



PEVA PACKET
142nd STATED MEETING
"Civil Engagement in a Divided Nation"
Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:00 am
Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church, Newport News, 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	10-12
Compassion Peace and Justice (CPJ)	13-19
Hunger Team	13-14
Peacemaking Team	14
Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawkins Bio	15
Poverty by America Flyer	16-17
Poverty by America Reviews	18
Why Land Acknowledgement	19
Commission on Ministry (COM)	20-23
Mary Brown - Faith Statement	21
Mary Brown - Faith Journey	21-22
BOP Summer Newsletter	23
Presbytery Council	24-26
General Presbyter Covenant	25-26
Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	27
Presbytery Board of Trustees	28-29
Sessional Records	30
Opportunity to Serve (also posted as a separate document)	31



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 aged 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:** Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church, Newport News, telephone number 757-596-1151, no later than Thursday, July 17, 2025.

2. NOTE TIME - MEETING BEGINS AT **10:00 A.M** on July 22, 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, July 17, 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**: Lafayette, Holmes, First Hampton, Yorkminster, Wycliffe, Jamestown, Francis Makemie, Providence, Knox, and Great Bridge.

12. NEXT STATED MEETING: The next stated meeting of the Presbytery is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Princess Anne**, 2228 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, telephone 757-427-6478.

 [Back to table of contents](#)

DIRECTIONS

Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church
414 Hiddenwood Boulevard, Newport News VA 23606
(Telephone 757-596-1151)

- ** From Peninsula** – Take I64 to exit 258 A, J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News. This exit is westbound. Follow J. Clyde Morris Boulevard to Warwick Avenue and turn right. Travel approximately 3/4 of a mile to Hiden Boulevard and turn left. Travel west on Hiden Boulevard to 414 Hiden Boulevard. Church is on the right at the intersection with North Madison Lane.
- ** 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. Go through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. Take I64 to exit 258 A, J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News. This exit is westbound. Follow J. Clyde Morris Boulevard to Warwick Avenue and turn right. Travel approximately 3/4 of a mile to Hiden Boulevard and turn left. Travel west on Hiden Boulevard to 414 Hiden Boulevard. The church is on the right at the intersection with North Madison Lane.
- ** 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. Go through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. Take I64 to exit 258 A, J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News. This exit is westbound. Follow J. Clyde Morris Boulevard to Warwick Avenue and turn right. Travel approximately 3/4 of a mile to Hiden Boulevard and turn left. Travel west on Hiden Boulevard to 414 Hiden Boulevard. Church is on the right at the intersection with North Madison Lane.
- ** From Zuni, Franklin, Suffolk, Chesapeake** – Take US 258, State Route 32, or I664 to US 17 North, the James River Bridge. Cross the James River Bridge, northbound, and take the US 60 ramp, downtown—Newport News. Stay to the left on the ramp and take the left fork. Turn left on US 60, Warwick Boulevard. Travel approximately 4.5 miles to Hiden Boulevard and turn left. Travel west on Hiden Boulevard to 414 Hiden Boulevard. The church is on the right at the intersection with North Madison Lane.

MapQuest Directions:

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

 [Back to table of contents](#)

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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Give them a hearing...
listen before we answer</i>

<i>(John 7:15 & Proverbs 18:13)</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>We will keep our communications open for candid and forthright exchange.</i>• <i>We will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.</i>2. Learn about various positions in the topic of disagreement.3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other. <hr/> |
| <i>Speak the truth in love</i>

<i>(Ephesians 4:15)</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>We will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.</i>6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns. <hr/> |
| <i>Maintain the unity of the
spirit in the bond of peace</i>

<i>(Ephesians 4:3)</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>We will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.</i> <p>Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Urge people of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously.</i>• <i>Seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement.</i>• <i>Be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience.</i>• <i>Abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these Guidelines.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all. |

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

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

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

At the same time, conflicts can be an opportunity for new insights, learning, and individual and corporate growth. Disagreements can illuminate a topic in helpful ways and can present solutions to problems which previously had not been seen. 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. *The moderator* recognizes the 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. (The 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 the 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 debate ability. 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 obliged 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

142nd STATED MEETING

"Civil Engagement in a Divided Nation"

Tuesday, July 22, at 10:00 am

Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church, Newport News, VA

Offering is for the Foodbanks of
Southeastern Virginia, the Peninsula, and the Eastern Shore
<https://abundant.co/peva/july2025>

SCAN ME



Check in at 9 am

Call to Order, Opening Prayer (10 am)

The Rev. Dr. **Christina "Chris" 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 **Gerry Ellis** (Denbigh United)

Welcome to Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church

The Rev. **Andrew Whitehead**

Call To Worship

Hymn

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

(GTG 317)

Confession/Assurance

Scripture

Isaiah 58: 1-12
Matthew 23: 23-24

Sermon "God Calls Us to Be Repairers of the Breach"

The Rev. **Jimmie Ray Hawkins**
Office of Public Witness/
Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

Prayers of Intercession

Offertory

The Foodbanks of Southeastern Virginia, the Peninsula, and the Eastern Shore

Hymn During Offering

"For Everyone Born"

(GTG 769)

Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

(GTG 608)

Presentation of Gifts/Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Compassion Peace and Justice Ministries The Rev. **Leigh Gillis** and the Rev. Hawkins

Introduction of and dismissal to *Poverty by America* breakout sessions

Lunch Break

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. **Charles Tucker**, moderator

Examination for ordination – Candidate Mary Brown

Presbytery Council

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

Good News

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

Unfinished Business

New Business

Affirmation of Faith from the Belhar Confession

Commissioning Prayer

Hymn

"One Foot/Lead with Love"

by Melanie Demore

Blessing and Adjournment

Dr. Carrasco, Moderator

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



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CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

July 22, 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** [pages 10-12] 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.

***COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES (CPJ)** [pages13-19]

- ***HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM** [pages13-14] That RECOMMENDATION#1 be approved: that the narrative report of the Hunger Ministry Team be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.
- ***PEACEMAKING MINISTRY TEAM**[pages 14-19] 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.

***COMMISSION ON MINISTRY** [pages 20-22] That RECOMMENDATIONS #1 and #2 be considered at the time of the meeting, and #3 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.

***PRESBYTERY COUNCIL** [pages 23-25] That RECOMMENDATIONS #1, be considered at the time of the meeting. That RECOMMENDATIONS #2 be approved: the establishment of an Administrative Commission at Stone House, and #3 be approved: that the Presbytery receive the actions taken by the Presbytery Council as reported in the Narrative Report and that they be printed in the minutes of this meeting

***COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** [page 26] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: that the narrative report, be received and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.

***PRESBYTERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES** [pages 27-28] 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.

***SESSION RECORDS REVIEW** [page 29] That RECOMMENDATION #1 be approved: That the Presbytery receive the report for the Second 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
July 22, 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 501-1000 members (2 elders each) – First Virginia Beach, Great Bridge, Williamsburg
Racial Ethnic Churches (2 elders each) – Carver Memorial, Community Portsmouth, First United, New Horizons
Churches authorized additional elder based on number of pastors (less than 501 members) – Bayside, Denbigh United, 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 July 1, 2025, there were 106 minister members, less 5 honorably retired ministers who had not attended meetings for the past two years for a total of 101 ministers. Sessions are entitled to send a total of 59 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 73 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 April 29, 2025, REPORT

-Ordained: None

-Deceased: None

-Received: None

-Dismissed: The Reverend **Elizabeth Grace "Liza" Hendricks** (with regret) to the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Louisville, KY, as honorably retired.

-Installed: None

-Dissolutions: None

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

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter dated April 21, 2025, from **Samantha E. Lund**, Legal Office Administrator, Office of the General Counsel, Administrative Services Group, Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) (PCUSA), with the annual tax exemption statement for the Presbytery.
2. A letter dated April 30, 2025, to the clerk of session, of Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, thanking the congregation for hosting the 141st Stated Meeting.
3. Correspondence dated May 6, 2025, with a minister member on transferring her membership to the presbytery where she lives.
4. Correspondence dated May 7, 2025, with a clerk of session of a member congregation, forwarding to the clerk a Fair Compensation Manual for year 2025.
5. Correspondence dated May 7, 2025, with a clerk of session of a member congregation, forwarding to the clerk the spread sheet for minimum terms for pastors.
6. Correspondence dated May 13, 2025, forwarding to the President of the Corporation a proposed agreement for sale of 801 Loudoun Avenue, Portsmouth.
7. Correspondence dated May 20, 2025, with a minister member about session meeting procedures.
8. Correspondence dated May 21, 2025, from a candidate for ministry from the Presbytery of the James, enquiring about Presbytery procedures to transfer care to the Commission on Preparation for the Ministry of the Presbytery.
9. Correspondence dated May 21, 2025, to a convener of a transition committee about the designated pastor process.
10. Correspondence dated May 22, 2025, with a minister member about the rotation of members of session committees.
11. Correspondence dated May 24, 2025, with a clerk of session concerning the IRS regulations for multiple church organizations.
12. On May 29, 2025, two letters to the tenants of 1318 W. 49th Street, Norfolk, (the ODU House), advising that the Presbytery is giving them 60 days' notice as to the end of their leases, on July 26, 2025.
13. A letter dated June 2, 2025, titled "Final Communique," the Reverend **Warren J. Lesane, Jr.**, Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, thanked the members of the constituent presbyteries for their ministry with the Synod, as he is honorably retired.
14. Correspondence dated June 2, 2025, to a transition committee convener with a modified designated pastor agreement.
15. A letter dated June 5, 2025, to a potential minister member, of the Presbytery's procedures for examination.
16. Correspondence dated June 16, 2025, to the Reverend **Bronwen Boswell**, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Shenandoah attached copies of the minutes for the stated meetings of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia for year 2024. Also attached was the Checklist for the 2024 Presbytery minute review, the Synod attestation letter dated July 31, 2024, for the 2023-minute review and a copy of the Child and Youth Protection Policy.

17. Correspondence dated June 17, 2025, with the General Counsel and the Presbytery's real estate agent forwarding a modified copy of a purchase agreement for 801 Loudoun Ave., Portsmouth.
18. Correspondence dated June 18, 2025, with a pastor of a member congregation, concerning the procedures of employing a candidate for ministry who is not ordained.
19. Correspondence with the General Presbyter, dated June 18, 2025, forwarding a faith journey submitted by a commissioned pastor.
20. Correspondence dated June 18, 2025, with a minister member in regard to an administrative commission.
21. Correspondence dated June 20, 2025, with a minister member concerning the *Book of Order* requirements for a pastoral dissolution.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

Reports:

*1. Administrative Commission to Knox Church, Norfolk.
 The Reverend Dr. **Jeffrey S. Bell**, moderator,
 RE **Gary Reese**, clerk, (Providence)
 The Reverend **Brian H. Harroff**,
 RE **Michael Broadhurst** (1st Church, Portsmouth)

On December 9, 2024, the Knox Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission (AC) assumed original jurisdiction with the full powers of the Knox Presbyterian Church (KPC) session.

