Bill keeps SNAP in place but would shift more costs to states, raising concerns that some recipients could face reduced access or services.

SNAP: The need for food assistance remains significant in Virginia, yet participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has declined sharply since enactment of the July 2025 federal law. According to the ²Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), SNAP participation nationwide fell by more than 4 million people—nearly 10 percent—between July 2025 and March 2026. In the 13 states with publicly available child enrollment data, approximately 808,000 fewer children were receiving SNAP benefits, accounting for nearly half of the 1.7 million total reduction in participation in those states. Virginia reflects this broader national trend. State agency data show that SNAP enrollment declined from 864,646 participants in February 2025 to 750,954 participants in February 2026—a decrease of 113,692 individuals, or 13.5 percent. This substantial reduction raises

¹ <https://www.bread.org/article/bread-for-the-world-responds-to-senate-introduction-of-farm-bill/>

² <https://www.cbpp.org/research/topics/food-assistance>

concerns that many eligible households may no longer be receiving critical food assistance at a time when food costs and economic pressures continue to challenge working families. These trends remind us that behind every statistic is a child, a parent, a senior adult, or a family struggling to put food on the table. For people of faith, this is more than a policy concern, it is a call to discipleship and compassionate action. As increasing numbers of households face food insecurity and barriers to accessing vital assistance, churches and faith communities are uniquely positioned to be instruments of God's care and provision. Through food pantries, community meals, emergency assistance, advocacy, and intentional outreach to neighbors in need, congregations can bear witness to the Gospel by ensuring that no one is forgotten or left to face hunger alone. This moment presents an opportunity for the Church to renew its commitment to feeding the hungry, caring for the vulnerable, and embodying Christ's love in tangible ways throughout the Commonwealth.

WHY TINY FOOD PANTRIES MATTER: Free tiny food pantries are a practical, community-based response to food insecurity. These small outdoor boxes or cabinets hold donated food and household essentials for anyone in need. Supported by residents, congregations, and community partners, they provide a simple, accessible way for neighbors to share resources and care for one another.

- They offer immediate, local access to food and essentials for people who may not be able to use a traditional pantry.
- They are often available around the clock, located nearby, and require no paperwork or appointments.
- They can be especially helpful for families facing sudden shortages, transportation barriers, or privacy concerns.
- They work well as a flexible, welcoming supplement to larger food ministries.

For congregations that may not have enough volunteers to operate a full food ministry, a tiny food pantry can be a practical neighborhood ministry. A tiny pantry on church property offers direct help while also creating a visible sign of welcome and care. Churches may also include brief encouragement or information about ministries and services, making the pantry a point of connection as well as assistance.

Some churches may have liability concerns when offering donated food, but federal law provides protection for good-faith donations under the ³[Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act](#). For more information, see ⁴United States Department of Agriculture Frequently Asked Questions about the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act or the ⁵Emerson Factsheet. If you have questions about where a tiny food pantry may be placed, check your local zoning code.

There are already examples of this kind of ministry within the Presbytery. Third Presbyterian Church and Kirkwood Presbyterian Church have been identified as churches with little food pantries, showing that this model is both practical and achievable locally. If your church already has one, please let PEVA's Hunger Action Advocate know so we can add you to the list at jessica@pcusa-peva.org.

Churches interested in launching this ministry may qualify for a Church Community Hunger Grant from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Compassion, Peace, and Justice Team (PEVA CPJ). Grants are typically up to \$1,000 and may help fund a tiny food pantry. You can find that application at www.pcusa-peva.org/grants

Congregations can also list their pantry on the [Little Free Pantry Map](#). Building a pantry can also be a meaningful project in partnership with groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or civic leagues.

³ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-104publ210/pdf/PLAW-104publ210.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-good-samaritan-faqs.pdf>

⁵ <https://chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Emerson-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

ECO JUSTICE: Caring for the Earth: Stories from Faith Communities is a free, seven-part short film series from Blessed Tomorrow designed to help faith communities connect their beliefs with environmental stewardship and climate action. The series is intended for Sunday school classes, youth groups, small groups, and congregations meeting either in person or online. <https://blessedtomorrow.org/faith-climate-film-series/>

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.

