

**THE 237th STATED MEETING OF
THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
GINTER PARK PC, RICHMOND, VA
MARCH 14-15, 2016**

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

The 237th Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic was convened with prayer by Moderator David Sanders on March 14, 2016 at 9:30 am.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The Moderator declared a quorum with 25 commissioners in attendance including the moderator and vice-moderator. Fifteen Teaching Elders and ten Ruling Elders represented fourteen 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, which is constituted such that at least five presbyteries are represented.”

COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE

PRESBYTERY

Bill Parish	Ruling Elder	Abingdon
Brad Simpson	Teaching Elder	Abingdon
Nam Hong Cho	Teaching Elder	AKAP
Kim Hyongsun Robinson	Ruling Elder	AKAP
Aaron Frank	Teaching Elder	Baltimore
Riley Burgess	Ruling Elder	Charlotte
Greg Busby	Teaching Elder	Charlotte
David Sanders (Moderator)	Ruling Elder	Charlotte
Robbie Phillips	Teaching Elder	Coastal Carolina
Jim Kirkpatrick	Ruling Elder	Eastern Virginia
Addie Peterson	Teaching Elder	Eastern Virginia
Nikki Morris	Ruling Elder	James
H. Carson Rhyne	Teaching Elder	James
Madeline Jervis	Teaching Elder	National Capital
Kevin Powell	Teaching Elder	National Capital
Alice Tewell (Vice Moderator)	Teaching Elder	National Capital
Nancy Rowland	Teaching Elder	New Castle
John Etheredge	Ruling Elder	New Hope
Tolokun Omokunde	Teaching Elder	New Hope
Sarah Eller	Ruling Elder	Peaks
Janet Rakes	Ruling Elder	Peaks
John Hartman	Teaching Elder	Salem

John Cushwa
Charles Davenport
Sylvia Sellers

Teaching Elder
Teaching Elder
Ruling Elder

Shenandoah
Western Carolina
Western Carolina

EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS

Louisa Leslie
Carolyn Sprinkle

Office
Ruling Elder
Ruling Elder

Presbytery
Baltimore
Salem

ABSENT COMMISSIONERS

Franklin Arnold
Pat Undercuffler

Office
Ruling Elder
Ruling Elder

Presbytery
Coastal Carolina
New Castle

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Executive/Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane; Finance Manager, Cindy Hollingshead; Administrator, Tami Scott; and Presbytery Executive, Jim Moseley, New Castle Presbytery were seated as corresponding members.

GUESTS

Executive Director, Kim Bobo, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; Inter-Cultural Coordinator Sterling Morse, Presbyterian Mission Agency; Executive Director, Clayton Rascoe, Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center; Charles Sellers -Visitor and Sue Brossart, Synod Volunteer.

DEVOTION

Vice Moderator Alice Tewell lead the Assembly in devotion built on Isaiah 43:16-21. She shared about a worm composting project and discussed how worms cause unexpected things to occur. Her message emphasized change by bringing the outdoors inside and the inside outdoors. Christ takes us out of the ways (death tending ways of the world) and brings us light and new life.

TEMPORARY CLERK

Moderator Sanders appointed Tami Scott as the recording clerk for the meeting.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Moderator Sanders welcomed commissioners and guests by asking everyone to stand to introduce themselves as he announced their presbytery. All were invited to share their name, church position and the most exciting thing that they had done in the past 30 days.

ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL GUIDE

A motion to approve the Procedural Guide was offered, seconded and approved.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Moderator presented the 237th proposed docket. It was approved by common consent.

236TH SYNOD MINUTES

The Minutes of the 236th Stated Meeting were presented for approval. It was motioned and seconded that the 236th Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Minutes be approved as distributed.

STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Stated Clerk welcomed commissioners, corresponding members and visitors to the 237th Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Assembly. His report included items listed below: See Appendix **A** (Stated Clerk)

- a. Excused Commissioners: RE Carolyn Sprinkle from Salem Presbytery and RE Louisa Leslie from Baltimore requested excused absences.
- b. Guest Presenters: Clayton Rascoe (Massanetta Springs), Sterling Morse (Intercultural Ministries) and Kim Bobo (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy) were introduced as guest presenters.
- c. General Assembly Boundary Mandate: The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic has responded officially to the General Assembly's Mandate. All 16 synods responded to the GA Mandate with recommendations that there be no changes in synod geographic boundaries.
- d. Synod Boundary Consultation: Synod Moderator David Sanders, past Moderator Laura Lupton, Discernment Committee Moderator Jim Moseley and Synod Stated Clerk attended the 2015 Boundary Consultation in Dallas, Texas. A writing team from this consultation has written a report which has been sent to the OGA Stated Clerk representing all synods. Moseley was on the writing team and Sanders is on the presentation team. The report to GA included addendums sharing the process and work that each synod used to come to its decision.
- e. Synod Permanent Judicial Commission: Eleven complaints have been registered with the Synod Stated Clerk since January 2014. The SPJC has dismissed four remedial complaints since the 236th Synod Assembly. Remedial Case Kuipers v. National Capital Presbytery dismissed October 8, 2015. Remedial Case 15-01 Lee –v. Atlantic Korean American Presbytery (A) dismissed November 18, 2015. Remedial Case 2015-001 Briner v. Western North Carolina Presbytery dismissed February 15, 2016; and Remedial Case 2015-002 Lee v. Atlantic Korean American Presbytery (B) dismissed March 9, 2016. Thirteen of the 14 presbyteries are represented on the commission. Salem Presbytery continues to work at filling their vacancy.
- f. Correspondence was shared from the Public Policy Witness Purpose Group of the James Presbytery requesting assistance in the sharing of information through the region for an Immigrant Advocacy Network Training event to be held on April 20-22, 2016. This is a joint presentation of the PC (USA) office of Immigration Issues and the Presbytery Purpose Group.
- g. Survey: Commissioners are asked to complete a synod survey at the end of the assembly. Please list ways you will do the work of the synod with your presbytery?

MASSANETTA SPRINGS REPORT

Executive Director Clayton Rascoe of Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA reported that 37 Presbyteries booked events at Massanetta in 2015 on Massanetta's 116 acres. 1,529 are the number of people served through their programs. 7,487 is the actual number of guests served and able to extend ministry. Rascoe cited from Mark 1:35, "Jesus pauses to take time to pray." Massanetta is a place that gives people from the church a place to pause, pray and reconnect with God. Massanetta is currently advertising for a Program Director. See Appendix **B** for Bio.

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Executive Director Kim Bobo is the new Director for the center. She has authored four books, one of which is titled "Wage Theft in America". The Virginia Interfaith Center is a state wide advocacy that helps put faith values in the public sphere. One of the initiatives the agency has advocated for was to

expand Medicaid which has been denied to 400,000 people in Virginia. A victory experienced by the center is the passing of the initiative to survive money in budget for young people.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT –Part I

Chair Nancy Rowland motioned to accept the Nominating Committee Report assigning commissioners to the four designated committees. The motion was approved. See Appendix C-Nominating Report Part 1

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Franklin Arnold	BMRE	Coastal Carolina
2016	John Cushwa	WMTE	Shenandoah
2017	John Etheredge	BMRE	New Hope
2016	Aaron Frank	WMTE	Baltimore
2017	Madeline Jervis	WFTE	National Capital
2017	Bill Parish (Chair)	WMRE	Abingdon
2016	Janet Rakes	WFRE	Peaks

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2018	Riley Burgess	WMRE	Charlotte
2017	Nam Hong Cho	AMTE	AKAP
2018	Charles Davenport	WMTE	Western North Carolina
2018	Nikki Morris	WFRE	James
2018	Robbie Phillips	WFTE	Coastal Carolina
2016	Kevin Powell (Chair)	BMTE	National Capital
2016	Bradford Simpson	WMTE	Abingdon

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	James Kirkpatrick	WMRE	Eastern Virginia
2016	Tolokun Omokunde(Chair)	BMTE	New Hope
2016	Addie Peterson	BFTE	Eastern Virginia
2016	H. Carson Rhyne	WMTE	James
2018	Nancy Rowland	WFTE	New Castle
2017	Sylvia Sellers	WFRE	Western North Carolina
2018	Carolyn Sprinkle	WFRE	Salem

