

Presbytery Approves Strategic Plan at 107th Meeting



Ministers and commissioners at the 107th stated meeting approved a strategic plan that will guide Presbytery of the James into the future. The plan includes a new mission and a staffing structure to fulfill the mission.

The mission addresses challenging times facing the presbytery and its churches.

Over the last decade, Presbytery of the James has experienced a downward trajectory of membership. The number of churches dropped from 112 to 99, although four new worshipping communities have arisen during this time. In addition, many churches are considered “small membership,” with 99 people or fewer on the rolls.

As the team considered the realities of churches reducing in membership numbers, they chose to focus the mission on spiritual growth. This growth will be measured in two directions: internal, by increases in church membership and member opportunities, as well as external, by growing connections among our churches and ministries and creating vital partnerships.

To achieve this mission, the team realized changes were needed to the makeup of presbytery staff. Most notably, the plan separates the duties of

stated clerk from the presbyter position.

A stated clerk is the constitutional officer required by our denomination’s Constitution (G-3.0104). This officer bears responsibility for interpreting the law and assuring its careful application. In disciplinary cases, a presbyter who is also stated clerk must shift immediately from the more pastoral-focused role to being an officer of the law. By separating the two functions, the presbytery can expect both roles to be fulfilled faithfully, compassionately, and efficiently. The stated clerk position will be part-time, at 15 hours per week with *per diem* remuneration when required.

In addition to the clerk/presbyter separation, the plan establishes three presbyters. A full-time lead presbyter will guide the presbytery and serve as head of staff. Two additional presbyters, at 30 hours per week with benefits, will support congregational life and relational care.

During discussion of the plan at the stated meeting, Ruling Elder Alisha Gallini of Bon

Air Church lauded the flexibility of 30-hour schedules and believes they will be attractive to potential candidates for the presbyter positions.

“[This type of schedule] is becoming more popular among working parents because it is a way to balance work and family life,” she said. “It’s a great move to expand our reach and expand our knowledge base.”

Through the three-presbyter model, a more diverse leadership team will be available to support POJ congregations and ministries. The individuals who eventually fill these positions will be proactive in reaching out to ministers, educators, and ministries, assisting with challenges, and offering opportunities for connection and collaboration throughout POJ.

Interim presbyter Fred Holbrook was an *ex-officio* member of the team, providing

important context about the roles of presbyter and stated clerk. He also brought experience from serving in other presbyteries and in validated ministries.



Alisha Gallini

The mission of Presbytery of the James is to support leaders, congregations, and ministries in growing followers of Jesus Christ who joyfully live out God’s mission in the world.

STATED MEETING: February 20, 2021**Candidate Exams, Church Dissolutions, Budget Approval, and Strategic Plan Lead to Full Agenda for Stated Meeting**

The 107th stated meeting of the Presbytery of the James was to have been at Second Church Richmond where they are celebrating their 175th anniversary. Instead, only meeting leaders participated from Second with a small group also at Lakeside Church. Ruling Elder Leigh Anne Ring (Salisbury), moderator, called the virtual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led the presbytery in prayer.

Rev. Karen Witt (Providence Gum Spring), moderator of the Committee on Ministry's subcommittee on examinations, welcomed new ministers to the presbytery: Rev. Todd Davidson, pastor of Sandston Church, from Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and Rev. Mark Ramsey, executive director of the Ministry Collaborative, from Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

Morning worship was led by Rev. Alex Evans and Rev. Kate Fiedler from Second Church Richmond. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Aram Bae, associate pastor of First Church Charlottesville. Moderator Leigh Anne Ring led in a service of installation of Rev. Patrick Dennis (pastor of Tuckahoe Church) as moderator of presbytery and of Ruling Elder Dan Jordanger (Providence Gum Spring) as vice moderator.

A celebration of the life and ministry of the Lakeside Church was led by Ruling Elders Teddy Martin, Shelly White, and Carol Cummins. A celebration of the life and ministry of New Covenant Church was led by Ruling Elder Susan Edwards.

Moderator Patrick Dennis thanked immediate past moderator Leigh Anne Ring for her service during 2020, a year of significant challenge for the POJ and the world.

Ruling Elder Kenna Payne, moderator of the C&C Team, presented the agenda which was approved.

