

**THE 235<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING OF  
THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

March 16-17, 2015  
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church  
Richmond, Virginia

**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015**

Commissioners to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic gathered at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond Virginia for registration and coffee.

**CONVENING PRAYER AND WELCOME**

Moderator Laura Lupton convened the 235<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic at 9:35 am with prayer. She welcomed commissioners, corresponding members and guests. She invited all attendees to stand according to their individual presbytery to introduce themselves.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present. Twenty-nine commissioners are in attendance including the moderator and vice-moderator. 14 Teaching Elders and 15 Ruling Elders represented all 14 presbyteries in the synod. The Procedural Guide states “the quorum for the Stated Meeting shall be fifty (50%) of the total number of voting commissioners, which is thirty, 28 presbytery commissioners, plus the moderator and vice moderator. Such a quorum shall be comprised of at least seven commissioners who are elders and at least seven who are ministers, and which is constituted such that at least five presbyteries are represented.”

**COMMISSIONERS**

Parish, Bill  
Simpson, Brad  
Jun, Eun-Gee  
Pak, James  
Leslie, Louisa  
Morgan, Brett  
Burris, D. Lynn  
Busby, Greg  
Sanders, David (Vice-Moderator)  
Arnold, Franklin  
Lupton, Laura (Moderator)  
Gilbert, Floyd  
Peterson, Addie  
Payne, Kenna  
Rhyne, H. Carson  
Jervis, Madeline  
Powell, Kevin

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Ruling Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Teaching Elder

**PRESBYTERY**

Abingdon  
Abingdon  
AKAP  
AKAP  
Baltimore  
Baltimore  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Coastal Carolina  
Coastal Carolina  
Eastern Virginia  
Eastern Virginia  
James  
James  
National Capital  
National Capital

Ahamad, Neeshard	Ruling Elder	New Castle
Rowland, Nancy	Teaching Elder	New Castle
Omokunde, Tolokun	Teaching Elder	New Hope
Smith, Janice	Ruling Elder	New Hope
Eller, Sarah	Ruling Elder	Peaks
Rakes, Janet	Ruling Elder	Peaks
Hartman, John	Teaching Elder	Salem
Sprinkle, Carolyn	Ruling Elder	Salem
Cushwa, John	Teaching Elder	Shenandoah
Blose, Ellen R.	Ruling Elder	Shenandoah
Deas, Eddie	Teaching Elder	Western Carolina
Sellers, Sylvia	Ruling Elder	Western Carolina

**Commissioners Excused**

Ed Boyce

**Church Office**

Teaching Elder

**Presbytery**

Coastal Carolina

**Corresponding Members**

Jim Moseley

**Church Office**

Teaching Elder

**Position**

Discernment Committee

**Staff**

Teaching Elder Warren Lesane, Jr - Executive and Stated Clerk, Cindy Hollingshead - Finance Manager and Tami Scott - Synod Administrator.

**Guests**

Jonathan Barton (Executive Director of Virginia Council of Churches), Brenda Brown (RE-Presbyterian Women Moderator), William "Pete" Brown (TE-Discernment Committee), Beverly Bullock (TE-Discernment Committee), Levis "Skip" Cothran (Acting Executive Director of Massanetta Springs), Jeff Chapman (Sr. Portfolio Manager-RBC Wealth Management Investments), George Goodman (TE-Discernment Committee), Jeffrey Kim (TE-Discernment Committee), William Pittman (Guest-New Hope Presbytery), Debbie Reese (RE-Discernment Committee), Jacqueline Sanders (Guest-Charlotte Presbytery), Charles Sellers (Guest-Western Carolina Presbytery), Karen Thatcher (RE-Discernment Committee) and Ray Watson (RE-Discernment Committee), Shannon Kiser (TE – GA Presbyterian Mission Agency).

**TEMPORARY CLERK ELECTION**

The Moderator appointed Tami Scott, Synod Administrator, as the recorder for the meeting.

**ADOPTION OF DOCKET**

The adoption of the proposed docket for the 235<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting was approved.

The Moderator reminded the Assembly that if anyone had new business to be added to the docket, that it was to be given in writing to the Stated Clerk before noon.

