

Dear Friends in Presbytery of the James:

The 95<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James was held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at Essex high School, Tappahannock, VA. The Tappahannock Presbyterian Church hosted the meeting and were delightful hosts. The facility was ideal for a presbytery meeting with plenty of space and ease of movement. The weather (70 degrees!) could not have been better. So, it was a great day, and the meeting was very positive in our work as a presbytery.

We were led in worship by Ruling Elders Kenna Payne (Moderator) and from the Tappahannock Church, Ruling Elders John Colby and Emerson Hughes. Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary and a member of our presbytery, led us in a Bible study on the Book of Revelation which was inspiring and very informative. We installed Teaching Elder Stephen Hodges as 2017 Moderator and thanked Kenna Payne for her service in 2016.

We welcomed new ministers into the presbytery.

- **Rev. Sally Ann Fisk** from Greater Atlanta Presbytery who is serving as Covenant Pastor at Colonial Heights Church.
- **Rev. Donna Sarro-Raynal from Eastern Virginia Presbytery who is serving as** Covenant Pastor at Brett Reed Memorial Church, West Point, VA.
- **Rev. Walter Canter** from Middle Tennessee Presbytery who is serving as Installed Pastor at Blue Ridge Church, Ruckersville, VA.
- **Rev. Susie Atkinson** from Baltimore Presbytery who is serving as Covenant Pastor, Tabor Church, Crozet, VA.
  
- **Rev. Keith Johnston**, Forest Hill Church, was Honorably Retired as of February 28, 2017, and good friend, Rev. Starke Cauthorn, shared some good words about Keith and wife Sally and their ministry.

We heard sermons from and examined for ordination the following candidates:

- **Victoria Murdock**, Wyoming Presbytery, to become Covenant Pastor, Tappahannock Church, Tappahannock, VA.
- **Jaechul Pi**, Presbytery of the James, to become Covenant Pastor, Burkeville Church, Burkeville, VA.

We celebrated the beginning of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp Hanover, the outdoor ministry of the presbytery. We learned that Camp Hanover will be the only remaining presbytery camp in Virginia after April, 2017. We wore party hats and sounded party horns for the event. Also, the dessert for lunch was birthday cake!

The Vision 2020 Team launched their work which will enable the presbytery to determine its strategic initiatives for the next several years. All Commissioners were invited to participate in

this initial discussion. The Team will be in touch with congregations to meet with Session or congregants to obtain information that will help shape the development of these initiatives.

We took the following actions:

1. Approved the October 15, 2016, Presbytery minutes.
2. Approved Rev. Chris Mooney as member at large, December 15, 2016
3. Voted on the Amendments to the Book of Order in the following manner:
  - a. 16-A Yes
  - b. 16-B No
  - c. 16-C.1-5, 8 No (Yes 65, No 67)
  - d. 16-C.6-7 No
  - e. 16-D.1 No
  - f. 16-D.2 Yes
  - g. 16-E Yes
  - h. 16-F Yes
  - i. 16-G Yes
  - j. 16-H Yes (new Directory for Worship)
4. Approved using up to \$127,315 from gains and interest on the Office Park Funds to balance the 2017 Presbytery budget. (this discrepancy was discovered as the accountant closed the 2016 books and agreement was this unusual financial support would be for 2017 only. Congregations were implored to keep the presbytery office informed early if it appears their support of the presbytery might not be made in full)
5. Approved a 3% increase for staff effective January 1, 2017.
6. Approved the changes in the General Presbyter's Terms of Call to reflect an action taken in 2011 by the Presbyter to ensure that his Terms of Call reached \$135,000 total package by 2017.
7. Approved reducing the interest rate on a loan to Rev. Richard Haney from 6% to 4.75% for the entire term of the loan (loan was made in 1991).
8. Elected some people to various committees and teams.
9. Heard from the Committee on Nominations that names of Teaching and Ruling Elders to serve as Alternate Commissioners to the General Assembly in 2018 (St. Louis, MO) are needed. In addition, a female Teaching Elder to serve as Vice Moderator for 2018 is also needed.

*H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.*

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Stated Clerk

96 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting:	June 20, 2017	Fairfield Church, Mechanicsville, VA
97 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	October 21, 2017	Tuckahoe Church, Richmond, VA
98 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	February 17, 2018	<b>Invitation needed</b>
99 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	June 19, 2018	<b>Invitation needed</b>
100 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	October 20, 2018	First Church, Charlottesville, VA