

June 13, 2018

Dear Friends in Presbytery of the James:

The 99<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James took place on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at Westminster Canterbury on Westwood Avenue in Richmond, VA. The meeting was well attended and progressed very smoothly. We adjourned before lunch, ending at 12:15 PM. The residents at WCR were most gracious in assisting all the commissioners, guests, and visitors at the meeting. The facility was wonderful and an ease to get around. A welcoming spirit to everyone was experienced. Some of the highlights of the meeting included:

- Recognizing the retirement of four minister members of the Presbytery  
Rev. Rod Spencer  
Rev. Nancy Summerlin
- Welcoming into the presbytery five new minister members or ministers in new positions:  
Rev. Donna Ruggles, Evangelical Lutheran Pastor, as Covenant Pastor, Lakeside Church  
Rev. Sarah Marsh Schutte, Pastor at Milford Church  
Rev. Jeff Eason, Covenant Pastor at Pryor Memorial  
Rev. Jim Moseley, Pastor, Campbell Memorial  
Rev. Fady Lous, Chaplain, Hospice of Virginia
- Celebration of and Commissioning of Ruth Brown as facilitator for Community Health Evangelism with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana in northern Ghana.
- Discussion about Dismantling Racism in our culture from the Dismantling Racism Purpose Group.
- Invitation to participate in a new initiative “Gospel Renewal 2020” involving all congregations and members by Pentecost 2020.
- Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Small Church Intern Program where seminary students interned in our smaller congregations.
- Expression of thanks to Second Church, Richmond, and Rivermont Church for their contributions to the Camp Hanover Capital Campaign.

We had 106 Ministers of Word and Sacrament in attendance. There were 102 Ruling Elders from 66 Congregations. There were 34 visitors in attendance.

The business of the day included the following matters:

1. Approval of the February 17, 2018 POJ Minutes.
2. Approved Rev. John Barton and Rev. Denny Burnette to become Honorably Retired Ministers.

3. Approved Member at Large, Validate Ministers, and Certified Christian Educator 2017 annual reports.
4. Elected Rev. Ron Bullis as Vice-Moderator, Mission and Service Team.
5. Elected these persons to be readers of ordination examinations for 2018: Rev. Connie Weaver; Rev. Sylvester Bullock; Rev. Mark Sprowl; Rev. Beverly Bullock; Rev. Todd Davidson; Ruling Elder David Ross (Ginter Park).
6. Dissolved with thanks the Administrative Commission for Wylliesburg and First Church Chase City congregations expressing appreciation for the work done by the Commission and rejoicing that First Church, Chase City, withdrew their request to be dismissed.
7. Endorsed the Lily Endowment Grant Proposal for Community of Ministry and Worship program. The Grant requests \$969,000 in funding and POJ would provide \$65,000 in support for the five year program.
8. Learned that the Strategic Planning Team would be elected at the October Presbytery meeting and not at this meeting.
9. Approved the revised 2018 POJ budget reflecting a \$50,000 deficit.
10. Approved a 2% increase for the 2019 Minimum Compensation Criteria for Ministers and Certified Christian Educators.
11. Removed from POJ Membership Rev. Shane Roberson in accord with G-2.0508
12. Removed from POJ Membership Rev. Gordon Pace in accord with G-2.0508.

H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.

H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.  
Stated Clerk

**PRESBYTERY MEETINGS UPCOMING:**

October 20, 2018	Lord Jesus Korean Church, Midlothian VA
February 16, 2019	Three Chopt Church, Richmond, VA
June 18, 2019	<b>INVITATION NEEDED</b>
October 20, 2019	<b>INVITATION NEEDED</b>