

Dear friends in Presbytery of the James,

The 96th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at Fairfield Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsville, VA. Hosting this meeting were Fairfield Church and Camp Hanover. It was a great meeting and the facilities and hospitality were extremely well done. It was also the shortest stated meeting in history, beginning at 9:15 AM and ending at 12:03 PM!

We had unusually high attendance for a June meeting: 102 teaching elders, 95 ruling elders, and 31 visitors, totaling 228. The ruling elders included 87 commissioned by sessions, 2 moderators of teams or committees, 1 commissioned for pastoral service, and 5 Certified Christian Educators. The 102 teaching elders were 62 percent of the expected number, and the 95 ruling elders were 58 percent.

We were led in worship by the host Pastor, Steve Starzer, and Dr. Beverly Zink-Sawyer, Professor Emerita of Union Presbyterian Seminary, preached. We also heard inspiring singing by members of AFREIM (African Evangelical International Ministries) and commissioned the Guatemalan Mission Trip and Summer Counselors for Camp Hanover.

We welcomed new minister Rev. David Cagle from East Tennessee Presbytery into the presbytery to serve as Interim Pastor, Swift Creek Congregation.

Certified Educator Ann Knox was honored upon her retirement this summer after thirty years at Union Presbyterian Seminary as well as serving several congregations as educator.

We celebrated the 60th anniversary of Camp Hanover, the outdoor ministry of the presbytery with news that almost half of the \$750,000 Capital Campaign has been reached. We were inspired by the work of the Mission Team to West Virginia sponsored by the Presbytery in April, 2017.

An interim report from the Vision 2020 Team indicated that they plan on bringing recommendations to the October presbytery meeting for consideration by the presbytery. They have been most grateful for the receptions afforded them by our congregations.

A 45-minute discussion on Gun Violence was energizing and informative. The 25 small groups discussed a proposed position paper for the presbytery that will be considered at the October presbytery meeting.

We took the following actions:

1. Approved the February 18, 2017, Presbytery minutes.

2. Received a progress report from the Administrative Commission for the Wylliesburg and Chase City Congregations.
3. Learned of the Transition Process that is beginning as the presbytery moves toward new General Presbyter leadership in the next 18-24 months.
4. Honorably Retired the following pastors:
 - a. Rev. David (Tuck) Knupp
 - b. Rev. Felecia Douglass
 - c. Rev. Phil Thetford
 - d. Rev. Judy Thomson
5. Approved Rev. Beverly Bullock to become Member at Large.
6. Approved a 3.5% increase in the Minimum Compensation for Pastors and Certified Christian Educators for 2018.
7. Approved 2017 Terms of Call for Installed Pastors.
8. Approved 2016 Annual reports from Validated Ministers, Members at Large, and Certified Christian Educators.
9. Approved persons to be readers for Ordination Exams in 2017, for persons preparing to ordained as ministers.
10. Elected 223rd General Assembly Commissioners and 223rd Alternate Commissioners for the June, 2018 General Assembly in St. Louis, MO.
11. Heard the report from the Permanent Judicial Commission which temporarily excluded Christopher James Mooney from ministry as a Teaching Elder until December 16, 2019, and until completion of certain rehabilitation programs are satisfied due to violation of ordination vows specifically related to Scripture's understanding of the covenant of marriage.
12. Approved request by Rev. Stephen Hitchcock to be released from the exercise of ordered ministry of Teaching Elder.
13. Approved an Advisory Committee for All Soul's Session which could become an Administrative Commission if elders are not trained and installed by August 31, 2017. (This comes as a result of the church anticipating closing and need to have assistance if closing should occur)

H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.

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Stated Clerk

97 th Stated Meeting	October 21, 2017	Tuckahoe Church, Richmond, VA
98 th Stated Meeting	February 17, 2018	Grace Covenant Church, Richmond, VA
99 th Stated Meeting	June 19, 2018	Invitation needed
100 th Stated Meeting	October 20, 2018	First Church, Charlottesville, VA