



PEVA PACKET
143rd STATED MEETING
Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 10:00 am
Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church
Norfolk, VA

***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.

This Page	1
ANNOUNCEMENTS	2
DIRECTIONS	3
Seeking to be Faithful (also posted as a separate document)	4-5
Civil Debate in PEVA (also posted as a separate document)	6
Docket	7-8
Consent Agenda/Action Items	9
Stated Clerk Report	10-13
Presbytery Council	14-15
2026 Proposed Budget (separate document to be posted)	
Commission on Ministry (COM)	16-24
Andrea Wood Statement of Faith & Faith Journey	
PCUSA PEVA Chaplain Support	
First Reading of Proposed Motion to be considered at the 144th Meeting (January 24, 2026)	
Nominations	25-26
Congregational Vitality Team	27
Board of Trustees	28-29
Campus Ministry	29-30
Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	31
Compassion Peace and Justice (CPJ)	32-36
Hunger Team	
Peacemaking Team	
Why Land Acknowledgement	
Sessional Records	37
Opportunity to Serve (also posted as a separate document)	38



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. CHILDCARE – 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.
- d. **Reservations must be made to:** Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, telephone number 757-423-8536, no later than Thursday, October 23, 2025.

2. NOTE TIME - MEETING BEGINS AT **10:00 A.M** on October 28, 2025.

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

4. REGISTRATION - Registration of Minister Commissioners, Ruling Elder (RE) Commissioners, Commissioned Pastor Commissioners (CP), Certified Christian Educators (CCE) and Visitors at Presbytery Meetings will be done 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. **This rule will be enforced.** Forms are available from the Clerks.

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 – Discontinued by the Presbytery Council. Announcements may be sent to the presbytery administrator (Raymond Rodrigues) by **THURSDAY, October 23, 2025**, for inclusion in the pre-meeting PowerPoint.

10. DISPLAYS – Visit the display area to see what is available.

11. SESSION RECORDS – Representatives (**including pastors**) from the following churches are requested to pick up their records at registration and thereafter from Ruling Elder **Jill Kiefer**: Grace Covenant, New Horizons, Simonsdale, Green Acres, KirkWood, Community Hampton Second, Royster Memorial, First VAB, Powelton and Williamsburg.

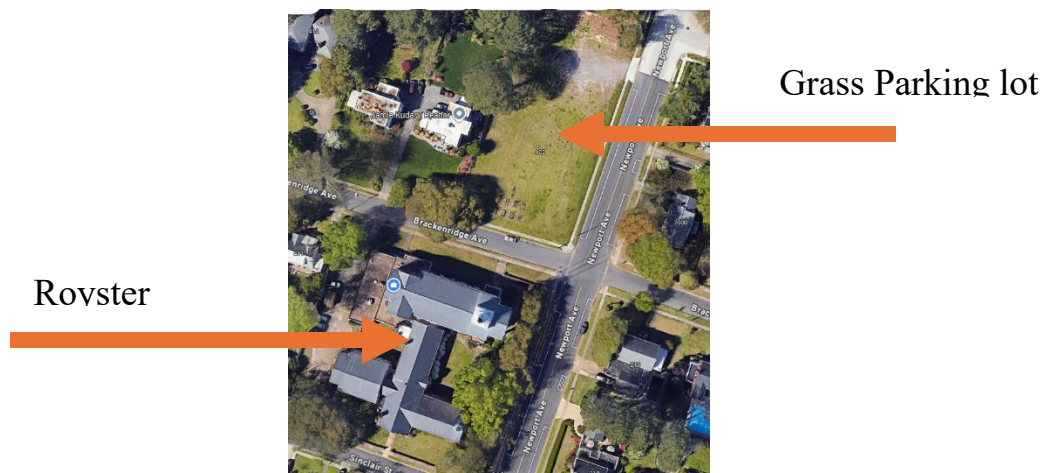
NEXT STATED MEETING – The next stated meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2026, at **King's Grant Presbyterian Church**, 745 Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, telephone 757-340-2840. [Back to table of contents](#)

DIRECTIONS

Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church
6901 Newport Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23505
(Telephone 757-423-8536)

- ** From Peninsula** – Take I64 east from the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. Take exit 276B to East Little Creek Road. At the bottom of the ramp turn right on to East Little Creek Road. Proceed about .5 miles to Granby Street, on the right. Turn left at the traffic light. Go approximately one mile to Brackenridge Street and turn right. You will pass Granby High School on the right immediately before the turn. The church is two blocks into the neighborhood on the left. The grass parking lot is on the right at Brackenridge Street and Newport Avenue.
- ** From Downtown Tunnel or Downtown Norfolk** – Take I264 east towards Virginia Beach. Get over to the left for a left exit and take the exit to I64 west towards Richmond. Take exit 276B, East Little Creek Road. At the bottom of the ramp turn left on to East Little Creek Road. Proceed about .5 miles to Granby Street. Turn left at the traffic light. Go approximately one mile to Brackenridge Street and turn right. You will pass Granby High School on the right immediately before the turn. The church is two blocks into the neighborhood on the left. The grass parking lot is on the right at Brackenridge Street and Newport Avenue.
- ** From Eastern Shore** –Cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Continue on Northampton Boulevard to I64 west (about 4 miles). Take the ramp to I64 West. Proceed towards Richmond/Hampton on I64. Take exit 276B, East Little Creek Road. At the bottom of the ramp turn left on to East Little Creek Road. Proceed about .5 miles to Granby Street. Turn left at the traffic light. Go approximately one mile to Brackenridge Street and turn right. You will pass Granby High School on the right immediately before the turn. The church is two blocks into the neighborhood on the left. The grass parking lot is on the right at Brackenridge Street and Newport Avenue.
- ** From Zuni, Franklin, Suffolk, Chesapeake** – Take US58 to I664 towards Chesapeake. I664. On I664 merge left on to I264 towards Portsmouth and Norfolk. Take the Martin Luther King Expressway towards the Midtown Tunnel. This exit is immediately after or north of Frederick Boulevard the exit for the Presbytery offices. Follow the expressway 4.5 miles to the Midtown Tunnel. After exiting the tunnel stay on Hampton Boulevard north towards the Naval Base and Old Dominion University. At West 38th Street, turn right and proceed east. After approximately 1.5 miles turn left on Granby Street northbound. Go approximately four miles to Brackenridge Street and turn left. You will pass DePaul Hospital on the left four blocks before the turn. The church is two blocks into the neighborhood on the left. The grass parking lot is on the right at Brackenridge Street and Newport Avenue.