The business of the day was comprised of the following:

- Approved the resolution of the Administrative Commission for the Lakeside Church (Rev. Jim King, moderator) including dissolving the congregation and dismissing the commission with thanks. The property will be leased to the Lakeside Presbyterian Preschool and Childcare



Rev. Patrick Dennis



Dan Jordanger

which will continue as a legacy of the congregation. Oasis Church, a Hispanic Christian church, also is leasing parts of the building.

- Approved the resolution of the Administrative Commission for the New Covenant Church (Rev. Kerra English, moderator) including dissolving the congregation and dismissing the commission with thanks.
- Suspended the Manual of Administrative Operations and Standing Rules to allow for amendments proposed by C&C Team and the Committee on Nominations to go into effect immediately. The proposed amendments were approved.
- Following discussion of the direct connection between use of existing funds and specific programs, approved the 2021 proposed budget.
- Approved the Administrative Commission requested by Gordonsville Church.
- Received Joslyn Shipman as a candidate for the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament. She is a member of Bon Air Church. Rev. Janet Winslow (Honorably Retired) gave the charge to Joslyn and Ruling Elder Alisha Gallini (Bon Air Church) led the presbytery in prayer.
- Approved granting honorable retirement status to Rev. Ronald Bullis, Rev. Denise Hall, Rev. Louie Andrews, and Rev. Terry Diebold.
- Approved receiving Rev. Renita Page, transferring from the United Church of Christ, into PC(USA) as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. She is the covenant pastor of Oak Grove Church, Amelia. Renita spoke to the presbytery following her welcome.

- Examined candidate Keli Shipley Cooper. She is serving in a validated ministry as director of adult faith formation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond.
- Examined candidate Erin Burt. She is serving in a validated ministry as director of admissions at Union Presbyterian Seminary.
- Approved the strategic plan report and the projected budget.

Moderator Dennis declared the 107th stated meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m. and led the presbytery in prayer.

In Christ's Service,

Fred A. Holbrook
Interim General Presbyter
and Stated Clerk

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

June 15, 2021

October 16, 2021

Finding God in Moments of Crisis

In February, the presbytery's Black Caucus held a second event in a series that fosters understanding of different racial experiences.

As the featured speaker, Rev. Ulysses Payne, pastor at Westminster Church in Petersburg, helped participants explore where God is in moments of crisis.

The ministry hosts a third event April 17. Learn more and register to attend at presbyteryofthejames.com/redeem-the-narrative-series. A recording of the February event also is available there.



This time of pandemic has been a period of uncertainty and waiting. Waiting for healing, and direction, and answers, for ourselves, our congregations, and for Camp Hanover.

Throughout this time, Camp Hanover, its staff, and the Board of Directors have remained hopeful. Through that hope this ministry has continued to grow and transform lives even when our most fundamental ministry has been paused.

Now, there is new hope on the horizon. In February, Governor Northam announced overnight summer camps would be allowed to finally re-open May 1, should the trends and health data support safe operation of in-person summer camp activities.

Things are developing quickly and preparations for an amazing summer are underway. Registration for overnight camp and onsite day camp is open and campers are signing up with enthusiasm and

excitement. We are taking a bit more time to determine how and when traveling day camp might be offered this summer.

As we dig into the guidelines and requirements for a safe re-opening, we are confident Camp Hanover can meet the challenges ahead. We know this summer will involve reduced capacities and some changes in what daily camp life looks like in order to provide a safe experience for campers and their families.

What will not change is Camp Hanover's commitment to its mission to provide a place apart for renewal and growth in an environment of Christian hospitality. Summer camp will be a place where each person is welcomed, valued, and loved just as they are. A place where you get to practice being the person God created you to be. An opportunity to practice servant leadership, stewardship of creation, building community, and sharing God's love with those around you. Because we believe practicing this at camp makes it easier to put all of it into practice when it counts, outside of camp.

To learn more, stay updated, register for summer camp, and find out the many ways you can help, visit [camphanover.org](https://www.camphanover.org).

New Educational Program Supports the Work of Part-time and Volunteer Educators in Churches

A new national program is helping congregations strengthen their educational ministry.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) supports excellence in this ministry through certifying its professional educators. The certification process establishes standards that an educator must achieve through a rigorous program of study and evaluation.

The certified Christian educator program, however, is not easily accessible to many who do educational work in congregations, especially as volunteers or part-timers. For one, it requires applicants to have a bachelor's or master's degree. And two, it involves a substantial investment of funds and time.

