

# The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

*We build bridges across divides to deepen connection to Christ and one another to serve the world.*

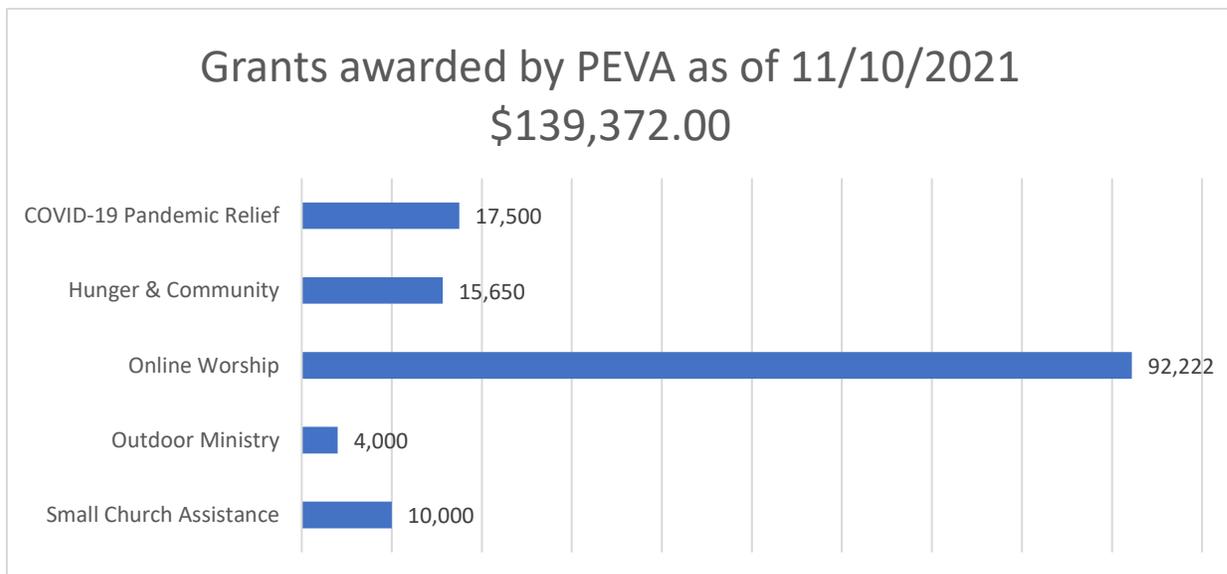


## What does the Presbytery do?

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (PEVA) builds bridges supporting congregations, pastors, candidates for ministry, chaplains, and community ministries. From the beginning of the pandemic the Presbytery pivoted to provide pastors and congregation leaders with up-to-date information and resources to adapt and continue adapting to changing circumstances.

In 2021, PEVA:

- Awarded grants to congregations and faith-based organizations for online technology, hunger, community ministries, small church urgent capital needs, and pandemic relief.



- Hosted webinars on topics including “Mourning our Pandemic Losses” with Robin Cowherd, “ Major Trends in the Post-Pandemic Church,” with Tom Bandy, “Online Ministry Going Forward,” with Joel Phillips, “Mission Insite Demographic Tools for Ministry”--and publicized church-related webinars on copyright and tax law, church property, stewardship, Christian education and more
- Provided congregational vitality and assessment tools, including free access to online community data through Mission Insite
- Created a PEVA Coaching Network, under-writing the costs of 60 hours of professional coach training for 8 PEVA members, to provide one-year free coaching for pastors, educators, and church leaders to enhance their resilience and creativity
- Delivered a 10ft truck and pickup truck full of food and supplies for Migrant Ministry from 11 participating congregations
- Assisted 7 churches with pastoral transitions- providing online and in person support for sessions, Interim Pastors and Pastor Nominating Committees; provided support for congregations with challenging situations
- Guided 6 inquirers and 14 candidates preparing for ministry and awarded 6 scholarships.
- PEVA’s Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries organized a Prayer Walk for Racial Justice and Healing which drew members of 14 congregations to Fort Monroe for a morning of prayer, education, singing and walking together.
- PEVA’s Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries awarded 5 church youth group scholarships to spark interest in environmental issues by attending the *Washed Ashore, Art to Save the Sea* exhibit at Norfolk Botanical Gardens.
- Awarded fifteen elders and pastors’ scholarships to participate in training for developing healthy congregations or skills for transforming conflict.

For 2022:

- The Montreat College Conference, Youth Retreat, and Youth Triennium will kick-off Youth & Young Adult Ministry events
- A Congregational Vitality Webinar in February –“ Gathering Beyond Worship: The Body of Christ in Pixels and in Person” on February 8, 2021
- Continuing support for:
  - congregations and pastors seeking to adapt to a post-pandemic world
  - congregations in transition and those discerning a call to ministry
  - free coaching for enhancing leaders’ strengths for ministry
  - Hunger, Community Ministries, Peacemaking & Racial Dialogue
- A Presbytery staff to provide guidance, resources, grant applications and help with networking

*“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.” Song of Solomon 8:7*