On the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry the following motion is made.

MOTION: That the Administrative Commission call the congregation to meet on June 29, 2025, for the purpose of reestablishing the Session of Knox Presbyterian Church in accordance with Book of Order G-3.02 and returning original jurisdiction to that body. The Session will conduct business under the guidance of the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. By this action the Administrative Commission be dissolved with the sincerest thanks and appreciation of the Presbytery.

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

D. JUDICIAL

In accordance with the Book of Order, D-5.0206b, the roster of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the past six years are listed for use in constituting a quorum when necessary.

Class of 2024

The Reverend **Deborah D. Dail**
 The Reverend Dr. **James Skimins**

 [Back to table of contents](#)

COMPASSION PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES (CPJ)

HUNGER MINISTRY TEAM

Report to Presbytery

July 22, 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:

*1. **MOTION:** That the NARRATIVE REPORT of the Hunger Ministry Team be received by the Presbytery and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

NARRATIVE REPORT

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

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

2025 PEVA WIDE CEREAL CAMPAIGN: The goal for 2025 bowls in 2025 has been reached! PEVA Collected 3,001 servings of cereal, oatmeal, and grits in May and June of 2025. Children who rely on free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch at school often go without enough to eat during the summer at home. You and your church can step up to the bowl by collecting cereal and oatmeal, and grits to provide breakfast for children throughout Hampton Roads. Special thanks to those churches and individuals that participated.

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

- **Hiddenwood PC** – Hiddenwood holds a blood drive once a month. Their next drive is July 15, from noon – 6 pm. Hiddenwood also runs a Food Closet Ministry. They receive referrals from the [United Way of the Virginia Peninsula's First Call program](#). Hiddenwood is entirely dependent on donations from the congregation, and their preschool donates peanut butter and jelly as an offering during their chapel time twice monthly. Hiddenwood's Mission Committee purchases perishables for holiday meals and keeps the food pantry stocked with staples. They have an annual Rise Against hunger multicultural event that packs 100,000 meals.
- **Hilton PC** – Hilton's volunteers helped their neighbors at Hilton Baptist Church by serving dinner at their community dinner and open pantry, on June 27. They are lending a loving hand on July 27 and August 29 also. Hilton PC collects non-perishable food items year-round and gives them to partner local organizations such as [Virginia Peninsula Foodbank](#) and [THRIVE](#). Hilton PC volunteers give their time to THRIVE's market especially for the market late hours. The Market is a free grocery-style food pantry where you choose all your own items including fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods. It is open to residents of Newport News, Hampton, Yorktown, and Poquoson. There are no income limits for the market; however, residents are restricted to just one visit every 30 days. Did you know that THRIVE helps clients apply for SNAP (food stamps), Childcare Assistance, Medicaid and other benefits?

- **Denbigh United PC** – Denbigh United held a “clothing & more” giveaway for their community on May 25. Many volunteers came together to make this event a success. Not only are they helping those that need it, but they are also making an impact on the environment. That unwanted clothing found a new home and did not end up in the landfill! Their next event will be Sunday, August 17, 2025. On May 5, several DUPC faithful volunteers provided snacks and drinks to the students at CNU during their stressful exams. DUPC also collected diapers for [ECHO Family Care Partners](#).

Peacemaking Ministry Team

Report to Presbytery

July 22, 2025

Elder **Gerry Ellis**, Moderator

Peacemaking **RECOMMENDATIONS** to Presbytery:

1.*MOTION: That the action of the Peacemaking Ministry Team and the narrative report be received and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

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

ACTION(S) TAKEN:

- **Grant Application Carver Memorial PC:** The Community Ministries Grant Application for Carver’s Summer Theater Camp Project 2025 was reviewed. All present praised the project from previous years. Elder David McKercher moved, and Rev. Leigh B. Gillis seconded approval of the requested \$7,000 in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously.

NARRATIVE REPORT:

- The committee continued working on the details of the July 22, 2025, PEVA meeting covering Rev. **Jimmie Ray Hawkins’** (New Hope) visit, breakout group facilitators, and questions for breakout group conversations.
- The committee was encouraged by Elder **Claudette Gravely** to consider a more inclusive approach to advocacy rather than focusing on a single issue. We will discuss it at future meetings.

 [Back to table of contents](#)

The Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawking biography



Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawkins serves as Mission Director of the advocacy offices of the Presbyterian Church (USA): Washington Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (NYC).

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC); a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, VA); and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center/Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Atlanta, GA).

For twenty years he served as the pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC, 1996 - 2016. Between 1992 - 1996, he served as the senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Holmes Memorial and Trinity Presbyterian churches in Virginia (Peaks Presbytery).