MapQuest Directions: <http://www.mapquest.com/directions>



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 7:51 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 conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
 - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
- 2. Learn about various positions on 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 people 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 that 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 that 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 Scripture.

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 that 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.

[Back to table of contents](#)

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.

[Back to table of contents](#)

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

DOCKET

PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA

143rd STATED MEETING

"Unbound for Service"

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 10:00 am

Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church

Norfolk, VA

Offering is for **Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies**

<https://abundant.co/peva/pevamtgoc2025>



Check in at 9 am

Prelude

Dr. **Matthew Russell**, Dir. of Music Ministry, New Horizons

Call to Order, Opening Prayer (10 am)

The Rev. Dr. **Christina Marie B. Carrasco**
Moderator

Quorum

Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder (RE) **Q. John Tamm**

Introductions

Moderator

Adoption of Docket

Stated Clerk

Appointment of Temporary Clerks

Stated Clerk

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk

Land Acknowledgement

RE Jill Keifer (Royster Memorial)

Welcome to Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Rev. **Brian H. Harroff**

Call To Worship

Hymn

"Take My Life"

(Glory to God #697)

Confession/Assurance

Song of Praise

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

(Glory to God #15, **v4**)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

John 11:44

Sermon

"Unbound for Service"

The Rev. **Cecelia "Ce Ce" D. Armstrong**
Co-Moderator of the 226th
General Assembly (2024)

Affirmation of Faith

Installation of the General Presbyter

Moderator

Prayers of Intercession

Offertory

Offering goes to the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies
Hymn "God's Work, Our Hands" (see worship handout)
Doxology – Hymn #15, v.6 "All Creatures of Our God and King"
Presentation of Gifts/Prayer of Thanksgiving

Presbytery Council

RE **Joyce Melvin-Jones**, moderator (Carver Memorial)

Stated Clerk Election
2026 Budget Proposal

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. **Charles Tucker**, moderator

Introductions of new ministers
Examination for Ordination – Candidate Andrea Wood

Prayer Before the Meal

Break

Triennium

Nominations

RE **Linda Marley Smith**, moderator

Congregational Vitality Team

The Rev. **Joel Matthew Phillips**, moderator

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

The Rev. Dr. **Floretta "Flo" Barbee-Watkins**
Executive & Stated Clerk

Massanetta Springs

The Rev. **Colleen Marie Earp**, Program Director

Camp Hanover

Mr. **Doug Walters**, Executive Director

Unfinished Business

New Business

Good News

The Rev. **Dr. Melissa S. "Lissa" Long**
General Presbyter

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Armstrong and Dr. Long

Hymn

"We Are Marching in the Light of God" (Glory to God #853)

Blessing and Adjournment

Dr. Carrasco, Moderator

Postlude

Dr. Russell

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 www.pcusa-peva.org/survey, or fill in the survey form you received at registration.



[Back to table of contents](#)

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS
October 28, 2025

(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** [10-13] That the narrative report be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting and that the RECOMMENDATIONS #1, #2, #3 AND #4 be approved.

***PRESBYTERY COUNCIL** [14-15] That RECOMMENDATIONS #1, 2, 3 and 4 be considered at the time of the meeting. That RECOMMENDATIONS #5 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 MINISTRY** [16-24] That RECOMMENDATIONS #1 and #2 be considered at the time of the meeting, and #3 and #4 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** [25-26] 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.

***CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY TEAM** [27] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: That the narrative report of the CVT be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

***PRESBYTERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES** [28-29] 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.

***CAMPUS MINISTRY - WESLEY-WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION AT NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY & FLOURISH AT CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY** [29-30]
[] That the Presbytery receive the report of the Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University and the Report of Flourish at Christopher Newport News University and that both reports be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

***COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** [31] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: that the narrative report, be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.

***COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES (CPJ)** [32-36]

***PEACEMAKING MINISTRY TEAM** That RECOMMENDATION#1 be approved: that the action of the Peacemaking Team and the narrative report be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.

***HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM** That RECOMMENDATION#1 be approved: that the narrative report of the Hunger Ministry Team be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting. That RECOMMENDATION #2 be approved: that the narrative report, be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.

***SESSION RECORDS REVIEW** [37] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: That the Presbytery receive the report for the Third Quarter of 2025 and that it be printed in the minutes of this meeting.

[Back to table of contents](#)

STATED CLERK
Report to Presbytery
Ruling Elder **Q. John Tamm**, Stated Clerk
October 28, 2025

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 2024 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 1000-2000 members (3 elders each)-Williamsburg
Churches with 501-1000 members (2 elders each) – First Virginia Beach, Great Bridge
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 teaching and ruling elders based on the determination of resident ministers less those ministers that have not attend meetings in the past two years as approved at the January 26, 2013, Presbytery meeting. As of October 1, 2025, there were 109 minister members, less 5 honorably retired ministers who had not attended meetings for the past two years for a total of 104 ministers. Sessions are entitled to send a total of 60 ruling elder commissioners to each presbytery meeting plus three ruling elder members of Presbytery by virtue of office, one Certified Christian Educator, six commissioned pastors (CP), and four ruling elder members of the Presbytery Council, making a total of 74 ruling elders eligible to vote.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