Denbigh United PC - The next giveaway (clothing, shoes, and linens) will be held on Sunday, August 16, 2026, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. The Prime Timers group of Denbigh United PC blessed THRIVE clients with birthday cake kits in the month of June.

Francis Makemie PC - On June 14, Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church hosted a community covered-dish breakfast with seniors served through the Catherine Moore Project, a ministry partnership of the congregation, followed by a special worship service. PEVA's Hunger Action Advocate was present for the joyous occasion. As a recipient of a December 2025 PEVA Church Community Hunger Grant, Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church used the funding to support the Catherine Moore Project, helping address food insecurity among low-income seniors in the community. Through the grant and generous donations from the congregation, 37 seniors received \$100 Food Lion gift cards as part of the church's winter mission initiative. The June gathering provided an opportunity for fellowship, worship, and celebration with many of the seniors who benefited from the project. The congregation expressed gratitude for PEVA's continued support and looks forward to sustaining and growing this important ministry in the years ahead.

Stone House PC - Stone House Presbyterian Church continues to serve its community through a variety of mission and outreach ministries. Throughout the year, volunteers prepare and serve meals at the Grove Christian Outreach Center in Williamsburg four times annually, visit and share fellowship with residents of Burnt Ordinary Apartments in Toano each month, and partner with Williamsburg Presbyterian Church to support the Community of Faith Mission shelter program. The congregation also provides backpacks and school supplies for local children each August and hosts a monthly American Red Cross Blood Drive in partnership with the Chickahominy Masonic Lodge. Additional outreach efforts include providing Christmas gifts for 50 children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, collecting food, baby items, and hygiene products for the St. Olaf Food Pantry, supporting the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing offering for hunger relief, disaster response, and development ministries, and assisting Proclaiming Grace Outreach in New Kent County. Though small in membership, Stone House Presbyterian Church remains deeply committed to sharing Christ's love through service, generosity, and community engagement.

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Why a Land Acknowledgement

In June 2021, the PEVA Council approved a motion from the Peacemaking Committee of the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries to adopt the practice of reading a Land Acknowledgement to begin presbytery meetings.

What is a land acknowledgement?

- A land acknowledgement is a formal statement presented at the beginning of public events and gatherings that are taking place on lands first inhabited by Indigenous peoples.
- It is a simple, respectful way of showing recognition to who the first people of the land were and counters the "Doctrine of Discovery."
- It is a step towards correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.
- It raises awareness about our own history and how we came to inhabit this land.
- It invites us to repair relationships with Indigenous communities and with the land.

What it is NOT:

- "... simply a politically correct gesture to make ourselves feel good. It can certainly be this, though, if we do not take further steps. Doing an acknowledgement ought not be a token gesture. That renders it meaningless. The invitation to change relationships, our understanding of history, and existing structures must follow." (Mennonite Church Canada)

The Presbyterian Connection:

- The 223rd General Assembly (2018) overwhelmingly approved the report, *The Doctrine of Discovery: A Review of Its Origins and Implications for Congregations in the PC(USA) and Support for Native American Sovereignty*, from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Among its recommendations:
 - "Encourage mid councils to begin their meetings with an acknowledgment of whose land they are meeting on and that greetings to the assembly include a welcome from those Indigenous peoples currently living on the land."
 - "Urge the session of each congregation—as well as each mid council, seminary, Presbyterian Women's groups, and national church agency—to review the existing study resources on the Doctrine of Discovery (posted on the Facing Racism website: <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/life-witness/ministry-areas/women-gender-justice-ministry/doctrine-discovery>, and to lift up histories of Indigenous peoples and current issues facing Indigenous peoples."
- In September 2020, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, issued a Call to Action encouraging Presbyterians to address past injustices that still impact indigenous people and to give "deep consideration to how our churches and communities were formed in relation and/or opposition to the Indigenous peoples of the region and begin ever so carefully to discern the nature of that relationship today." In addition, "This is far more than a call to recognize Indigenous peoples in one moment or on one day. Indeed, the Call to Action before us is a long-term call to unsettle and decolonize a church deeply intertwined in racist, settler-colonial systems of white supremacy," "Let us bring to the fore our commitment to true justice and stand in solidarity with all Indigenous peoples in their efforts for sovereignty and human rights."