But what about those volunteers and part-timers who may not have the college degree or may have limited funds and time for the full-fledged Certified Christian

Educator program? How can they draw upon advanced training to improve on their excellence in ministry?

To meet this precise need, the denomination has recently revamped the process that leads to endorsement as a Christian education associate (CEA).

People enrolled in the CEA program are linked with an advisor. Together they work out a particular course of study to enhance the applicant's knowledge and practice of Christian education. That course of study may involve online training and resources as well as in-person courses or workshops. At the end of the process, the candidate completes assessments in all the fields of study.

The great advantage of the program is its easy accessibility for volunteers in churches who feel called to an educational ministry and have limited funds or time.



Explore this program or apply at [pcusa.org/christianeducators](https://www.pcusa.org/christianeducators). Help also is available from the program's national coordinator, Martha Miller, at martha.miller@pcusa.org.

Churches Should “Put the Bucket Down” Where They Are to Dismantle Racism

By Rick Jones, Office of the General Assembly

The co-moderators of the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) encourage churches need to step out of their comfort zones to bridge the divide in race relations across the country.

On February 1, Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and the Rev. Gregory Bentley participated in a Zoom webinar initiated by Westminster Church in Richmond. The Black Caucus and Dismantling Racism ministries of Presbytery of the James co-sponsored the event. Participants represented 33 different churches, many Presbyterian, but also Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic.

The co-moderators say it’s hard work, but churches don’t always have to start from scratch.

“Cast your bucket where you are. If you look around your community, you will find an organization or an institution that is living into the Matthew 25 vision,” said Bentley. “We don’t have to re-invent; just look at what’s already going on and move alongside and make it all it can be.”

Bentley’s bucket analogy is from a story told by Booker T. Washington in his 1895 Atlanta Compromise speech.

Street-Stewart pointed out that Virginia is steeped in history and she suggests congregations consider that as they seek equity.

“You are in a place where you can lead conversations about memorials or street names,” she said. “You can bring honor to persons buried in cemeteries that are segregated or don’t have headstones. These conversations can touch your community in deep ways.”

The co-moderators told participants that the needs are all around them.

“There’s an inverse relationship between charity and justice. If you



Westminster Church Ruling Elder Kenna Payne (top left) and member Noah Morgan (top right) moderated the online event, relaying questions from participants to Elona Street-Stewart (bottom left) and Rev. Gregory Bentley (bottom right).

need a lot of charity, there’s a lot of injustice. At some point, you’ve got to deal with the cause,” said Bentley. “That’s when we put our hands to the work of justice. We have to ask the tough questions. Why do we have so many hungry people when we live in a land of plenty?”

One attendee asked how churches and individuals can get connected with other groups without stepping on toes.

“You have people that are part of charter organizations that have been around for generations. Start talking with members of those organizations,” Street-Stewart said. “Find out what the opportunities are to learn or participate.”

Some of the discussion centered on how the church can be more connected to the community. Bentley said, “You gotta just do it.”

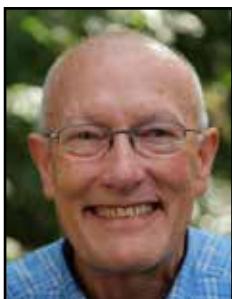
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“Times are changing and ways of doing ministry must adapt,” he reflected. “The pandemic has accelerated the changes that are vital for congregations and ministries to meet the adaptive challenge.

This plan calls for the POJ to uphold and support those who are meeting the challenges with joy and faith.”

Presbyters moving about the presbytery is key to the success of the plan, which decentralizes staff from Richmond through the creation of satellite offices at churches. Presbyters will use the church locations to meet more conveniently with members and ministries in their areas.



Rev. Fred Holbrook

Beyond the presbyters and stated clerk, under the new plan staff will include an associate for administration and one for communications and technology. The plan increases staff and independent contractors by one person (seven currently to eight) and staff hours by 21 per week.

Following approval at the meeting, the mission and vision went into immediate effect. The Committee on Nominations will form a search committee for the three presbyters. Strategic Plan Team moderator Jen Rowe anticipates a lead presbyter could be in place by early 2022.

The strategic plan, including position descriptions for the staff, and budget impact as compared to the 2020 budget, are available at presbyteryofthejames.com/spt.