***3. MOTION:**

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

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 July 22, 2025, REPORT

-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

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter dated July 23, 2025, to a candidate for ministry outlining the examination procedures of the Commission on Ministry (COM).
2. Correspondence, dated July 29, 2025, forwarding the minimum terms of call for 2026, to be considered by the COM.
3. A letter dated August 21, 2025, to a minister member, enquiring about possible association with A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, (ECO) congregation.
4. A letter dated August 22, 2025, to the Trustees, requesting their signatures on a resolution facilitating the sale of the Presbyterian Center, Portsmouth.
5. A letter dated August 26, 2025, from a minister member providing an explanation for possible association with the ECO.
6. A letter dated September 3, 2025, to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of James City County-Williamsburg, requesting that a minister member be registered as a marriage officiant.
7. A letter dated September 8, 2025, forwarding a designated pastor litany, to a minister member.
8. Correspondence dated September 15, 2025, to the Presbytery's business manager forwarding the terms of call for the General Presbyter.
9. Correspondence dated September 16, 2025, to the clerks of session of the presbytery forwarding the annual terms of call reporting form.
10. A letter dated September 16, 2025, to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of York County-Poquoson, requesting that a minister member be registered as a marriage officiant.
11. A letter dated September 16, 2025, to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Virginia Beach City, requesting that a minister member be registered as a marriage officiant.
12. A letter dated September 16, 2025, to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, requesting that a minister member be registered as a marriage officiant.
13. A certification letter dated September 24, 2025, to Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc., Association of Professional Chaplains, on behalf of a minister member.
14. A letter dated September 24, 2025, to the Thalhimer Real Estate Company, Virginia Beach, concerning the sale of 801 Loudoun Avenue, Portsmouth.
15. Correspondence dated September 24, 2025, to the Great Bridge Church pastor nominating committee providing statistical information.
16. Correspondence dated September 25, 2025, with the office administrator of King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach, concerning session records.
17. Correspondence dated September 29, 2025, with a potential minister member.

D. 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.

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

Reports:

1. Report and Minutes of the Commission to Ordain **Mary V. Brown.**

By appointment of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, the Commission to Ordain Mary V. Brown, KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, met at KirkWood Presbyterian Church on September 21, 2025, at 3:30 pm. Members present at the meeting, and the service, were the Reverend Dr. **Melissa Sumner Long**, General Presbyter and moderator of the Commission, the Reverend **Charles M. Tucker**, the Reverend Dr. **Christian R. Shearer**, the Reverend **L. Monica Gould**, Ruling Elder (RE) **Charles Reece** (KirkWood), and Ruling Elder **Susan Despinis**, (Stone House).

A quorum being present, Dr. Long opened the meeting with prayer. Ruling Elder Reece was elected Clerk.

The Commission approved the order of worship and arrangements as printed in the bulletin and then joined and participated in a service of worship with the congregation. There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was declared adjourned by the moderator and closed with prayer by Candidate Brown.

The Call to Worship and the Call to Confession and the Assurance of Pardon was led by Dr. Long. The prayer for illumination was offered by RE Charles Reece. The Scripture was read by RE Susan Despinis.

Dr. Shearer preached a sermon titled "From Servant to Leader" based on Romans 12:3-8 and II Timothy 1:1-18. The Profession of Faith, and the Apostle's Creed was led by Dr. Long. The Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant was led by Dr. Shearer. The constitutional questions were asked of the candidate by the moderator. These being answered in the affirmative, Mary V. Brown was ordained by the Presbytery with prayer by Reverend Gould and the laying on of hands. The moderator, Dr. Long, made the statement of ordination

Rev. Tucker delivered the charge to the newly ordained minister.

The symbols of ministry were presented by Ruling Elders Despinis and Reece.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered by Dr. Shearer and the Reverend Mary V. Brown.

The Commission extended the right hand of fellowship to the newly ordained minister. The service was concluded with a statement and the benediction pronounced by the Reverend Mary V. Brown.

/s/ the Reverend Dr. Melissa Sumner Long, moderator of the Commission

/s/ Ruling Elder Charles Reece, clerk of the Commission

2. The Administrative Commission (AC) to Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, VA.

The Reverend **Andrew P. Whitehead**

The Reverend **Pamela D. Hrncir**

Ruling Elder **Sarah Houghland** (Hiddenwood)

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' finances for the Session and the church's Finance Committee, and to assure compliance with *Book of Order*.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

- To meet with the Session and learn about financial concerns for the congregation.
- Review all financial records and assist the Session and Treasurer of Stone House Presbyterian Church to resolve financial issues and obligations and help them to determine the congregation's sustainability.
- To call a congregational meeting to inform members about the situation and hear their concerns about the church's financial situation.
- Report and make recommendations to the congregation and Presbytery based on the results of their inquiries and efforts to resolve concerns.
- If the Commission determines that the Session is no longer able or is unwilling to manage their fiduciary responsibilities, the Commission shall report to Presbytery Council for permission to be authorized to assume original jurisdiction with any and all powers of the Session that it deems necessary, including acting as trustees.

[Back to table of contents](#)

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL
Report to Presbytery
Ruling Elder **Joyce Melvin-Jones**, moderator
October 28, 2025

Members: Rev. Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg** (Vice Moderator), Rev. Dr. **Christina M. B. Carrasco** (Moderator), Rev. **Brian H. Harroff**, RE **Charity Houghton** (Wythe), RE **Joyce Melvin-Jones** - Council Moderator (Carver Memorial), Rev. **Martha E. Mitchell**, Rev. **Emma L. Ouellette**, RE **Clyde Parker** (Community Portsmouth), RE **Dianne F. Schoonover** (Yorkminster), Stated Clerk **Q. John Tamm** (First, Virginia Beach), Rev. Dr. **Melissa S. Long**, General Presbyter.

RECOMMENDATION to Presbytery: The Presbytery Council **RECOMMENDS** to the Presbytery the following:

1. MOTION: That the Presbytery elect RE **Q. John Tamm** as Stated Clerk for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2026.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

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.*

2. MOTION: That the Presbytery approve the published 2026 Budget with expenses of \$746,340 including a 3.0 % increase for personnel. Budgeted income from church pledges, gifts and other sources totals \$590,100 and use of approximately \$100,000 of unrestricted investment income, as necessary. The goal for church pledges and gifts is \$594,200 in line with actual pledges in 2025.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

3. MOTION: That the Presbytery elect 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)

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

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

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

NARRATIVE REPORT AND ACTIONS

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 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

[Back to table of contents](#)