The website <https://native-land.ca> can help you identify the Indigenous peoples who lived on the land where your church now sits. There are also websites with examples of Land Acknowledgement statements if your Session chooses to adopt the practice and include it in worship, bulletins, websites and so forth.

SESSIONAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report to the Presbytery
Ruling Elder **Jill Keifer**, Chair
July 28, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

***1. 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 from: Providence, Knox, Lafayette, Holmes, Jamestown, Francis Makemie

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

2026 SCHEDULE FOR EXAMINATION OF SESSIONAL RECORDS

NOTE: Clerks will be asked to submit records two months before the Presbytery Meeting.

AREA 1–Jill Keifer (Royster Memorial)

1923 Paddock Road Norfolk, VA 23518-4929 C. 757-567-4106

Feb. – First United

May – Knox

Nov. – King’s Grant

Feb. – Hidenwood

May – Providence

Nov. – Naomi Makemie

Feb. – Groves Memorial

Aug – Grace Covenant

Nov. – St. Andrew

May – Great Bridge

Aug – New Horizons

AREA 2– Maggie Van Guilder (First Hampton)

4600 Victoria Blvd Hampton, VA 23669 Tel. H. 757-869-2918

Feb. – Bayside

May - Lafayette

Nov. – Christ

Feb. – Community, Ports.

Aug. – Green Acres

Nov. – Denbigh United

May – Holmes

Aug. – Simonsdale

Nov. – Franklin

May - Jamestown

Aug. – KirkWood

AREA 3 – Rose Buseti (Lynnhaven)

612 Lynn Shores Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23452-2639 H. 757-306-8901

Feb – Calvin

May – Yorkminster

Nov. – Bethany

Feb – First, Portsmouth

Aug – Community, Hamp.

Nov. – First, Norfolk

Feb – Greenbrier

Aug – Royster Memorial

Nov. – Suffolk

May – First, Hampton

Aug – Second

A 4 – Debbie Braswell (Bethany)

8496 Winston Dr., Zuni, VA 23898 C. 757-593-5236

Feb. – Carver Memorial

May – Wycliffe

Nov. – Third

Feb. – Hilton

Aug. – Powelton

Nov. – Stone House

Feb. – Lynnhaven

Aug. – First, VA Beach

Nov. – Wythe

May – Frances Makemie

Aug. – Williamsburg

2026 Presbytery Meetings

APRIL

JULY

OCTOBER

JANUARY

Letters/Forms Mailed to COS

JANUARY 12

APRIL 15

JULY 13

OCTOBER 12

Deadline for Receipt of Records

FEBRUARY 16

MAY 15

AUGUST 17

NOVEMBER 16

Committee Review Date

MARCH 9

JUNE 8

SEPTEMBER 14

DECEMBER 14



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**OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE IN MINISTRY
PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONS, MINISTRY TEAMS AND COMMITTEES.
OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE**

The Presbytery needs your service. If you are interested in serving on a particular commission, committee, or ministry team, please indicate below:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ **Church:** _____
Email: _____
Gender: Male _____ Female _____ Non-Binary _____

Please include ecclesiastical status if applicable:

_____ Ruling Elder _____ Minister of Word and Sacrament
_____ Deacon _____ Congregation Member

Racial/Ethnic Designation:

_____ Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian _____ Black/African American/African
_____ Middle Eastern/ North African _____ Hispanic/Latino-a
_____ Native American/Alaska Native/ Indigenous _____ White
_____ Multiracial _____ Other _____

Age: _____ 18-25 _____ 26-40 _____ 41-55 _____ 56-70 _____ 70 & over

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, MARK WHAT INTERESTS YOU TO SERVE ON AND RETURN
THIS FORM TO THE PEVA OFFICE.

IF A VACANCY IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR COMMISSION, MINISTRY TEAM AND OR
COMMITTEE YOU NOTED, THE FORM WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR LATER CONSIDERATION.

_____ BOARD OF TRUSTEES
_____ COMMISSION LAY PASTOR (CLP)
_____ COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)
_____ COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION (COR)/ NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
_____ COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)
_____ CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY (CVT)
_____ COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE (CPJ)
_____ PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC)
_____ SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE
_____ OTHER _____

Please write it in

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