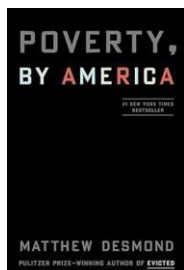
He served on the boards of Church World Service, the National Council of Churches and Union Presbyterian Seminary. He has chaired several interfaith /ecumenical and non-profit boards: NC NAACP Executive Committee, Durham Congregations in Action, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham, Housing for New Hope (homeless advocacy), End Poverty Now, and others. He served as a tri-chair for the Washington Interreligious Staff Committee (WISC) and the Heads of Washington Office (HOWO).

His community ministry includes being a leader for the Moral Monday Movement since its onset in 2013, as well as with the Poor People's Campaign. He has engaged in four acts of civil disobedience protesting voter suppression, lack of healthcare and for a living wage. He is the author of two books, *Unbroken and Unbowed* (2022) and *The Shaping of Black Identities* (2025), both published by Westminster John Knox Press.

He is the son of the late Elsie L. and James P. Hawkins and is married to Sheinita Hampton Hawkins. They have two children: Kaela Renee and James Hampton.

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Eradicating Systemic Poverty, per the PC(USA) book study on “POVERTY, BY AMERICA”



Matthew Desmond is a life-long Presbyterian and professor at Princeton University. In his book, “Poverty, by America” (Crown Publishing, 2023), he outlines changes that could dramatically reduce – even potentially eradicate – systemic poverty in the United States. [Eradicating systemic poverty](#) is part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s vision for living out Matthew 25, so in February 2024 hundreds of Presbyterians across the country participated in a book study. They discussed issues the author identified as driving and perpetuating poverty, and changes that are needed. By the end of the book study, there was a clear desire for more direction on how to bring about

change.

While the following is not an exhaustive list, we have highlighted some of Desmond’s proposed solutions and PC(USA) policies and statements that agree with those proposals. There are also suggestions for actions that individuals and congregations can take that can help lead to the reduction or elimination of poverty in your own communities and beyond. Our faith calls us to action. Look for ways to help drive these changes, through supporting legislation, advocating on the local and/or national level, voting and using your resources responsibly.

Affordable Housing

Exclusionary zoning is a barrier to affordable housing and the creation of neighborhoods with diverse socio-economic groups. PC(USA) supports efforts such as the [Yes in God’s Back Yard Act](#), to increase affordable housing.

- Find out whether local zoning allows affordable housing to be built in your community.
- Find out which banks in your area make mortgages accessible for marginalized communities.
- Read how [some congregations are helping increase affordable housing](#).

Living Wages

Raising the wages of workers is the best way to reduce poverty. The federal minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour – less than half of a living wage.

- Find out your state’s minimum wage. Are there actions you can take to support an increase?
- Find ways to take action on the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s [National Hunger & Poverty page](#).
- PC(USA) partners with the [Poor People’s Campaign](#) – sign up in your state to get involved.

Child Tax Credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

During the pandemic, the expanded CTC and other financial support programs helped cut child poverty by more than half. However, assistance programs such as the CTC, EITC and TANF rarely reach everyone who qualifies. [PC\(USA\) continues to advocate for assistance](#).

- Learn whether people in your community are accessing these programs and help them get signed up if needed.
- Some states divert federal TANF funding for extraneous purposes. Find out how your state is using its TANF funds.

Workers' Rights, Including the Support of Unions

Workers not represented by unions lack negotiating power. PC(USA) calls on us to advocate for justice for workers, including farm workers, through letter writing, phone calls, and boycotts.

- Find out if the places you shop and eat support unions and workers' rights.
- Learn about the [Fair Food Program](#) and how you can support farm workers' rights.
- Join the [boycott](#) against Wendy's.

Fair Financial Services

Lower income families often pay higher bank fees. General Assembly (GA) has voted to advocate for lower-cost financial services for the poor and issued a [report on usury](#).

- Choose a bank or credit union that doesn't exploit poor people. Consider overdraft fees, minimum balances, and whether the bank supports the payday loan industry.
- Research your state's regulations on payday lending.

Women's Rights to Reproductive Care and Access to Abortions

"... when reproductive choice is constricted, women and their children are often cast into poverty," writes Desmond in chapter 8.

- Learn about the 225th General Assembly's [resolution on reproductive rights](#).
- Find out if your state supports reproductive rights and choice for women.

Affordable Healthcare

High healthcare costs drive some families into poverty and keep others from getting out.

- PC(USA) has [advocated for affordable healthcare for decades](#), demonstrating the need for the persistence required for many systemic changes. In 2012, PC(USA) [protested corporate resistance to change](#).
- Find out if your state is working toward universal healthcare.

Resources and Helpful Links

- [Video introduction by the author and other resources](#)
- Contact information for [state and local government services](#)
- [Alerts and information from the Office of Public Witness](#) to help with your advocacy on justice-related issues
- www.pcusa.org/poverty

"We Presbyterians evaluate any economic system not simply on the basis of the material goods and services it provides, but especially on the basis of its human consequences: what it is doing to, with and for people, particularly the most vulnerable among us. In our tradition, economic behavior, like all behavior, must be subject to moral scrutiny."

—219th General Assembly



[← Back to table of contents](#)

From reviews on **POVERTY, BY AMERICA** by Matthew Desmond

The Compassion, Peace and Justice team of PEVA has spent the last year commending to you this book, which is a well-documented, riveting, read. You will not be disappointed. At the July 22 PEVA meeting at Hidenwood Presbyterian Church it will be our topic of worship and discussion.