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to the Presbytery

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

October 28, 2025

Members: Elder **Leslie Brooks** (Hiddenwood), Rev. Dr. **Michael T. Condrey**, Elder **Robin Cowherd** (1st Norfolk), Rev. **Clark DeSarro-Raynal**, Rev. Dr. **Wilbur C. Douglass, III**, Rev. **L. Monica Gould**, Rev. **Elizabeth M. "Beth" Hilkerbaumer**, Elder **Roxie O. Holder** (New Horizons), Elder **Tom Holt** (1st Hampton), Rev. **Pamela D. Hrnir**, Elder **Bruce Knight** (KirkWood), Rev. Dr. **Melissa S. Long**, General Presbyter, Rev. **Lyndsey Marie McCall-Gilliam**, Elder **David McKercher** (St. Andrew), Rev. **Catherine Hart Monroe**, Elder **Yvette Myrick** (1st United), Rev. **Jaechul "Jay" Pi**, Elder **Gail Pittman** (1st Portsmouth), Rev. Dr. **Christian R. Shearer**, Elder **Q. John Tamm** (1st VAB) Stated Clerk, Rev. **Veronica M. Thomas**, Rev. **Charles M. Tucker** (Moderator), Rev. Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**, Elder **Kenneth Wheeler** (Providence), and Elder **Marcy Wright**, (Carver Memorial)

MINISTERS TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE PRESBYTERY

The Reverend **Geneviève Beauchamp**, designated pastor, Francis Makemie Church, Accomac and Naomi Makemie Church, Onancock.

The Reverend **Mary V. Brown**, covenant associate pastor, KirkWood Church, Yorktown.

The Reverend **Kailey N. Stephens**, associate pastor, King's Grant Church, Virginia Beach.

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

1. **Motion:** That the Presbytery sustain 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 Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

2. **Motion:** That 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 Made _____ **Approved** _____ **Disapproved** _____

3. ***Motion:** The Committee on Ministry recommends 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 elder 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 (USA) Church.

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.*

We understand there are real barriers. Younger elders often juggle full-time work, parenting, caregiving, and other demands that make weekday meetings difficult. Finding younger Presbyterians willing to serve on a church session is already difficult in many congregations— asking them to also attend a Presbytery meeting can feel like an even steeper hill to climb.

We name that reality not as a failure, but as a sign of where we are in the life of the church. These challenges deserve creativity and thoughtful discernment. But we also know this: we cannot address them without the very voices we're hoping to engage.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

- 4. *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:

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 can not 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.

[Back to table of contents](#)

Andrea Wood, Candidate for Ordination Statement of Faith October 2025

I am a sinner redeemed by God's grace. I believe that the Holy Scriptures are the infallible word of God, through which He has revealed to us His perfect Triune nature. God created the heavens and the earth and is sovereign over His creation. He chose to make himself known to His people throughout our history. God speaks to us through messengers, prophets, and the Holy Spirit. He has made a covenant relationship with His people. God is an eternal being who holds power over the universe, yet this same power cares deeply for me and desires to be in relationship with me. God the Father is merciful, good, and true. In all forms, God is love.

God condescended to live amongst us on the Earth in human form as Jesus. Jesus' birth, death, and messianic mission were foretold by the old prophets. Fully human and fully divine, he lived a human life with its full range of feelings. His life was without sin and he forgave the sins of others. Jesus knew and trusted Scripture. He was a perfect teacher, religious leader, friend, and healer. Jesus saw people's dignity beyond their difficult circumstances and spoke truth to power, calling out the religious hypocrites of his time. This challenge resulted in accusations of blasphemy and sedition which ultimately brought about his gruesome death on the cross. Through Jesus' incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, God redeemed the world and set me free from the burden of my sins.

The Holy Spirit is present in Scripture from the beginning of creation to the beginnings of the Church. The Spirit plays an active role in the lives of believers, bestowing various gifts for individual edification and to equip the Body of Christ for its mission. After Jesus' ascension, The Advocate appeared prominently to help, guide, and instruct us. I feel the Holy Spirit in moments of intuition and, as Paul writes in Ephesians, as "the most intimate part" of my life, a gift that I should not take for granted. The Holy Spirit is the Triune person who gives life to the Church.

The Church is a community of believers who worship God, fellowship together, study the Word, and proclaim the message of salvation. The mission of the church is to care for the poor, extend hospitality to the stranger, share the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world, and build up the fellowship of believers. The Scriptures give us two sacraments: one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and the observance of the Lord's Supper, in which we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. The Scriptures often reference Jesus praying and we continue to pray with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. Prayer is an act of devotion and offers a way to be in relationship with God.

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"(Matt. 7:11). In this statement referencing prayer, Jesus also points to the sinful state of humanity which separates us from God's holiness. Unfortunately, evil exists in this world in human, systemic, and spiritual forms. These forces of evil work against God's goodness. However, we need not live in despair of this broken world because we have hope in Jesus' second coming. We anxiously await the day when he will return to judge humanity and triumph over evil, ushering in a new heaven and a new Earth. Amen!

Andrea Wood My Faith Journey October 2025

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water

It has taken me time to fully accept the calling God has given me as a sinner forgiven by His grace. A few years ago, my family and I visited the baptismal font where I was christened in Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harare, Zimbabwe. As I pondered the font, I recalled that long before I had felt any kind of ministerial calling, I had once heard my dad being asked if he had thought that I would grow up to be a naval aviator. His response surprised me: no, he thought that I would be a missionary. This was the first time I remember feeling that someone had seen something in me that I was yet to see. In a sense, my family's lineage of

missionaries and ministers in southern Africa had preordained me for kingdom work. It probably came as little surprise to the people in my life when I shared that I felt a call to ministry after having spent over ten years in the US Navy; this despite having made the now laughable declaration that "I could never be a pastor."

My parents immigrated to the United States from Zimbabwe when I was seven years old and we moved to a tiny town in rural, central Florida. The heartland – with citrus trees and pickup trucks, but no Presbyterian Church. Instead, I grew up in the United Methodist Church, where I was active singing in the children's choir, serving as an acolyte, and enjoyed church camp, confirmation classes, and youth groups. A friend reminded me that during my high school years, particularly following my grandmother's death, I sometimes described myself as being agnostic. I am aware I went through this period of doubting God, but I have no recollection of how I came out of it. I can only surmise that, through His grace, He renewed my trust at some point.