History of the Strategic Plan

Development of the strategic plan began in October 2017, when the presbytery voted to form a committee and charged it to articulate a vision and mission for POJ, propose a structure for implementation, and recommend a financial plan for implementation.

The Strategic Planning Team arising from that action began meeting in January 2019. The team’s report was presented for review at a called presbytery meeting on November 21, 2020.

All of the team’s four recommendations were approved at the February 20, 2021 stated meeting.

Tilling and Keeping God's Garden

Four Presbyteries of the James churches have been certified as 2021 Earth Care Congregations by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. This honor speaks to the great commitment the congregations have made to care for God's earth.

POJ honorees are Bon Air Church, Madison Church, Second Church in Richmond, and Westminster Church in Charlottesville. They are among 276 churches across the denomination to qualify. 2021 is Bon Air's first year participating.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, congregations integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship,



education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification recognizes churches that take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

For more information on the program, visit pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.



For Palm Sunday, Bon Air Church uses fronds purchased from Eco-Palms. The leaves come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and use sustainable harvesting practices to protect the local ecosystem. Learn more at ecopalms.org.

Public Policy Witness Ministry Advocates for Criminal Justice Reform and Gun Violence Prevention

POJ's Public Policy Witness (PPW) Ministry encourages clergy and congregations to engage in policy advocacy at local and state levels. For eight years, this ministry has worked with partners to promote affordable health care, public safety and prevention of gun violence, living wages, and accessible public transportation. Over the last year the ministry also has expanded into new initiatives.

Gun Violence Prevention

Members of the PPW Ministry joined other gun reform advocates for the 29th annual Virginia Vigil & Advocacy Day to Prevent Gun Violence. Held each year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the event normally occurs in person at the Capitol; this year it was virtual via Zoom with Governor Ralph Northam and Attorney General of Virginia Mark Herring as featured speakers. A recording of the event is available on YouTube (youtu.be/5n24Z0lQv8I).

Money that in other years would have been spent on bus rentals to transport advocates to Richmond for the event was directed instead to a violence prevention program. The money will help fund a Charlottesville chapter of a national organization, Cure Violence.

This organization has a success record in changing violent behaviors among young men, violence that has sometimes ended in gun deaths. The City of Charlottesville, the University of Virginia, and area churches, including Westminster Church (Charlottesville), are also helping to fund this new chapter.

Criminal Justice Reform

PPW Ministry also widened its scope to reforming criminal justice, particularly in the areas of capital punishment and youth incarceration.

Virginia has executed more people and for longer than any other state in the nation. PPW members joined advocates in 2021 calling for an end to the death penalty in the commonwealth. On February 3 and 5, Virginia's Senate and House of Delegates voted to abolish the death penalty, making Virginia the first southern state to eliminate the practice.

Inspired by the work of POJ pastors Rev. Lauren Ramseur and Rev. Ashley Diaz-Mejias at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC), PPW Ministry is learning about opportunities to advocate for incarcerated young people.



In previous years, gun violence prevention advocates participated in an annual awareness event at the Virginia Capitol on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This year, the event was virtual.

Since late 2018, Ramseur and Diaz-Mejias have been ministering at Bon Air JCC through Voices of Jubilee, the new worshipping community they formed at the facility. In March and April 2020, an outbreak of COVID-19 swept through the facility, infecting residents and staff. (Read about Voices of Jubilee in the July 2020 issue of the Vine.) With visitation limited

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Presbytery Churches Respond to Continuing Hunger Crisis

As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, food insecurity (lack of consistent access to food) continues to challenge individuals and families in our community. Cars line up, sometimes for miles, waiting to receive needed items from food banks and pop-up distribution events. Through soup kitchens, walk-in pantries, and weekly drive-throughs, many POJ churches and ministries are working to share God's abundance with those whose resources are stretched.

This fall, the Brandermill Church created a new hunger ministry to meet this pressing need in their Midlothian community. After brainstorming and planning, Pastor Jim Dunkin, Barbara Flynt, director of adult education and discipleship, Nancy Rider, ruling elder for missions, and member Dale Gentz launched the Sunday Park Food Pantry in November.

Congregation and community members drop off non-perishable items in a container outside the church's main entrance. The Boathouse Restaurant, the church's neighbor, contributes fresh foods and encourages their customers to support the pantry through financial donations.