In *Poverty, by America*, social scientist Matthew Desmond writes that the United States, despite its vast wealth and prosperity, suffers from poverty and inequality unseen anywhere else in the developed world. Arguably, the richest country on earth has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages?

Desmond shows, with data from history, original research and powerful individual accounts, that poverty in America persists because it *benefits* many to keep a share of their fellow Americans in a state of want—and he issues a call to arms to readers to examine their role in benefiting from and perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Some key points raised by Desmond include:

- The experience of poverty in America and its devastating social consequences
- The false explanations for why people are poor—and stay poor
- How non-poor Americans benefit from the poverty of their fellow Americans
- The choices we can make—both at a policy and individual level—to empower the poor and eradicate poverty

One reviewer writes, “Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem. It also helps us imagine solutions. Desmond builds a startlingly original and ambitious case for ending poverty. He calls on us all to become poverty abolitionists, engaged in a politics of collective belonging to usher in a new age of shared prosperity and, at last, true freedom.”

Please plan to attend to let your voice be heard in this important discussion.

 [Back to table of contents](#)

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 <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/women-gender-justice-ministry/doctrine-discovery> and to lift up histories of Indigenous peoples and current issues facing Indigenous peoples."
- In September 2020, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, issued a Call to Action encouraging Presbyterians to address past injustices that still impact indigenous people and to give "deep consideration to how our churches and communities were formed in relation and/or opposition to the Indigenous peoples of the region and begin ever so carefully to discern the nature of that relationship today." In addition, "This is far more than a call to recognize Indigenous peoples in one moment or on one day. Indeed, the Call to Action before us is a long-term call to unsettle and decolonize a church deeply intertwined in racist, settler-colonial systems of white supremacy," "Let us bring to the fore our commitment to true justice and stand in solidarity with all Indigenous peoples in their efforts for sovereignty and human rights."

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

 [Back to table of contents](#)

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

Report to the Presbytery

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

July 22, 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).

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

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

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

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

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

3. ***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 May 5, 2025, approved the covenant associate pastor job description for Candidate for Ministry Mary Brown at KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown.
2. On May 5, 2025, approved the covenant and agreement, including terms, for Candidate for Ministry Mary Brown, at KirkWood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, if ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.
3. On May 5, 2025, approved the honorable retirement of the Reverend **James A. Goodbow**, as of July 22, 2025.
4. On June 3, 2025, approved the Commissioned Pastor (CP) Covenant between the session of First Church, Virginia Beach and CP **Randolph C. DuVall** effective April 21, 2025, through April 21, 2026.
5. On June 3, 2025, dismissed (with regret) the Rev. **Elizabeth Grace "Liza" Hendricks** to the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Louisville, KY.
6. On June 3, 2025, approved the Parish Associate Agreement between First Church, Virginia Beach and the Rev. Dr. **Richard J. Keever** effective April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.
7. On June 3, 2025, the sabbatical request from the Rev. **Boone D. Clayton** was approved, from November 3, 2025, to February 1, 2026.

8. On June 3, 2025, approved the salary adjustment request (max \$60,000) for the associate pastor position at King's Grant Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach. It was previously approved by the Session of King's Grant Church.
9. On June 3, 2025, sustained the examination of Candidate for Ministry Mary Brown to be ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.
10. On June 3, 2025, agreed to recommend to the Moderator and Presbytery the dissolution of the Administrative Commission to Knox Church, Norfolk. The motion will be placed in the Stated Clerk report in paragraph C. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS.
11. On June 3, 2025, appointed the Reverend **Brian H. Harroff** the moderator of Knox Church, Norfolk.
12. On June 3, 2025, recommended to the Presbytery Council that an Administrative Commission be established for Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano whose main purpose will be to help the church get its financial business in order.

Statement of Faith for Mary V. Brown:

I believe that God is the Creator of **all**. God's creation of us is a call into relationship with him and with one another. God has marked all humanity with his "stamp", the image of his Divine nature. God does not only have and express love: God *is* love. God does not only extend grace but is *Grace itself*. We have been called into being to love and be loved by God. God is the initiator in loving us and renewing us; therefore, rather than consider it *our* search for *God*, it is more clearly *God's* search to waken and free *our* hearts.

I believe that Jesus Christ is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, perfect in unity and diversity. He is the only begotten Son of the Father. Christ's incarnation is God's action to redeem human beings from enslavement to sin and death. Jesus's death on the cross has won salvation for all who believe in him, and this faith in him is also a gift from God. His resurrection conquered death once and for all. However, we live now in the liminal space of "already/not yet". God continues in each moment to renew his creation, including human beings. God's "seal" upon us is the Holy Spirit within believers, received upon our baptism. The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, reminds us of what Jesus has taught us and confirms within us that we are indeed children of the Most High. We await Christ's return with excitement, when God's reign will be complete--known and seen by all.

I believe that the Scriptures play an essential role for us. They speak of God's never-failing love throughout human history, even though as humans we have failed at every juncture due to our sinfulness.

I believe that our earthly mission, as individuals and as the body of Christ, is to cooperate with God's renewal of the world. This occurs as we love God and neighbor, welcome strangers, care for the downtrodden, and share the news of God's redeeming grace in Christ. As Christians, we commit ourselves not to service of self, but service to others. There are many ways to embody and share the Gospel, and we are motivated not by a reward, but by gratitude to God for all he has accomplished for us in Christ.