**STANDING RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The adoption of the Standing Rules and Procedures was approved.

## **234TH SYNOD ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

The minutes of the 234th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic were approved without exceptions.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT PART 1**

Synod Executive Committee is required to nominate the chair of the Synod Nominating Committee and it is the responsibility of the Synod Assembly to elect that chair. James Pak, member of the Executive Committee, presented Nancy Rowland's name to be considered as chair of the Nominating Committee. The motion was approved.

Nominating Committee Chair, Nancy Rowland proposed, and the assembly confirmed, the following persons to the Synod's Designated Committees:

- 1) Administration Committee – Edward Boyce, D. Lynn Burris, John Cushwa, Madeline Jervis, Brett Morgan (Chair), Bill Parish and Janice Smith.
- 2) Finance Committee – Franklin Arnold, Floyd Gilbert, Eun-Gee Jun, Kenna Payne, Kevin Powell, J. Bradford Simpson IV and Carolyn Sprinkle (Chair).
- 3) Grants and Awards Committee – Ellen Blose, Sarah Eller, Tolokun Omokunde (Chair), Addie Peterson, H. Carson Rhyne, Nancy Rowland and Sylvia Sellers.
- 4) Presbytery Initiatives Committee – Neeshard Ahamad, Gregory Busby, Eddie Deas (Chair), John Hartman, Louisa Leslie, James Pak and Janet Rakes.

Designated Committees Chairpersons nominees are Brett Morgan-Administration, Carolyn Sprinkle-Finance, Tolokun Omokunde-Grants and Awards, and Eddie Deas-Presbytery Initiatives. Nominations were opened from the floor and there not being any, nominations were closed. All four chairs were elected by acclamation.

David Sanders was installed as the 2016 vice Moderator of the Synod.

### **WORSHIP AND INSTALLATION OF VICE MODERATOR**

The Moderator led the assembly in a time of worship assisted by Commissioners Janice Smith and Gregory Busby. Ruling Elder, David Sanders was installed as the Vice Moderator of the 235<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly during worship.

### **MODERTOR'S REPORT**

The Moderator welcomed commissioners and guests. She cited Psalms 133:1 "*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity*". She thanked the staff for their hard work in preparation for the synod assembly.

### **STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Warren Lesane greeted the Assembly and gave thanks for their support. The Moderator was thanked for her dedicated and visionary leadership as chair of the Synod Executive Committee. He introduced and complimented the staff for their commitment and productivity; noting the departure of Sarah Cash. Cindy Hollingshead is relocating and will continue duties as Financial Manager on a trial basis off-site. Tami Scott has been offered the permanent Synod Administrator position. She has served in a temporary capacity since October 2014.

The Synod Stated Clerk and Executive reported the following:

- Discernment Committee - The Moderator and Stated Clerk selected nine members as mandated by the 234th Synod Assembly. The Discernment Committee was formed to *“Direct a new configuration of synod boundaries to be established (based on an emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call) through a collaborative process between the synods and presbyteries resulting in no more than 10-12 synods. The synods shall report to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016).”* See Appendix A.
- Fall Polity Conference – The conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky October 2014. Items highlighted included all governing bodies requirement to have a Child Protection Policy in place. A major presentation was provided on Mega-trends and how they impact church judicatories.
- Synod Executives from Northeast, Trinity and Mid-Atlantic met in November 2014 to discuss processes being used to implement GA mandates. Mission possibilities were explored to engage together that neither synod could do separately. All Synod Executives meet three times annually. We are responding faithfully to GA’s Mandate.
- Synod Permanent Judicial –The Smith/Kappus (Complainants) v the Presbytery of the Peaks (Respondent) Remedial Complaint and Challenge to the Findings of the constitutional officers was dismissed October 30, 2014. The Complainant appealed the ruling to the General Assembly PJC and the case will be heard in May of 2015. The Stated Clerk has provided the GAPJC the List of record and all relative documents.
- Wilbur R. Roese v Kenwood PC Lawsuit –The Synod was named in a lawsuit, but dismissed from that lawsuit on February 9, 2015 without prejudice. This civil suit filed by Roese and named Kenwood Presbyterian Church, Baltimore Presbytery and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic as defendants.
- Kate B. Reynolds Trust Fund has 446 retired Teaching Elders from NC Presbyteries enrolled. The November Certification Committee authorized Wells Fargo Bank to distribute \$562,197.79. The distribution will be made in equal shares of \$1,260.53 to the certified ministers. Eight recently retired pastors were certified to receive funds.
- Atlantic Korean American Presbytery (AKAP) – The Synod Executive Committee instructed AKAP to hold a Special Presbytery Meeting for the purpose of conducting limited business and to allow a Synod Listening Team to attend. The Team heard concerns that continue to adversely impact the health and vitality of this Presbytery during the February Special Meeting at Union Presbyterian Seminary.
- Bridging Nutritional Divide - First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe chairs the Virginia Commonwealth Council on Nutrition. The Stated Clerk was appointed to the council in January 2015. The council meets twice annually, but working groups meet alternating month.
- Ferguson, MO - The Michael Brown Grand Jury Verdict and others like it are fresh in the minds of many and an opportunity for ministry in the PCUSA Congregations.