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Greg Busby (Chair)	BMTE	Charlotte
2017	Sarah Eller	WFRE	Peaks
2017	John Hartman	WMTE	Salem
2017	Louisa Leslie	WFRE	Baltimore
2018	Kim Hyungsoon	AFRE	AKAP

	Robinson		
2016	Pat Undercuffler	WFRE	New Castle

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Greg Busby	BMTE	Charlotte
2015	Laura Lupton	WFTE	Coastal Carolina
2016	Tolokun Omokunde	BMTE	New Hope
2017	Bill Parish	WMRE	Abingdon
2016	Kevin Powell	BMTE	National Capital
2015	Nancy Rowland	WFTE	New Castle
2016	David Sanders	BMRE	Charlotte
2017	Alice Tewell	AWFTE	National Capital

SYNOD WIDE - BIG TENT EVENT

Jim Moseley reported on the planning of a synod gathering that will mimic the “GA Big Tent” event. Its purpose is to create visibility and partnerships and would include different groups in the region.

PLENARY SESSION ONE

VISIONING AND IDENTITY (Part I) – Rev. Dr. Sterling Morse – Coordinator for Intercultural Ministries in the Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency was presented. His work focuses on Intercultural ministries and helps churches to embrace a multicultural future. A video clip entitled, “Who moved my Cheese?” was used to help commissioners acknowledge their comfortable stations in life. Cheese was a metaphor for what we want in life and the inability of behavioral change can keep us from succeeding. Morse asked everyone to identify what their cheese was and to do the same for the constituents in the synod. “What kind of maze and cheese is required to address the needs of the Synod of the Mid Atlantic? Everyone was encouraged to be innovative and to find ways to have difficult conversations.

PLENARY SESSION TWO

VISIONING AND IDENTITY (Part II) – Morse continued the conversations after commissioners were asked to identify what the maze and cheese is that is required to address the needs of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Some of the responses included the following: (a) to engage the presbyteries and bring them together to create a new vision on what it is to be of God. (b) To offer regional events to get people to connect with the larger church and the need for the synod to help bridge relationships. (c) To participate in Mission work together. A comment made, “I’m not running through the maze if I don’t understand the cheese being pursued”. (d) To educate the church as to what it is that the synod does. (e) To help the smaller churches find their cheese, this would help small churches to grow and to be stable. (f) To break down barriers so that we don’t impose our privileges on each other. (g) To invite the younger generation back to church. (h) To invite those without money, power and influence to Big Tent.

DESIGNATED COMMITTEES were dismissed at 2:30 pm. Committees include Administration, Finance, Grants and Awards and Presbytery Initiatives. Each committee was asked to submit a report to the Synod Administrator by the end of the meeting day.

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Commissioners and guests gathered at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church for worship and Holy Communion. Vice Moderator Alice Tewell presided.

DINNER RECESS

Commissioners gathered for dinner at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A blessing was provided by David Sanders. After dinner, the moderator recessed the assembly until Tuesday morning.

RECONVENING

Moderator Sanders called the Assembly to order at 9:00 am Tuesday, March 15, 2016 with an opening prayer and appreciation for the last evening's worship service.

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Moderator Sanders reminded commissioners of the previous day's responses to the visioning process. After asked to identify the cheese for the synod and reviewing the seven recommendations compiled by the Discernment Committee, the Synod Stated Clerk guided commissioners through an article from Moderator Heath Rada conducted at Auburn Seminary, encouraging participants to "be bold". Rada issued a call to the denomination seeking to have people to respond to what people think about the church. Commissioners participated in response to this article with openness to change and need for boldness in naming that change is necessary. See Appendix D -Moderator's Article on Heath Rada

COMMITTEE REPORTS – PLENARY FOUR

An Omnibus Motion provided approval of the minutes and reports from the Executive Committee, Jubilee Fund, Kate Reynolds and Speer Trust Funds. See Appendices –E thru E-3, Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Report - Part II

Chair Nancy Rowland presented the slates of nominees for the Nominating, Committee on Representation, Jubilee Fund, Permanent Judicial Commission and Speer Trust Fund Committees. The list provided was inclusive of vacancies. The Nominating Committee slate was presented by David Sanders on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Nomination Committee Slate

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Ray Mims	WMTE1	Salem
2018	Patrick Dennis	WMTE1	James
2018	Sandra Gisinier	WFRE1	Peaks
2017	Vacant		Eastern Virginia
2018	Vacant		New Hope
2016	Vacant		Western North Carolina

The floor was opened for nominations for classes 2016, 2017 and 2018 and there were none. There was a motion to approve the slate as presented. Motion was approved.