The Holy Spirit is present in our worship, illumines our hearts through the Word, claims and renews us in the Sacraments, and reminds us that we are one body in Christ. This same Spirit hones and refines us throughout our lives to one day present us blameless before Christ. Sin continues to plague us: yet we are confident that Christ's death has won our righteousness, that our bodies will be resurrected on the last day, and that we will abide with God forever. We commit ourselves to the path of righteousness, the way of Jesus. We persist through tribulation and do not lose hope, because we believe God uses **all** circumstances for our ultimate good. We may often have occasion to doubt ourselves, but we remember who God is: the one whose steadfast love is everlasting and whose mercies are new every single day.

Mary V. Brown's Faith Journey:

I grew up in a family that rarely attended church. Because of my own interest in it, I began attending a Lutheran church with friends when I was eleven. During the next two years I participated in catechism class and was confirmed at thirteen. I still remember the joy I felt on my confirmation day! Seeds of faith were beginning to grow within me, and by

the following year, I made a conscious decision to commit my life to Jesus Christ. During college I got involved with InterVarsity and an urban church in Chicago. I was keenly aware of God's grace as I served as a small group leader and helped with worship planning at church.

After college, I got married, pursued a career in music and had two children. I was focused on my family and my music, and with time my discipleship to Christ stagnated. I continued to pray, but my attendance at church fell off, and I drifted. I found my way to a non-denominational church in 2000 and renewed my commitment to Christ. However, I soon became focused on my daughter Maureen's diagnosis of mental illness and her subsequent hospitalizations. I distinctly remember her first hospitalization: I placed her in God's hands, entrusting God with her care. It was during this time that I chose to end my marriage, which had largely been lonely and unhappy for me.

The deepest challenge to my faith and life came when at age 26, my daughter Maureen died of a heroin overdose. She had struggled with mental illness and substance abuse for thirteen years. I was shocked: I had held on to my belief that God would lead her to find healing. For the next seven months, I stopped talking to God. Then, I had a realization that I was beginning to heal--and that I *wanted* to. I joined a Christian grief support group, which was a lifeline for me. I began to read the Bible and pray again. As I opened myself the tiniest bit to God, I felt God's comfort and love come flooding in. It was through both my loss and God's finding me again that my discipleship to Christ deepened. It was during this period that my life changed the most. I moved from seeing my faith in God as one of several important facets of my life to seeing my life with God at its center. I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to Christ, loving and serving him.

After eighteen years of happy marriage to my second husband, he got pancreatic cancer in 2018. We quickly brought in hospice care. Through my many conversations with the hospice chaplain, I realized that I was drawn to this work. One day, in response to my curiosity about his job, he was explaining the training required to become a chaplain. I suddenly felt or heard an inner voice urge me: "Pay attention: **you** can do this." Months later, I identified that moment as Christ calling me into ministry.

After my husband's death, I sold my house, packed up, and moved to Virginia where my husband and I had been planning to move before he was diagnosed. I took Level One CPE the following summer and entered Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond in the Fall. Through my classes, professors, colleagues and above all through the love and direction of God, I continued to grow into a more mature Christian, and I had my call into ministry confirmed. I loved our vigorous exploration of the Bible (especially learning to translate passages in Greek and Hebrew), and the many ways my colleagues and professors activated and enhanced my learning. That said, seminary was *not easy*. There were times I doubted whether I had the strength to persevere. As I asked God for help, God poured grace upon me at every turn. When I was overwhelmed by one of my ordination exams and considered closing my computer and giving up, God granted me a *bit* more energy and a *bit* more persistence.

During my year of chaplain residency following seminary, I experienced a lot of growth, and some of it was painful. I learned to sit with patients in physical or emotional distress, bearing witness to their pain by listening and caring for them. Because I was willing to gaze unflinchingly at my own emotional issues in supervisory sessions and with fellow residents, I grew more comfortable in my own skin. As the year at the hospital ended, I realized I had become a better listener and more effective in my ministry with patients and families.

I am excited to be nearing the beginning of a new chapter, which will involve working as a chaplain in my home church, Kirkwood Presbyterian, to serve spiritual needs of our congregation. I expect to design and facilitate support groups for griever, for those working through age-related issues, for caregivers, and for those who face chronic illness or pain. During seminary and residency, I identified my particular joy as working with older adults. I am delighted that I will be serving God and my church community in a ministry in which I have already experienced feeling useful. I look forward with eagerness to what God has in store for me and for our community!



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



Keenan Rodgers
Church Consultant

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Summer 2025

We at the Board of Pensions are working hard to serve our churches, ministers, and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I am here to support you and your congregation should you have any questions about the Board's benefits and programs. I look forward to our continued partnership.

The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, mid councils, and affiliated employers.

Member/Employer Services: 800-773-7752 M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET. memberservices@pensions.org

2026 Rates and Employer Agreements

Due to challenges in the healthcare industry that continue to drive up costs, the Board of Directors approved medical dues increases in June for 2026 for the Congregational Pastors Package and Transitional Pastor's Participation. Dues for the income protection benefits in the packages, including death and disability and pension, will remain at 10% of effective salary in 2026. Rates for Benefits Plan offerings provided outside of packages will be available to employers in Benefits Connect on Aug. 28, when Employer Agreement season opens. The Decision Guide for Minister Benefits tool, which helps with cost calculation and eligibility, will also be updated. See details in the [Summer Board Bulletin](#).