Later, at Vanderbilt University, I joined Campus Crusade for Christ and attended non-denominational churches for a time. During flight school, I went back to the United Methodist Church in several different duty stations across Florida, but I was not very involved in the life of the church other than attending worship on Sundays. While deployed, I participated in a Bible study group on my small ship and was introduced to The Message translation of the Bible, which came to be a key part of my Scripture reading. When my best friend was killed in a helicopter crash, I felt angry with God for not having given us the chance to say goodbye to Allison, but I did not doubt His existence. In a dark space of grief, I felt lifted up by what I felt at the time were people's prayers.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Years later, while stationed in Norfolk, I made my way back to the Presbyterian Church by happenstance – a recommendation from my sister who had started attending First Presbyterian Church. When I began attending regularly, the church was just starting a challenge to read through the Bible in 90 days. I remember discounting it at first, thinking that there was no way I could set aside an hour a day for reading because I was so busy with my new role on the USS WASP (LHD-1). As I sat in the congregation, something compelled me to sign up for the challenge. I realized that, although I had grown up in the church, I had only read a small portion of the Bible.

It took me twice the advertised amount of time to complete the reading, but I did not feel discouraged. I would get to work early and read in the parking lot. Any spare time I had underway or in port on the ship, I would read my Bible. I read while on temporary training in other places. I was holding an actual book in my hands, and it turned out to be a great tool of evangelism because people are curious and often would ask me what I was reading. I remember a flight attendant lounging poolside, when she saw me reading my Bible intently and said, "I am always looking for a good book . . . maybe I should read the Good Book." Ultimately, I finished every word from Genesis to Revelation in 180 days.

Those 180 days were spiritually transformative. They transformed my view of God – whom I had once perceived as the angry, vengeful God of the Old Testament – by bringing into relief the beautiful arc of the whole biblical narrative of forgiveness, redemption, and restoration. I saw my own reflection in the story of the Israelites. As the Israelites continuously floundered, erred, and apologized, I saw repeated repentance and forgiveness from their Creator. Reading the Word brought me into a relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit that I could tangibly feel. The only way I can describe this experience is to say it was as if I was reborn. I felt on fire for Jesus, and this passion renewed my involvement in worship and events at First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk.

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation

I left the Navy to pursue a master's degree in African Peace and Conflict Studies thinking that I would go into policy or NGO work after graduating. It was near the end of this program when, to my surprise, I started feeling God nudging me toward Navy chaplaincy. Much to the bewilderment of my dissertation supervisor at the time, I transitioned directly into pursuing a Master of Divinity at Yale Divinity School and began my journey toward ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). At Divinity School, I had the privilege to serve as a student chapel minister for daily worship services in Marquand Chapel. These services draw inspiration from many different denominations and worship music. I loved this work and attending the chapel services. I learned that I really enjoy planning worship and now I feel called in the liturgical space for curating worship that engages people in different ways, inviting each person to meet Jesus afresh each week.

After graduating from Divinity School, I moved with my husband and our then six-month-old son to Ethiopia for five years. We accompanied my husband for his humanitarian work with USAID. It was also a joy to welcome our second son during these years. While living in Addis Ababa, it was a wonderful experience to be immersed in a society made up largely of pious Christian believers. The city's rhythms and tones ebb and flow based on the Orthodox Christian calendar, with high holidays featuring throngs of people clad in traditional white garments surging through the streets on the way to attend services. I particularly treasured my time in fellowship with a small group of ladies during a weekly Bible study. I was also honored to be invited to join the preaching team at Redeemer International Congregation, a diverse group of predominantly missionary families from many different countries and backgrounds.

Since leaving Ethiopia, I have spent the last year in Oxford in the United Kingdom where my husband is pursuing his doctorate. This time in Oxford has allowed me to experience another expression of Christian worship and pilgrimage, steeped in the Church of England parlance of matins and evensong and gorgeous choral music, sacred spaces, and resplendent pipe organs.

*I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy
of the calling to which you have been called*

My faith journey began long before I was held above the stone font in that A-frame church in southern Africa where the congregation claimed me as a beloved child and a member of the church. My cloud of ancestral witnesses and a faith undergirded through generations set a firm foundation for me. I step forward in gratitude, eager to serve Christ's church in the ministry to which He has called me.

PCUSA PEVA Chaplain Support

In an effort to better support the military chaplains within the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia membership as well as Presbyterian Chaplains serving within our boundaries, PEVA seeks to do the following:

1. Pray for and with our chaplains
2. Continue to seek out what is a need for our chaplains by being in relationship with them.
3. Working with groups such as Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies to offer support as needed.
4. Provide ongoing print offerings through social media, web sites, and newsletters to educate members of PEVA about the different roles held by chaplains (branches, VA hospitals, national guard, and prison ministry).
5. To cultivate and educate members of PEVA about the roles of chaplains, discernment for possible vocational calls to chaplaincy, and relationship building with chaplains and their families.
6. To make pastoral support available.

What could support look like?

- Monthly communication from GP offering prayer-this can be in the form of calls, emails, cards, etc.
- Financial support from PEVA to encourage chaplains to take advantage of retreats and continuing education offered through PFC and other organizations.
- Offering support for chaplains and their families prior to, during, and following deployment by helping connect to local churches for relationship building and community.
- Offering support for chaplains to care for their flock beyond what is available through the military but may be helpful for the chaplains to offer ministry.

**FIRST READING OF PROPOSED MOTION TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE 144th Meeting (January 24, 2026)**

September 2, 2025

From: the Reverend Dr. Lyndsey McCall-Gilliam and RE Q. John Tamm, Stated Clerk

To: Commission on Ministry

Subject: Supporting Small Churches with Pastoral Leadership

Out of deep love for our smaller congregations—and in response to their need for consistent pastoral leadership that will preach, care, and help cast vision for the future—the Presbytery commits to making a significant investment in their vitality.

The Presbytery currently has assets of more than \$10 million invested with New Covenant and the Presbyterian Foundation. We propose setting aside \$1 million from these reserves in a dedicated account to support small congregations in calling and sustaining pastoral leadership.

This initiative will specifically address one of the greatest financial barriers facing small churches: the cost of Board of Pensions dues (pension, death and disability, and health insurance), which in 2025 total \$28,700 for a pastor with family coverage. For many congregations, these dues make it nearly impossible to call or sustain pastoral leadership—even when they can afford a salary.