Committee on Representation Slate

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Ronald Johnson	BMTE1	Peaks

2018	A.W. Dickerson	WMRE1	James
2018	Vacant		New Hope
2016	Vacant		Salem

The floor was opened for nominations. Olivia Haney (WFTE – Shenandoah – Class of 2018) was nominated. There was a motion to accept the slate, including the nomination from the floor. Motion was approved.

Jubilee Fund Slate

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2016	Karen Thatcher	WFRE1	Shenandoah
2018	Vacant		AKAP
2018	Vacant		Charlotte
2018	Vacant		New Hope
2016	Vacant		Salem

Nominations were opened from floor, there being none; there was motion to approve nomination of Karen Thatcher. The motion was approved.

Speer Trust Fund Slate

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2016	Amy Setterman	WFTE1	Shenandoah
2018	George Conway	WMTE1	James
2018	Eddie Deas	BMTE1	Western Carolina
2018	Vacant		AKAP

Nominations were opened from the floor, there being none; a motion to approve the slate as presented was made and approved.

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2021	Vacant		Salem

The committee recommends to the Assembly that the current surplus of classes of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission be resolved by allowing, at the end of the 2016, for the Class of 2016 to rotate off and be replaced with new 5-year unexpired terms in the class of 2021. This will result in the required three classes in 2017, 2019 and 2021. Motion made, seconded and approved. See Appendix F – Nomination Report Part II

ACTION ON BOARD MEMBERS:

- The entire Board of Trustees of Massanetta Springs Retreat and Conference Center was affirmed and approved.
- The Westminster Presbyterian Homes Inc. named Dr. Roberta Miller to its board. Motion approved. See Appendix F-1

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - Chair Kevin Powell made the following report on behalf of the Synod Finance Committee. \$50,338.00 will be transferred from board designated funds to cover the deficit in the budget. In the future, the committee will find alternate sources of income to eliminate the continuous draw against these funds. Significant conversations were had around per capita and what to

do with presbyteries that do not complete per capita asking. There are four (4) presbyteries with outstanding per capita balances in 2015 resulting in a shortage of about \$6,000 to the synod's budget. They are Salem - \$43,419.23; Peaks - \$1,563.50; Coastal Carolina \$240.00 and New Castle \$687.00. AKAP completed its delinquent amount which will be credited towards the 2016 giving.

Finance Committee Recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery Initiative Budget be set using the 20 quarter rolling average at 4% formula. Approved
2. That the synod move \$3,199.94 back to reserves and endowment pending the final audit review confirmation. Approved
3. That per capita is kept at \$.80 for 2017. Approved

The Assembly moved to accept the Finance Committee Report in total. The motion was approved. See Appendix G - Finance Committee Report

GRANTS & AWARDS COMMITTEE – Chair Tolokun Omokunde presented the Grants and Awards Report. The committee reviewed application submissions for the Euler Scholarship, Moseley Scholarship, New and Small Church and Visionary Grants. Recommendations for these grants are listed below:

1. Euler Scholarship transcripts were reviewed for David Smith, Sani Mao, Robert Galloway, Rebecca Cummings and Shin Bok Cha. \$31,757.00 is available to be awarded. It was recommended that each of the five students listed be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$6,350.00
2. Moseley Scholarship applications were reviewed and with the amount of \$4,913.00 available to be awarded. The committee recommended awarding Jazmyn Perminter and J'Vontea Perminter scholarships in the amount of \$2,456.50 each.
3. New and Small Church Grants were considered. With \$21,880.00 available for allocation, it was recommended that awards be granted to the following churches. All recommendations approved
 - o Good Hope – Western North Carolina Presbytery for kitchen appliances in the amount of \$1,300.00. (Sylvia Sellers was recused)
 - o Capitol Hill – National Capital Presbytery – for boiler replacement in the amount of \$1,580.00.
 - o Robinson Memorial – Western North Carolina Presbytery – for replacement of doors in the amount of \$4,000.00 (Sylvia Sellers was recused).
 - o Silver Hill – Coast Carolina Presbytery – for a church growth project in the amount of \$5,000.00
 - o Rosewood – James Presbytery – for sanctuary painting in the amount of \$5,000.00. (H. Carson Rhyne recused).
 - o Anchor of Hope – Abingdon Presbytery – for brick repair of 1886 church building in the amount of \$5,000.00
4. Visionary Fund Grants (2) two were reviewed with an allocation of \$6,255.00 available. It was recommended to approve awards for UKirk Campus Ministry – Western North Carolina Presbytery - for a coffee house in the amount of \$5,000.00. (Sylvia Sellers recused).

The committee agreed that the February 1 and August 1 deadline dates would be retained. A description of each fund will be added to the application form and the website will be updated to offer tabs for each

application form and not just New & Small Church. The Grants Brochure will be updated. All reports will be loaded to website.

There was a motion to approve the report from the Grants & Awards. The motion was approved. See Appendix H Grants and Awards Committee Report.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Chair Bill Parish presented the Administration Committee report. The committee reviewed the 237th Synod Assembly Survey and made recommendations to add to number one the following. (Check all that apply, Clarify “member”, add Gender, and Race). Bill Parish and Aaron Frank will be working on Child Safety Policy to bring forth at next Assembly. Administration will be examining/evaluating the synod structure. It will conduct the annual evaluation of the Synod Exec/Stated Clerk. The 2015 Presbytery Minute Review will be conducted April 15 to August 2016. The committee will meet by Conference Call prior to the next assembly. Commissioners are urged to complete a brief survey of the 237th Assembly and to leave with Sue Brossart. Madeline Jervis and John Etheredge will review the Westminster Presbyterian Homes by-laws and report back. The Synod Standing Rules require that there be a Synod Treasurer.

Recommendations:

1. That \$900 allocated for the Synod Administrator’s health benefits be contributed to a 403-B Retirement Annuity as her current benefits are covered through another source. There was a motion and the motion was approved.
2. That H. Carson Rhyne is elected as the Synod Treasurer. Motion approved.

There was a motion to approve the Administration Committee Report in total. Motion was approved. See Appendix I - Administration Committee Report.

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES – Chair Greg Busby reported that the committee had been working with a \$40,000 budget in the past. With a new formula in place, the new budget of \$16,055 for Spring 2016 will be reevaluated to see what is available in the Fall. The Committee requested to be excused from the assembly when it discovered that its current budget would allow them to provide more funding to proposal. When the assembly reconvened, the Grants and Awards Committee asked permission to transfer \$1,255.00 from the Visionary Fund to the Presbytery Initiatives to use for Leadership.

Presbytery Initiatives Recommendations:

1. That the Grants and Awards Committee be allowed to give the Presbytery Initiatives Committee \$1,255.00 from its Visionary Fund for the use of Leadership Grant. The motion was approved.
2. Presbytery Initiatives recommended that the following applications and amounts be awarded respectively. (a) Presbyterian Women (Stop Hunger Now) = \$2,950; (b) New Pastor Training \$1,500.00; (c) Women’s Spirituality Retreat = \$2000; (d) Leadership Institute = \$9,000; and the VA Council of Churches Faith leaders’ Summit on Life- \$1,000. All awards total \$16,450.00

There was a motion to approve the awards and their combined total of \$16,450. The motion was approved. See Appendix J Presbytery Initiatives Committee Report.

CLOSING WORSHIP AND ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly then moved to Ginter Park Sanctuary for the closing worship lead by Alice Tewell. The assembly was adjourned at 12:00pm.

The 238th Synod Assembly will gather September 12-13, 2016 in Richmond, Virginia.

ATTESTATION

This is a true and accurate copy of the Minutes of the Synod Stated Meeting as reviewed by the Executive Committee

Dated: 8-9-16



Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
Executive/Stated Clerk