Mental Health

Spring Health, the new provider for the [Employee Assistance Plan \(EAP\)](#), offers eligible plan members a variety of mental well-being and EAP services, including mental health care navigation, six clinical therapy sessions at no cost to them, and **unlimited virtual coaching sessions with certified coaches at no cost**. Every Spring Health provider is in-network with Highmark BCBS, so if the member is also enrolled in medical benefits, consultations with a Spring Health mental health care provider can continue with lower copays and deductibles.

Should a minister or staff member need to take leave to focus on mental health, they can consider applying for [Temporary Disability](#) benefits. Temporary Disability may be offered by itself or as part of the [Covenant Package](#), [Congregational Pastors Package](#) and the [Transitional Pastor's Participation Package](#).

Other important information:

Assistance Program Grant Opportunities: In 2024, the Assistance Program distributed over 2,700 grants for a total of approximately \$9.5 million in funds. [Read about potential grant opportunities](#) for active and retired Benefits Plan members.

Employer Support with Benefits Connect: Quick Start Guides for Benefits Connect are found [here](#). Employer Reps may also call Employer Services for assistance. See contact info and hours above.



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
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[← Back to table of contents](#)

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL
Report to Presbytery
Ruling Elder **Joyce Melvin-Jones**, moderator
July 22, 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 of Eastern Virginia, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) extend a call as General Presbyter with a ballot vote, to the Reverend Dr. **Melissa Sumner "Lissa" Long**, effective September 1, 2025, and that she also be elected as an officer of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Inc., for the term of her service as General Presbyter. Dr. Long's effective salary will be \$94,000.00 and the total cost to the Presbytery of \$154,821.00. If the way be clear, she will be installed at the October stated meeting.

Rationale: The Transition Team has recommended to the Presbytery Council that the Presbytery extend a call to Dr. Long as the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia for the terms and covenant published to the Presbytery.

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

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

Motion Made _____ Approved _____ Disapproved _____

3. ***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 May 13, 2025, approved the minutes for the 141st Stated Meeting (April 29, 2025).
2. On May 13, 2025, approved a Camp/Conference Scholarship Grant Application, for Denbigh United Church, Newport News for attendance at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center Kaleidoscope for \$1,600.00.
3. On May 13, 2025, the ODU House lease extension was approved for one year with same the same terms.
4. On June 10, 2025, recommended that the Rev. Dr. Melissa Sumner Long be called as the General Presbyter of the Presbytery with an effective salary of \$94,000.00.
5. On June 10, 2025, approved a Camp/Conference Scholarship Grant Application, for Holmes Church, Cheriton, at Camp Hanover for \$500.00.

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

General Presbyter Covenant

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Presbyterian Church (USA) accompanies its call as General Presbyter to

The Reverend Doctor **Melissa Sumner Long**

with the following covenant of our support and encouragement as we seek together to serve the Lord and His World. The specific goals, expectations, and responsibilities for the work of the General Presbyter and of the presbytery are as follows:

GOALS:

1. Lead in collaboration with the Presbytery Council to discern clear objectives for the future of PEVA that are faithful and effective in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
2. Work to actively build relationships between PEVA members and churches by identifying shared ministries and other commonalities, regardless of apparent outward differences such as geographic location, congregational size, socio-economic identity, or ethnic and cultural diversity,
3. Help congregations build networks for mission and service that make the most of the gifts of both large and small communities,
4. Work with PEVA leadership to build trust among congregations, and between congregations and PEVA leadership, while developing excellence in communication, financial operations, and administration
5. Deepen the connectional nature of the Church by engaging PEVA members and congregations with mid-councils and the Denomination, cultivating bold ministry possibilities.
6. Foster a culture of praise to God within PEVA that supports and cares for all members.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GENERAL PRESBYTER TO PRESBYTERY:

1. Serve as Head of Staff, building and supervising an effective staff for PEVA.
2. Help develop and maintain strong teams within PEVA that can teach Christian practices, support and assist pastors and other leaders in congregations, and offer PEVA resources in proclaiming the Gospel.
3. Oversee, with the support of the Council, a PEVA-wide discernment of the mission, priorities, and future direction of the Presbytery, setting a vision and making it known.
4. Make recommendations to the Presbytery, with Presbytery leadership, on an organizational structure for PEVA that defines the responsible functions of PEVA Staff and volunteer leadership (e.g., moderator/vice moderator, ministry teams/committees and commissions, and individual congregation assets).
5. Oversee the execution of PEVA administrative functions, including financial management.
6. Other ex-officio responsibilities of the position.
7. Serve as an officer of the Corporation.
8. Pray for the life and discipleship of the presbytery.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESBYTERY TO GENERAL PRESBYTER:

In addition to the Presbytery's responsibilities in the Book of Order, acting through its Council, the Presbytery will:

1. Support and advise the GP as they collectively lead the Presbytery

2. The Council will support the GP by securing resources to accomplish the goals and mission of the presbytery,
3. Unceasingly pray for the Presbytery and GP, being mindful of the anxieties, resistance, and opposition inherent in implementing change.