Currently, 14 congregations in our Presbytery lack stable pastoral leadership, either operating with pulpit supply or with part-time temporary pastors. Without consistent pastoral presence, congregations remain stuck in cycles of instability. By covering Board of Pensions dues, the Presbytery hopes to break this cycle—ensuring congregations can have shepherds to walk with them, discern God’s call for the next season of ministry, and guide them toward sustainable futures.

Eligibility

- Congregations with 100 members or fewer are eligible to apply.
- Pastoral calls supported through this fund will be made as two-year designated pastorates, with the possibility of renewal subject to demonstrated vitality & viability discerned with COM, the availability of Presbytery funds, and the mutual agreement of all parties.
- Ministers serving under this initiative must be trained in transitional or interim ministry or, if not already trained, commit to completing transitional ministry training within the first three months of their pastorate.

The purpose of this initiative is not to create long-term dependence on Presbytery funds, but to mobilize congregations for stability and growth, giving them an intentional window of time to plan faithfully for their future. The expectation is that, at the conclusion of the designated period, congregations will either (1) have developed the capacity for long-term sustainability, (2) entered into a viable partnership with other churches, or (3) faithfully discerned other pathways forward in their ministry.

Three Pathways of Participation

Pathway A – Strengthening a Single Congregation

- For congregations (≤ 100 members) that can fund salary but not benefits.

Pathway B – Partnerships in Shared Ministry

- For two or more congregations (≤ 100 members each) willing to partner in pastoral leadership.

Pathway C – Creative Collaboration for the Future

- For any congregation ready to explore new ministry models beyond traditional calls. Let's have a conversation!

Motion:

That the Presbytery establishes a Small Church Leadership Fund of \$1 million, drawn from reserves, to be used to cover the full Board of Pensions dues for small congregations seeking pastoral leadership.

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

[Back to table of contents](#)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
Report to Presbytery
Elder **Linda Marley Smith**, moderator
October 28, 2025

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

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

Moderator of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

The Reverend Dr. Garrett B. Bugg

Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Commissioned Pastor Sidnia B. Etherington (Lafayette)

Council Moderator

The Reverend Dr. Chirstina Marie B. Carrasco

Treasurer of the Presbytery of Eastern VA, Inc.

Ruling Elder Pax Goodson (Hilton)

PEVA Board of Trustees Class of 2029

The Reverend Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura (Class of 2029)

Presbytery Council Class of 2029

The Reverend Brian H. Harroff

The Reverend Martha Elizabeth Mitchell

Commission on Ministry

Class of 2028

Ruling Elder Karen Harris (First Church, Virginia Beach)

Class of 2029

The Reverend Clark DeSarro-Raynal

The Reverend Laura M. Carihfield

The Reverend Leigh B. Gillis

The Reverend Valena M. Hoy

CP Laura Chuquin-Naylor (Powelton)

Ruling Elder Linda Ricker (Jamestown)

Ruling Elder Kenneth Wheeler (Providence)

Ruling Elder Marcy Wright (Carver Memorial)

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2027

Ruling Elder Sandra G. Burton (New Horizons)

Class of 2029

Ruling Elder Alice T. "Lisa" Cross (St. Andrew)

The Reverend Carter Melvin Jones

Permanent Judicial Commission Class of 2032

The Reverend Dr. Michael T. Condrey
The Reverend Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal
Ruling Elder George S. Wong, MD (Bayside)

Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly

The Reverend Michelle D. "Mike" Burcher
The Reverend Clark DeSarro-Raynal
Ruling Elder Dianne Foster Schoonover (Yorkminster)
Ruling Elder Duane Boone (Carver Memorial)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

TBD

Alternate Commissioners

The Reverend Boone D. Clayton
Ruling Elder Yvette Young Myrick (First United)

SYNOD of the Mid-Atlantic

Committee on Representation (COR) Class of 2028

The Reverend Boone D. Clayton

Permanent Judicial Commission Class of 2029

The Reverend Leigh B. Gillis

Commissioner to SYNOD assemblies

The Reverend Virginia Snyder Cambell

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 2026, The Reverend Dr. **Michael T. Condrey** Class of 2026, CP **Sidnia "Sid" Etherington** Class of 2027, Ruling Elder **Mike Fore** (KirkWood) Class of 2027, the Reverend **Linda K. Rainey** Class of 2027, and Ruling Elder **Linda Marley Smith** (Simonsdale) Class of 2026, 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.

[Back to table of contents](#)

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY TEAM (CVT)
The Reverend **Joel Matthew Phillips**, Moderator
Report to the Presbytery
October 28, 2025

Members: The Reverend Dr. **Garrett B. Bugg**, the Reverend Dr. **Christina M. B. Carrasco**, the Reverend Dr. **Melissa S. "Lissa" Long**, the Reverend **Joel Matthew Phillips**, the Reverend **Eric R. Peltz**, and the Rev. **Nelson Lee Steinert**.

RECOMMENDATION to Presbytery: The Congregational Vitality Team RECOMMENDS to the Presbytery the following:

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

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

ACTION ITEMS: none

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. The CVT is excited about the **Website Improvement Initiative**, or WII (pronounced "weeee!"), and the many church that are now improving or completely revamp their websites AND saving hundreds of dollars. So far, Great Bridge, Community Hampton, Stonehouse, Simonsdale, Kirkwood, Lafayette, First Hampton, Yorkminster, and Suffolk have all had their grants approved, and most are in process of working with our amazing consultant/creative contractor Christen Kinard of Digital Congregations. Does your website need a little tweaking or refreshing? Or does it need a complete overhaul and brand-new look? Go to the PEVA website to get a grant form and improve your church's front door.
2. The CVT helps provide resources and options for all churches in their efforts at stronger vitality. We are here for YOU! Please reach out to any CVT member, or directly to Rev. Joel Phillips, moderator, for help, with questions, or simply to workshop your vitality building ideas.