A church classroom, empty because worship and Sunday school are still virtual, is used for storing food and toiletry donations and packing household boxes.

"Even when our space is not being used as it would be normally," Dunkin shared, "there is a way to use it."

Each Saturday for two hours, volunteers distribute the resources. So far, the pantry helps 30 families each week. The church

hopes the number of families served increases as awareness of the pantry grows.

Three Chopt Church can testify to the increased need for food in their Henrico community. The church converted their existing walk-in food pantry to a drive-through distribution due to COVID-19.

Pre-pandemic, the pantry helped 24 families per week. Now, the church is serving more than one hundred cars each Tuesday night.

Your congregation's contributions to 5 Cents a Meal also help meet local hunger needs. POJ's Hunger Ministry oversees distribution of financial support from the offering.

The majority of funds benefits emergency food centers operated by faith organizations, such as Grace Community Ministries, Inc. in Dinwiddie County. Grace has been a beneficiary for several years, most recently receiving \$1,000 in April 2020.

Bott Memorial Church supports GRACE Ministries with food contributions year-round. Congregation members also volunteer, unloading deliveries from FeedMore and distributing to needy families.

These are just a few of the many congregations helping to fill this critical need within our community. We celebrate your vital work.

Learn about the congregations highlighted here by visiting brandermillchurch.org, threechoptchurch.org, and bottmemorial.com.



(Above) More than 40 disciples are involved in sorting, packing, and staffing the drive-through for Brandermill Church's Sunday Park Food Pantry. (Below) At First Church in Charlottesville, soup kitchen volunteers take extra precautions while preparing meals for the homeless.



Called to address hunger on the presbytery level? The Hunger Ministry welcomes your help. Visit presbyteryofthejames.com/hunger.

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"I'm more concerned about being hospitable than being welcoming and polite. Hospitality is inviting someone into your life, creating a safe space to work and build together," he said. "That means you have to risk discomfort, risk going outside where you may feel you have some type of expertise. It means taking the risk of being misunderstood, ridiculed or even severing relationships we've had in the past that have been holding us back from where God wants us to be."

Street-Stewart adds that it means more than just opening the doors of the church to the community.

"What does the artwork or pictures in your building represent? Are they white or do they represent the full diversity in your community?" she asked. "What type of music is played at church?"

Do the books in your church library represent your community?"

To change thinking regarding white supremacy, Bentley suggested the six Rs: Remembrance, Remorse, Repentance, Repair, Reconciliation and Resurrection.

"There is a lot of mythology about ourselves that suggests we are the greatest and well intentioned," he said. "We have to look at ourselves as we are. We don't have to lie about America in order to love America. For it to become all it can be, we have to tell the truth, even if it makes us uncomfortable."

Find a recording of the event on the presbytery's YouTube channel. Visit youtu.be/HzlmVK9cK-8.

Stewarding the Church During a Pandemic

If the pandemic has taught us anything, we have realized what it means to steward all that God has entrusted into our care. We are caretakers of people, services, places, and resources, each deeply impacted by the changes of the past year. As we reflect on this time, consider the areas of Stewardship below and the opportunities before you.

Stewards of our congregations

We cannot count on those connections we used to make on Sunday morning, catching up with people we know and meeting new people. To stay connected in this season takes lots of energy and time. It requires more one-on-one connection by phone and email and other means of communication.

How well does your website communicate the status of worship and study and outreach opportunities? Who have you not heard from lately who might need a call, a card, or a socially-distanced visit?

Stewards of worship and faith formation

Many congregations are worshipping online using Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube. Some congregations are conducting in-person worship, but it is limited to a small number of people. We conduct meetings and Bible studies by Zoom and do drive-through activities for special services.

What technology do you need to reach more of your congregation? Are you interested in learning more about other types of online worship that might reach more people?

Stewards of our property

It is important to maintain and support those sacred spaces we love so that when the time comes, we can return to them and feel safe and healthy. This might be a good time to do some deferred maintenance or renovations that are hard to accomplish when the facility is in full use.

What does our facility need to be ready for our return to in-person worship? What protocols are we prepared to implement so that we can be together as soon as possible?