Warren Lesane has been involved in conversations, demonstrations, advocacy and attended prayer vigils. Presbyterian clergy such as New Castle Presbyter Executive, Jim Mosely, convened leadership in the Delaware to discuss this matter and wrote a personalized article sharing its impact on his perspective and life. See Appendix B.

- Virginia Council of Churches - The Stated Clerk participated in two events sponsored by VCC. (1) A Fireside Chat with First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe at the Roslyn Center in Richmond and focused on “Bridging the Nutritional Divide Initiative.” (2) The second event was a half day retreat for judicatory leaders of various denominations. The subject matter for this event was expressions on sensitive issues such as the Michael Brown Grand Jury-Ferguson, MO. The VCC issued a news release about the Grand Jury response to Michael Brown verdict. See Appendix C.
- Interfaith Dialogue – Twelve to 16 religious leaders across Virginia meet three times annually to form relationships that enable them to participate in Interfaith Dialogues. The current subject being discussed, “The sources of authority of each faith group, how we interpret our respective holy scriptures, and how this interpretation is lived out in our American Culture”. January dialogue leadership came from Islamic community. Two Imams made presentations highlighting groups such as the Taliban and ISIS.
- Per Capita Support – 2014 income totaled \$207,138.14. This amount was \$1,367.86 less than anticipated. Full apportionments payments were received from 13 of the 14 presbyteries. The Synod is appreciative to all presbyteries and its member churches in responding to the asking.
- Catawba Synod Reunion – Attached is an invitation from George Wilson - Chair of the Catawba Synod/Unit Reunion Celebration scheduled for September 18-20 at the Marriott Hotel, Greensboro. See Appendix D.

### **MASSANETTA SPRINGS REPORT**

Levis “Skip” Cothran, is the Acting Executive Director of Massanetta Springs. Massanetta is a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center that provides a place for discovery and renewal through worship, nurture, and fellowship, inviting all to share in the grace and hospitality of Christ. Skip joined Massanetta staff in 2014. He shared information about the Serving and Learning Together and Ringing at the Springs (SALT). This conference experienced an 18% increase in participation in 2014. Because of the generous legacy giving from the trust of Virginia S. Kerns, her gift of \$144,000.00 allowed Massanetta Springs to become debt free in 2015. See Appendix E.

### **VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (VCC)**

Jonathan Barton shared the mission of the VCC as he gave a brief history of its inception. The Council finds ways to bring people together in prayer and for fellowship. The council fosters the building of relationships and networks that serves as a link between federal, state, governmental bodies and churches concerning disaster services. Leadership of various denominations are brought together for conversation and to develop initiatives. Most current conversations have been related to racial tensions and broadening listening sessions.

All of the reports above were received as information by the assembly.

## **PLENARY SESSION ONE**

### **DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Jim Moseley and the Discernment Committee have met regularly by conference call and in person to address its mandate. The mandate is to review in total and to recommend to the full Synod Assembly a clarification and or/redirection of the synod of the Mid-Atlantic's core mission and ministries in light of actions taken by the 2014 General Assembly to "***Direct all new configuration of synod boundaries to be established (based on an emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call) through a collaborative process between the synods and presbyteries resulting in no more than 10-12 synods. The synods shall report to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016).***" See Appendix F.