Check out our full toolkit at <https://www.pcusa-peva.org/congregational-vitality-team-cvt>

[Back to table of contents](#)

PRESBYTERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Trustees)

Ruling Elder (RE) **Lorri Richardson**, (Community Portsmouth), moderator,
and President of PEVA, Inc.
Report to the Presbytery
October 28, 2025

Members: RE **Lorri Richardson** (Community Portsmouth), RE **Sandra Poole**, Treasurer, (St Andrew), RE **Michael Broadhurst** (First Portsmouth), RE **Pax Goodson** (Hilton), Reverend **Donald E. McLean**, Reverend Dr. **John E. Morgan**, **Presbytery Staff:** **Regan Knutson**, Business Administrator, RE **Jessica Fitzgerald**, Administrative Assistant, (Third), Reverend Dr. **Melissa Sumner Long**; General Presbyter, RE **Q. John Tamm**; Stated Clerk, (First VAB) **Presbytery Council Liaison:** Reverend Dr. **Helen Louise "Lou" Ventura**

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 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.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The trustees, council, staff and ministry teams are working on the proposed 2026 Presbytery budget for approval at the October Stated Presbytery meeting. The board is reviewing and potentially consolidating temporary restricted funds.

The trustees also discussed the Makemie Woods Endowment Corpus, which was established to fund campers at Makemie Woods. The trustees are in the process of consulting with the Presbyterian Foundation's endowment experts to determine the necessary paperwork for reassigning the funds and next steps needed and requirements to release funds to a possible like fund and may seek legal counsel if it is needed.

The Trustees have formed a task force to work on a revised small church grant program, suggesting that funds could be set aside to provide capital grants for building maintenance and other large expenses since the small church grant process as it is now if for an emergency basis.

[Back to table of contents](#)

CAMPUS MINISTRY

WESLEY WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION Norfolk State University (NSU)

Report to the Presbytery
October 28, 2025

Westley Westminster Foundation at NSU is a beacon of light for the campus and the community. We strive to provide a safe space for students to grow together in faith. As the Campus Pastor for the past 11 years, I have witnessed the ebbs and flows of ministry and student's spiritual curiosity. And to be honest, the effects of COVID remain. Students are not as open; however, campus ministry does offer an opportunity to share at one's own pace. Our back-to-school cookout was a hit. We had at least 60 students and 30 community members and supporters of Campus Ministry to attend. Good food, games and great fellowship consumed our time together. Our ministry is more than a program—it's a family where students find encouragement, friendship, and a safe haven to grow.

We have a student chosen to attend the Festival of Discernment in Atlanta, Georgia. It is an all expenses paid conference from October 8-11 for young adults. This is a major honor to have one of our student leaders' hand-selected to participate. Not wanting her to travel alone, I applied as a young adult leader and was also selected to attend. While all my expenses are not paid, I will have the opportunity to attend for a fraction of the cost. Students complained of reduced financial aid and needed work-study. Our ministry budget could not support work-study, so I personally agreed to hire two student leaders. The goal is to help students succeed.

For this reason, we offer the house for study groups, individual study time, and prayer as well as Bible Study, game nights, and fellowship hour. Student success and spiritual growth are our hallmarks. This year has been busier than usual with a new football coach and great excitement. We are committed to continually expanding our programs to meet the evolving needs of our students and campus community.

Rev. Dr. Joy Carrington, Director
WWF Campus Ministry at NSU

FLOURISH
Christopher Newport University (CNU)
Report to the Presbytery
October 28, 2025

As I begin my seventh year with Flourish CNU, I am particularly struck by the continuing – and indeed, increasing – need for inclusive, safe, and spiritually nurturing Christian environments like the one we have worked to create and maintain. On a campus of ~6000 students with more than ten active Christian Campus Ministries, we remain the only fully inclusive space wherein all students can fully participate in our ministry – including leadership – regardless of race, background, creed, ability, neurotype, sexual orientation, and gender/gender expression.

I hear stories every semester from students who have been made to feel unwelcome or less-than in other campus ministry environments; those who believed that “church” and anything that looks like it simply wasn’t for them, and who were ready to give up on journeying with Jesus entirely; and also from those who gladly participate in our program but who insist on staying out of photos for fear that their families might see them. And while it breaks my heart, it moreover galvanizes my resolve to ensure that this space remain intact – especially given our current sociopolitical climate.

Our Table Ministry is now almost entirely student-run, with student representatives staffing a table in the Student Union Breezeway for 2 hours twice a week. The table is there to disseminate information about our organization and our programming (and to give out buttons/stickers/etc.) but also as a pastoral presence for the campus, a “listening post” for anyone who just needs someone to talk to.

We have two weekly events: Create Space and Weekly Gathering. Create Space is held on Tuesday evenings and is an open art-therapy space where students have access to a wealth of arts & crafts supplies and are welcome and encouraged to begin or bring any sort of creative endeavors that brings them peace and relaxation. Our Weekly Gathering, held on Wednesday evenings, is a Service of Word and Table which I like to call “so traditional it doesn’t even look like church!” Instead of a traditional worship service, or even a more “contemporary” praise-and-worship service, we gather around a table in an upper (conference) room to pray, read and discuss scripture, and share in Communion together. It is a low-key yet profound service that especially serves our neurodivergent siblings for whom loud & flashy simply doesn’t work.

We do have some special programming planned for this semester/year. We are finalizing plans for an outdoor worship service at a nearby nature park (if this goes well we will surely repeat it), as well as plans for a prayer walk/meditation experience on another nearby trail. We also plan to offer at least one volunteer shift at a local food bank for our students to get off campus, meet others who are doing the good work of feeding the hungry, and even accrue some service hours. We’re also exploring hosting a game night! We hope that these special events will provide some easy-to-entry moments for those who may be interested in our organization but intimidated by worship events.

We (finally) have a website! It is currently found only at <https://flourishcnu.squarespace.com/> but will soon be accessible also via flourishcnu.org (the domain has been purchased; we are in the process of linking everything up). This means, among other things, that folks can make easy online donations to keep this important ministry going.