(Above) In lieu of their usual Ash Wednesday service this year, Hebron Church in Manakin-Sabot created Lenten kits for members to pick up at the church and use at home. The kits contained a unique devotional guide, along with potting materials and seeds assembled by volunteers. The theme of the devotional guide is "Rooted in God's Promises," and its weekly meditations correspond with the planting and growing of the flower seeds. (Below) Culpeper Church delivered a pizza lunch to staff and volunteers working a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the local middle school.



Stewards of community

One of the ways we have been challenged during the pandemic is being able to do the kinds of outreach in our communities that are so meaningful and needed. This is a good time to revisit your mission priorities and identify unmet needs in your local community and among your congregation.

What needs have been revealed in your community? Is it possible to create a partnership to meet those special needs?

Stewards of resources

Our congregations are generous and resilient, choosing wisely how to use the resources they have and being sensitive to those who are struggling and unable to do what they have done in the past. It is time to think differently about budgets and spreadsheets.

Instead of an annual budget, would a quarterly budget allow space for adjustments throughout the year? What if you talked more about the ministries you are doing and less about the ministries you are unable to do?

Stewardship is everything we do after we say "we believe." For assistance with your Stewardship program, contact Deborah Rexrode, POJ's associate for Stewardship, at deborah@presbyteryofthejames.org. Or read her blog at pojstewardship.com.

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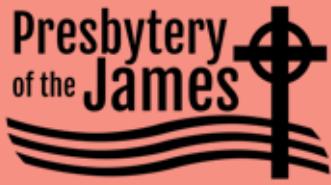
due to the virus, Voices of Jubilee has found new avenues to connect with families of the youth and support the youth who have moved to adult prisons for longer sentences.

The physical and mental health crisis created by the pandemic is one example of many problems with Virginia's current youth prison system. Instead of jailing young people, advocates say evidence proves

smaller, community-based programs are more effective at helping young people grow into healthy and productive adults.

PPW Ministry as well as POJ's Dismantling Racism Ministry plan to continue working with youth incarceration reform advocates in raising these concerns with the 2022 Virginia General Assembly.

Join Public Policy Witness Ministry in advocating for systematic justice at local and state levels. Visit presbyteryofthejames.com/ppw for more information. Learn about Cure Violence at cureviolence.org. Follow Voices of Jubilee at [facebook.com/voicesofjubilee](https://www.facebook.com/voicesofjubilee).



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New Hanover Church Fulfills Wish for International Rescue Committee

In late 2020, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Richmond received a generous gift from New Hanover Church in Mechanicsville. After selling a piece of land, the church used a portion of the proceeds to purchase a 15-passenger van for IRC Richmond.

IRC provides opportunities for refugees to thrive in America. Each year, thousands of refugees are invited by the U.S. government to seek safety and freedom. Forced to flee conflict or persecution, many have survived for years against incredible odds. They step off the plane with next to nothing but their dignity, hope and determination. IRC helps them rebuild their lives.

The vehicle will support services and programming for both IRC Richmond and partner ReEstablish Richmond. The organizations will use it to transport refugee families from the airport to their new homes and then to classes and medical appointments.

Rev. Dr. Robert Johnson, pastor of New Hanover Church said, “We’ve felt a calling to help our neighbors for some time. [Donating this van] shares our care and concern for those who have fled violence and disruption to make a new life in the U.S. During the Christmas season, it’s also a tangible way for us to demonstrate the faith we celebrate at this time of year.”

The church presented the van to IRC Richmond at an event in December that also served as a coat drive. Members of New Hanover Church and the community donated more than 600 new and gently-used winter coats and warm clothing and accessories. IRC Richmond distributed the items January 23 to 85 families.

Visit New Hanover Church online at newhanoverpres.org. Learn about IRC Richmond at rescue.org/united-states/richmond-va.

Registration Open for Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Presbyterian Women of POJ invite you to a Spring Gathering via Zoom on May 1. The event will include their annual business meeting, a celebration of members who entered the Church Triumphant, and worship. Guest speakers include the POJ Youth Council and offering recipient CARES (Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter of Petersburg). Register at presbyteryofthejames.com/pw by April 30.

Older Adult Sunday is May 2

Does your church have a plan for Older Adult Sunday, May 2? The annual Older Adult Ministry (OAM) Network planning guides can give you new ideas. The 2021 OAM Planning Guide will include worship service suggestions from various cultures around the world. Find resources at poamn.org/planning-guides.