The entire Discernment Committee attended the 235th Stated Meeting to engage the assembly in conversations around a designed survey. Jim introduced committee members which included Beverly Bullock, William "Pete" Brown, George Goodman, Jeffery Kim, Jim Moseley, Debra Reese, Karen Thatcher and Ray Watson. One member, Belinda Rice, resigned due to health.

- Jim, with the assistance of Debbie Reese, gave a power point presentation highlighting what the committee is doing to accomplish their mandate and charge.
- The presentation introduced three (3) arenas of ministry (Youth/Young Adults, Emergent Leadership (Racial, Ethnic and Immigrant) and Funding of internet, website and social media initiatives) that the committee is targeting for their survey.
- A survey was introduced to assist in interviewing presbyteries and constituent groups. After feedback is received from commissioners from the Table Top Discussions, feedback will be reviewed and incorporated and the final version of the survey. The survey will be sent out and accessed online in English, Spanish, Korean and Braille.

## **PLENARY SESSION TWO**

### **COMMITTEE ORIENTATION AND REVIEW**

An orientation to explain synod committee duties was presented by designated and permanent committee chairpersons. The Assembly heard from Administration Committee-Brett Morgan, Executive Committee-Laura Lupton, Finance Committee-Carolyn Sprinkle, Grants & Awards-Tolokun Omokunde, Presbytery Initiatives-Eddie Deas and Nancy Rowland reported on Nominating Committee efforts.

### **DESIGNATED COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Each committee was provided a template and flash drive to record its meeting minutes. Committees assembled in designated locations to transact the business assigned to them and to return completed reports to the synod administrator prior to the days end.

## **WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION**

Commissioners and guests gathered at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church for worship and Holy Communion. Teaching Elder, Willie Woodson (honorably retired) was the preacher and scriptures were taken from I Samuel 16:1-13; psalm 133; Ephesian 5:8-14. He assisted Laura Lupton in administering communion. The benediction was given by Moderator Lupton. An offering was lifted to be contributed to the Eva & Bessie McKay Ministerial Scholarship Fund and the Jubilee Fund which totaled \$308.00.

## **DINNER RECESS**

At the conclusion of worship, commissioners gathered for dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. A blessing was provided by Eddie Deas. After dinner, the assembly was in recess until Tuesday Morning.

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015**

## **RECONVENING**

Moderator Lupton called the Assembly to order at 9:00 am with an opening prayer and greetings. Fifteen Beach Balls, each representing a presbytery and synod in the Mid-Atlantic, were provided for each commissioner to autograph. Commissioners in two's were invited to grasp each ball and offer a prayer for the presbytery or synod represented. The purpose of this exercise was for each participant to answer the question, "How can our presbytery play ball with the Synod making sure of the resources and opportunities we share together"? The Moderator encouraged each presbytery to utilize the resources of the Synod.

## **PLENARY SESSION THREE**

### **New Worshipping Communities**

Shannon Kiser, Regional Representative for the Presbyterian Mission Agency reported on the 1001 New Worshipping Communities. She encouraged the assembly in reading from Luke 10:2, "*The Harvest is plentiful but laborers are few.*" She encouraged the assembly to set their sights on what God is telling it to do and don't get distracted. Our attention needs to be on abundance rather than scarcity. Shannon invited commissioners to speak about New Worshipping Communities in their individual presbyteries.

**RBC Wealth Management Investments- Jeff Chapman- Senior Portfolio Manager-Royal Bank of Canada.** He reviewed the Synod Portfolio performance. Then he answered questions regarding the previously approved recommendation from the Finance Committee to invest into First Light Management (small healthcare industries).

## **PLENARY SESSION FOUR**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Omnibus Motion** – Jubilee Trust Fund, Kate B. Reynolds Trust Fund and the Speer Trust Fund Minutes were all approved by omnibus motion. Moderator, Lupton stressed the importance of

recording committee minutes and to indicate those present, excused or unexcused, the location and time of the meeting. The omnibus motion was approved and the reports were received. See Appendixes G, G-1, H & I.