We remain immensely grateful for the partnership and support of the PCUSA and of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. I am happy to answer any questions or field any comments you may have.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Michael D Burnett Campus Minister, Flourish CNU
flourishcnu@gmail.com

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Report to the Presbytery

The Reverend **Michelle D. “Mike” Burcher**, moderator

October 28, 2025

Members: Rev. **Michelle D. Burcher**, Ruling Elder (RE) **Karen Harris** (1st Virginia Beach),
Rev. **Carter M. Jones**, Rev. **Andrew P. Whitehead**

RECOMMENDATION to Presbytery: The Commission on Preparation for Ministry
RECOMMENDS to the Presbytery the following:

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

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

Narrative Report

We currently have the following Candidates under our care:

	<u>Status Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
1. Carol Bayma	Apr 2012	Dubuque	GD	16	Royster	C. Reece
2. Donna Graves	Sept 2021	Union	GD	24	Carver Mem.	C. Jones
3. Marcy Wright	May 2018	Union	GD	19	Carver Mem.	K. Harris
4. Summer Moore	Sept 2023	G. Conwell	GD	22	2 nd Norfolk	A. Whitehead

We have three candidates ready to receive a call:

	<u>Status Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
1. Donna Herring	June 2018	Union	GD	21	Wmsburg	A. Whitehead
2. Katherine Dickens	Oct 2014	Princeton	GD	17	1st VAB	M. Burcher
3. Andrea A. Wood	Feb. 2016	Yale	GD	19	1 st Norfolk	K. Harris

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

[Back to table of contents](#)

**COMPASSION, PEACE, AND JUSTICE (CPJ) MINISTRIES
PEACEMAKING MINISTRY TEAM**

Report to Presbytery
October 28, 2025

Elder Gerry Ellis (Denbigh United), Moderator

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

*1. **MOTION:** That the Narrative Report of the Peacemaking Ministry Team be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

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.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Greetings and conversation with Rev. Dr. Melissa Long: All present introduced themselves and named the church they attend. The thrust of the conversation, led by Rev. Long, was elaboration on the group's work and ways to improve its effectiveness ("put some air in the tires"). To briefly summarize, discussion touched on bold advocacy initiatives (e.g. trip to Richmond, VA, Washington DC & NYC to visit Office of Public Witness), creating a network of contacts throughout PEVA churches, and using regular PEVA meetings in new opportunities for advocacy such as letter writing or table talks with an emphasis on engagement and sharing work of congregations.

Poverty by America study /PEVA meeting processing and follow up: Break-out session leaders at the July PEVA meeting reported that conversations were energetic and engaging. Since the meeting, individuals have expressed interest in their own churches reading the book. Though the number of people who attended the original three book groups was small, seeds were planted for a wider PEVA involvement.

[Presbyterian Advocacy Hour | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) **A Monthly Online Gathering Fourth Wednesday of Every Month Hosted by the PC(U.S.A.)** The Presbyterian Advocacy Hour brings together committed people of faith every fourth Wednesday of the month to recharge your spirit and empower your advocacy with:

- **Spiritual grounding**
- **In-depth analysis of pressing justice issues**
- **Practical tools for faithful action**

Mark Your Calendars! Join us for the Day for All People on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, in Richmond, VA! We're hoping to have a strong group of PEVA folks attending this inspiring day of advocacy, connection, and action hosted by Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). Let's come together to make our voices heard and support justice and equity especially in and for Virginia. Some key topics that we will be learning about and advocating for are Affordable Housing - Expediting Affordable Housing, Yes in God's Backyard, Funding for affordable housing, Tenant Protections Criminal Justice Reform,

Higher Education in Prison, Restoration of Voting Rights, Safe harbor for pregnant moms struggling with substance abuse, increase access to health providers in schools, Economic Justice/Supporting Working Families, Childcare initiatives of the Virginia Promise Partnership to reduce childcare waitlists for subsidized childcare.

Stay tuned for more details and how you can get involved!

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Report to Presbytery

October 28, 2025

Ruling Elder **Kelvin Jackson**, Co-Chair Moderator

Ruling Elder **Gail Schwartz**, Co-Chair Moderator

Ruling Elder **Jessica A. Fitzgerald**, Hunger Action Advocate

RECOMMENDATION to Presbytery: Hunger **RECOMMENDATION** to Presbytery:

1.*MOTION: The Hunger Ministry Team **RECOMMENDS** 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 brief summary of projects, goals, people reached, and communication means related to the PEVA Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP).

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

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

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

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Approved by email in the month of August a Church Community Hunger Grant for Simondsdale PC (Food Pantry Ministry) in the amount of \$1,000. Simondsdale 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 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 White, 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 Hitlon 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.

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://facing-racism.pcusa.org/item/41901/>), 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
October 28, 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

***1. 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

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

2025 SCHEDULE FOR EXAMINATION OF SESSIONAL RECORDS REVISED JULY 2025

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		
Feb. – Hilton	Aug. – First, VA Beach	Nov. – Wythe
Feb. – Lynnhaven	Aug. – Williamsburg	
May – Frances Makemie	Nov. – Third	
May – Wycliffe	Nov. – Stone House	

2025 Presbytery Meetings

APRIL
JULY
OCTOBER
JANUARY

Letters/Forms Mailed to COS

JANUARY 11
APRIL 15
JULY 12
OCTOBER 11

Deadline for Receipt of Records

FEBRUARY 16
MAY 15
AUGUST 16
NOVEMBER 15

Committee Review Date

MARCH 10
JUNE 09
SEPTEMBER 08
DECEMBER 08

[Back to table of contents](#)

**OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE
PRESBYTERY MINISTRY TEAMS AND COMMITTEES**

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 _____

_____ Ruling Elder _____ Teaching Elder _____ Congregation Member

Racial/Ethnic Designation: _____

Age: _____ Under 24 _____ 24-35 _____ 36-45 _____ 46-55 _____ 56-64 _____ 65 & over

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, MARK WHAT INTERESTS YOU TO SERVE ON AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE PEVA STATED CLERK, EMAIL jtamm@pcusa-peva.org AND OR FAX 757-397-7246.

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

- _____ BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- _____ COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)
- _____ COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION (COR)
- _____ COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)
- _____ CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY (CVT)
- _____ COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE (CPJ) - HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM
- _____ COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE (CPJ) - PEACEMAKING MINISTRY TEAM
- _____ COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE (CPJ) - (Creation Care/Eco Justice Interest)
- _____ COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE (CPJ) - (Systemic Poverty Interest)
- _____ COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE (CPJ) - RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM
- _____ PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC)
- _____ NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
- _____ SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE
- _____ YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAYA)
- _____ OTHER _____

Please write it in

 [Back to table of contents](#)