COMPENSATION

That you may be free to devote yourself full-time to ministry among us, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you with the following:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Total Effective Salary: | \$94,000.00 |
| a. Cash Salary of | \$50,000 |
| b. Housing Allowance | \$44,000 |
| 2. A salary supplement equals 50% of the Social Security Self Employment Tax | \$7,191.00 |
| 3. Regular payment in advance to the Board of Pensions
Congregational Pastor's Plan and Family Coverage
(pastor's covenant plan) Paid vacation of four (4) weeks. | \$43,630.00 |
| 4. Professional Expenses (vouchered) | \$6,000.00 |
| 5. Continuing Education Allowance
(with accumulation of up to three years allowed) | \$4,000.00 |
| Total Cost to Presbytery | \$154,821.00 |
| 6. Annual Study leave with pay of two (2) weeks with accumulation of up to three years | |
| 7. Vacation of four (4) weeks per year. | |
| 8. Mileage at the IRS mileage rate reimbursed through the PEVA Administration budget. | |
| 9. Cell phone reimbursed through the PEVA Telephone budget line. | |
| 10. Sabbatical Leave in accordance with established Presbytery policy. | |
| 11. Sabbath Policy in accordance with established Presbytery policy. | |
| 12. Family and Parental Leave in accordance with The Book of Order (G-2.0804) and established Presbytery policy. | |
| 13. Holidays and Sick Leave in accordance with established Presbytery policy. | |
| 14. We further promise and obligate ourselves to annually review the Agreement, and subsequent Terms of Call, as well as the Covenant, with an evaluation of the mutual achievement of mission goals by the General Presbyter, and Presbytery Council as to their adequacy with serious consideration given to the current adjusted median family income. | |

Signature of the GP..... Date_____

Signature of Moderator of Presbytery Date_____

Signature of Stated Clerk..... Date_____

 [Back to table of contents](#)

COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Report to the Presbytery

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

July 22, 2025

Members: Rev. **Michelle D. Burcher**, Ruling Elder (RE) **Karen Harris** (1st Virginia Beach),
Rev. **Carter M. Jones**, RE **Charles Reece** (Kirkwood), 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</u>	<u>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	FT	24	Carver Mem.	C. Jones
3. Andrea A. Wood	Feb.	2016	Yale	GD	19	1 st Norfolk	K. Harris
4. Marcy Wright	May	2018	Union	GD	19	Carver Mem.	K. Harris
5. Summer Moore	Sept	2023	G. Conwell	GD	22	2 nd Norfolk	A. Whitehead

We have three candidates ready to receive a call:

	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Liaison</u>
1. Donna Herring	June	2018	Union	GD	21	Wmsburg	A. Whitehead
2. Mary Brown	March	2021	Union	GD	22	Kirkwood	C. Reece
3. Katherine Dickens	Oct	2014	Princeton	GD	17	1st VAB	M. Burcher

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

 [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
July 22, 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**; Transitional 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 approve the actions of the Board of Trustees and 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

At the stated meeting on May 14, 2025:

1. Approved request from the new PEVA Worship Planning Team for \$1500.00 and a new line item created.
2. Approved Ruling Rev. Helen "Lou" Ventura (Class of 2027) and RE Lorri Richardson (Class of 2028) become authorized signers for the New Covenant Trust and that Rev. Dr. Melissa Sumner Long is added on the Presbytery account to receive reports and be able to talk to them about PEVA accounts.
3. PEVA Office officially moved to a new office at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church at 6901 Newport Avenue, Norfolk, VA. The Trustees approved the listing with S.L. Nusbaum Realty Company for 801 Loudoun Avenue, as is, at \$485,000 as advised by the real estate agent.

At the stated meeting on June 12, 2025:

1. An offer was received for purchase of property at 801 Loudon Ave. for \$400,000. The Stated Clerk requested to counter the offer for \$440,000.00, which was accepted by the potential buyer. The potential buyer has agreed to remove language about closing before August 1st and to correct the corporate name on the agreement.
2. Reviewed the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Melissa Sumner Long as General Presbyter for the Presbytery. The Presbytery will vote on them at the July Stated Presbytery meeting by ballot.
3. Small Church Grant requests from Grace Covenant and Hilton Presbyterian Churches were tabled to July 10, 2025, meeting.

At the stated meeting on June 10, 2025:

1. Approved the Small Church Grant request of Stone House Presbyterian Church, Toano, for \$10,000.00, to have gutters installed, water heaters replaced, drainage infrastructure installed in the playground, and mold remediation.
2. Approved the Small Church Grant request of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, for \$7,000.00, to replace the flooring in four classrooms used by the pre-school.
3. Approved the Small Church Grant request of Hilton Presbyterian Church, Newport News, for \$5,500.00 to make improvements to the sanctuary.
4. Approved 0% loan up to \$80,000, with no term, for HVAC replacement for Calvin Presbyterian Church to be supported by invoices submitted to the Presbytery. The loan is to be partially repaid by funds received from previously restricted funds. The provided funds may not be used for personnel costs.

 [Back to table of contents](#)

SESSIONAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report to the Presbytery
Ruling Elder **Jill Keifer**, Chair
July 22, 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

***1. MOTION:** That the report of the Sessional Records Committee held on June 9, 2025, be received and printed in the minutes of this meeting. The following church records were/had:
No exceptions: First Hampton, Jamestown, Lafayette, Wycliffe, Yorkminster
Exceptions: None
Not Received: Great Bridge, Holmes, Knox, Providence

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	

AREA 4 – Debbie Braswell (Bethany)

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

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

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](#)