Nominating Committee

Nancy Rowland, chair of the Synod Nominating Committee, presented the names below to be voted on by the assembly. The floor was opened for additional nominations. The assembly acted on the slate below and approved all names listed. The following names were nominated by Bill Parish: Phyllis Canter, Tom Whartenby and Wythe Hall.

Nominating Committee

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2016	Joon Kwon	AMTE1	AKAP
2017	Phyllis Canter	WFRE1	Abingdon

Committee on Representation

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2015	Lynn Henderson	BMRE1	New Hope
206	Don Cooper	WMTE1	Western North Carolina
2017	Catheren Warren	BFRE1	Coastal Carolina

Permanent Judicial Commission

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2017	James Pak	AMRE	AKAP
2017	Bill Pittman	WMRE	New Hope

Jubilee Fund

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2017	Tom Whartenby	WMTE1	Abingdon
2017	Ray Mendenhall	WMTE1	Coastal Carolina
2017	Lawrence Willis	BMTE2	Eastern Virginia

Speer Trust Fund

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2017	Wythe Hall	WMRE1	Abingdon
2017	Jim Ferry	Wmte1	New Hope
2017	Kent Berry	WMTE2	Salem

Massanetta Springs Trustees

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2015	Shelda Wills	WFRE3	The Peaks
2016	Lori Jones	WFRE1	Eastern Virginia
2017	Katherine Kussmaul	WFTE1	New Hope
2017	Ann Reed held	WFTE1	Shenandoah
2017	Wendell Hill	BMRE1	Charlotte
2017	Charlie Lee	WMRE1	Coastal Carolina



Vacancies exist from the following presbyteries and we urge each presbytery to assist in the filling of each. Abingdon (COR & SPJC), Eastern Virginia (Nominating & SPJC), New Hope (Nominating), Peaks (COR & SPJC), Salem (COR, Nominating, SPJC & Jubilee), Shenandoah (COR, SPJC & Jubilee) and Western North Carolina (Nominating).

**Presbytery Initiatives** – Eddie Deas reported that Presbytery Initiatives is seeking feedback from previously funded grants. The committee is tweaking the application reporting form to make it more user friendly. Three applications were considered for funding:

1. Presbyterian Women in the amount of \$2,600.00. (Child Care- provides staffing and insurance coverage at 2015 Synod Summer Gathering – sponsored by Charlotte and National Capital Presbyteries);
2. The Black Caucus for the Historical Celebration of Catawba Unit in the amount of \$5,000.00 sponsored by Charlotte and Western North Carolina Presbyteries;
3. The Global Village at Camp Grier in the amount of \$10,000.00 sponsored by Charlotte, Salem and Western North Carolina Presbyteries.

The assembly voted to fund all three projects. See Appendix J.

**Administration** - Brett Morgan reported the following items and cited that Ed Boyce has an excused absence and that Lynn Burris was present:

- Committee conducted the first annual review for Executive and Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane, Jr.
- Received update on Tami Scott, considered for Synod Administrator.
- Discussed possibility of Off Site Financial Manager.
- Discussed the reading of presbytery minutes process and due to financial restraints, recommended that stated clerks of presbyteries continue with the presbytery review using the same format used in the past (rotation). The committee recommends that the Guidelines for Presbytery Minute Review be sent out immediately following the March meeting to be completed and returned by September 1, 2015. There was a motion to continue the rotation of reviewing Stated Clerk's records and minutes. Motion was approved.
- Approved the minutes and records review for all presbyteries except AKAP. AKAP has not submitted their presbytery minutes in 2 years.
- All policies, including Standing Rules and Procedures are under review by the Administration Committee. The challenge is to align these policies with the New Book of Order. The committee's aim is to complete this by September Assembly. The committee addressed the recommended amendment of the following Standing Rules and Procedures: See Appendixes K & K-1.

The Administration Committee made the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1)** Section 2.1 of Standing Rules-Meetings & Membership-Stated Meetings, "The Stated Meeting of the synod (Synod Assembly) shall be held twice each year, ordinarily in March and ~~October~~, at specific times and places decided by the Synod Assembly." ***Proposed Change is to strike October and replace it with September.*** Recommendation was approved.

**Recommendation 2)** Section 2.2 Called Meetings, "Called meetings of the synod Assembly shall be called in accordance with the Book of Order, Section G-12.0201." The proposed change should read, "***The moderator shall call a special meeting at the written request of three***

***ministers and three elders representing at least three presbyteries, all of whom must have been commissioners to the last preceding stated meeting of the synod.”***  
Recommendation was approved.

Recommendation 3) The committee recommended the 236<sup>th</sup> Assembly to be held at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church on September 14-15, 2015. Recommendation was approved.

Motion was made to accept the Administration Committee report. All approved.

**Grants and Awards** - Tolokun Omokunde reported applications for the Euler, New and Small Church Grant fund, Peacemaking and the Visionary Fund were considered. The following applications were approved.

- **Euler Scholarship** - The committee received and approved 9 applications for the Euler Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$3,740.00 each. Originally, there were 10 applicants but Jaechl Pi did not renew. There are five returnees and four new applicants, all having met requirements (Shin Bok Cha, Leah Elizabeth Epps, Sani Athisu Mao, Jason Myers, Patricia Reed, Rebecca Cummings, Robert Lord Galloway, David Brandon Smith and William Wilson). Motion Approved.
- **New and Small Church Grant Fund** - Listed are the five applications that the committee has received and approved: 1) Faith Chapel (National Capital) for roof painting - \$2500., 2) Dulatown (Western North Carolina) for heating system - \$2500; (3) First Lincolnton (Western North Carolina) for roof replacement- \$5,000; (4) Marshall (Western North Carolina) for heating system-\$5,000; (5) Wildwood (coastal Carolina) for septic system-\$5,000. Motion Approved.
- Peacemaking is new to the Grants/Awards review process. Churches that have not sent evaluations will not be considered. There are two applications for Peacemaking Funds.
  - 1) Grace Presbyterian Church (Baltimore)-\$2500; 2) New Covenant at Irongate (James)-\$5,000. Motion Approved.
  - A motion was made that the Grant and Awards Committee be empowered to allocate up to 10% of the current balance of the Synod portion of the Peacemaking Offering Fund at each meeting of the Synod Assembly. Motion approved.
- Visionary Fund – There are two applications that have been considered for the Visionary Fund. 1) Northminster Presbyterian Church (Western North Carolina) for pre-school ministry-\$3800; 2) Presbytery of Western North Carolina (Art of Listening Workshops) - \$2500. Motion Approved. See Appendix L.

Motion was made to accept the Grants and Awards Committee report. All approved. The next committee meeting is slated for September 2015.

### **Finance Committee**

Carolyn Sprinkle reviewed the 2014 and 2015 operating budgets. She presented the 2016 tentative budget and discussion pursued. The Finance Committee recommended a reduction in the mileage reimbursement for volunteers from .575 to .30 per mile, **effective July 1, 2015**. The motion was defeated.

The Finance Committee recommended that per capita be increased from .75 to .80, effective January 2016. The motion passed. Three commissioners requested that their negative vote be recorded. Carson Rhyne, Lynn Burris, and Neeshard Ahamad)

An accurate 2016 budget for income could not be determined. Membership numbers for 2014 are not available at this time. There was concern and discussion about the trending decline in membership. However, after considerable discussion the 2016 budget draft was approved by the assembly. Projected income was \$250,600.00 against projected expenses of \$258,488.00. See Appendixes M & M-1.

#### Extension of Meeting Time

The Assembly agreed to extend the adjournment time by 30 minutes to accommodate adequate time for concluding its business. Motion to extend meeting time to 12:30pm – Motion passed.

Executive Committee – Moderator Lupton reported that Atlantic Korean American Presbytery (AKAP) is incurring internal conflict that required a meeting and a Listening Team to help identify and process their concerns. The Executive Committee reported their decision to allow AKAP to find their own resolution without direct synod intervention at this time, but the Executive Committee will also send a letter requiring certain action steps to be achieved within the next few months and reported to the Synod Executive. No action required by Assembly. Motion that Executive Committee Minutes provided be entered into the record. The motion was approved.

#### **AJDOURNMENT**

With all business being addressed, a motion was called for the 235<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly to be adjourned. Second and approved. Vice Moderator, David Sanders, adjourned the assembly with prayer at 12:21 pm.