

**THE 238<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING OF  
THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
GINTER PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RICHMOND, VA  
SEPTEMBER 12-13, 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 238<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic convened with prayer by Moderator David Sanders on September 12, 2016 at 9:30 am.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Moderator welcomed commissioners and guests aboard the synod plane for the assembly. He invited attendees to share their names and the favorite movie watched or book read in 2016.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The Moderator declared a quorum with 26 commissioners in attendance including the moderator and vice-moderator. Fourteen Teaching Elders and Twelve 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**

Bill Parish  
Brad Simpson  
Nam Hong Cho  
Kim Robinson  
Aaron Frank  
Riley Burgess  
Greg Busby  
Franklin Arnold  
Robbie Phillips  
Jim Kirkpatrick  
Addie Peterson  
Nikki Morris  
H. Carson Rhyne Jr.  
Madeline Jarvis  
Kevin Powell  
Nancy Rowland  
John Etheredge  
Tolokun Omokunde

**OFFICE**

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

**PRESBYTERY**

Abingdon  
Abingdon  
AKAP  
AKAP  
Baltimore  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
Coastal Carolina  
Coastal Carolina  
Eastern Virginia  
Eastern Virginia  
James  
James  
National Capital  
National Capital  
New Castle  
New Hope  
New Hope

Sarah Eller	Ruling Elder	Peaks
Janet Rakes	Ruling Elder	Peaks
John Hartman	Teaching Elder	Salem
John Cushwa	Teaching Elder	Shenandoah
Susanne Taylor	Ruling Elder	Shenandoah
Charles Davenport	Teaching Elder	Western Carolina
Sylvia Sellers	Ruling Elder	Western Carolina
David Sanders	Ruling Elder-Moderator	Charlotte
Alice Tewell	Teaching Elder-Vice Moderator	National Capital

#### **EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS**

Louisa Leslie  
Pat Undercuffler

#### **Office**

Commissioner  
Commissioner

#### **Presbytery**

Baltimore  
New Castle

#### **APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK**

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

#### **SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

Executive/Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane; Finance Manager, Cindy Hollingshead and Administrator, Tami Scott; Helen Locklear, Board of Pensions; and Laura Lupton Coastal Carolina-Past Moderator

#### **GUESTS AND VISITORS**

Sue Brossart-Synod Volunteer, Richard Claterbaugh (Peaks), Charles Sellers (Western North Carolina), Rick Tatnall (Replenish Richmond), Jessica Willis (Executive Director of the Richmond Justice Initiative/Prevention Project)

#### **ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

The Moderator presented the 238<sup>th</sup> proposed docket. It was approved by common consent.

#### **ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL GUIDE**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF THE 237TH SYNOD MINUTES**

The Minutes of the 237<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting were presented and approved.

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

The Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane Jr. welcomed commissioners, corresponding members and visitors to the 238<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Assembly. His report included a summary of items listed below: Excused Commissioners: RE Patricia Undercuffler from the New Castle Presbytery requested to be excused. Ecumenical Involvement: The Stated Clerk/Synod Executive shared with commissioners of his involvement in ministry activities. Those affiliations being: The Virginia Council of churches and Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and Interfaith Dialogues. Some of the topics that these organizations focus on are: Virginia Healthcare Coverage, Killings of African American Males and Childhood Hunger. 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly highlights: the adoption of the Belhar Confession, the adoption and implementation of a Child and Youth Protection Policy, Actions of the 221<sup>st</sup> GA (2014) rescinded the configuration of new synod boundaries, approval of the 2014-2015 Synod Minutes without exceptions

or concerns, the election of Dr. James Herbert Nelson II (Stated Clerk of the GA), the election of female clergy Co-Moderators (Revs. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston), the establishment of a Korean Staff Position in the Office of the General Assembly and the urging to the synods from the Mid Council Committee “to continue conversation and collaboration of ministry and mission between and among synods. Legal Matters: August 2016 -The Synod office of the Stated Clerk was subpoenaed by a Richmond Law office for personnel records of a former employee. The office complied with the subpoena. Presbytery Minutes Review: All fourteen Presbytery Stated Clerks submitted presbytery minutes that were reviewed by their peers. SPJC Complaints: There are three complaints before the commission, all from separate presbyteries. The complaints are (1) Church v Presbyter; (2) Teaching Elder v Presbyter; (3) Church v Presbytery. There is one remedial complaint before the General Assembly that will be heard October 2016. Omnibus Motion: Reports and Minutes were provided to commissioners for review. It was requested that any items for removal be called to the Stated Clerks attention.

Additional information provided in his written report and Addendum were related to General Assembly Luncheon, Upcoming meetings, Moderator Rotation, Racial Dilemma, PMA Board Election, Presbyterian Men’s Council, Presbytery Staffing, Resignations, Vice Moderator Nomination, 237<sup>th</sup> Assembly Highlights, Ministers Emergency Grants, Correspondence and the upcoming Disgrace Conference. A motion was made to accept the report of the Executive and Stated Clerk which passed. See Appendix **A** (Stated Clerk Report and Addendum)

#### **222<sup>ND</sup> GA MID-COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Laura Lupton (TE- Coastal Carolina) reported on her role in the Dallas Consultation which met to discuss synod boundaries and also the Mid Council participation and report presented to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. The General Assembly agreed to leave synods as they currently are configured. GA strongly urges synods to adapt and be open to mergers and changes that may occur to synods in the future. The Mid-Council Committee suggested that synods need to rediscover their purpose and identify clear mission initiatives. Her report highlighted the approval of Non-Geographic Presbyteries (Item 05-08 in PC-Bix.org) and further clarified the approval of authoritative actions taken at the assembly. This action authorized presbyteries with racial ethnic or immigrant congregations to join nongeographic presbyteries that can meet their needs. The mandate included that no presbyteries can start ministries within the geographic bounds of other presbyteries and synods without the approval of those councils. The OGA approved the hiring of a Korean staff person to assist with interpretation of presbytery polity which should improve training for Korean Pastors. See Appendix **B** -Report on Non Geographical Presbyteries and Authoritative Interpretations

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Jessica Willis, Executive Director of the Richmond Justice Initiative Project shared the mission of her organization. Their mission is to educate, equip and mobilize communities with the tools needed to be a force in the movement to end teen and human trafficking. This faith based, non- profit organization is currently in six states and since 2009 has helped to pass 17 pieces of legislation to support trafficking prevention and prevention education. Rick Tatnull joined Ms. Willis by emphasizing the prominence of trafficking in the Richmond, Virginia area and his organization’s objective in taking the lead in trafficking awareness. Human Trafficking is the trade of human beings through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation for labor, sexual purposes or organs and is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world.

**RBC INVESTMENTS**

Jeff Chapman, with RBC Wealth Management was introduced by Kevin Powell (Finance Committee Chair). He informed the assembly that synod investments are where they should be and though the synod is invested in lower volatility that there still needs to be a defense awareness in place. He shared with us the most recent Labor statistics and their implications for the economy. He discussed our current asset allocation and included changes of the allocation to alternative investments, specifically the removal of several funds and the addition of two funds in their place.

**SYNOD WIDE EVENT**

Jim Moseley, chair of the Synod Wide Big Event was unable to attend the assembly. He provided a draft design and rationale for the event. His report explained that the idea of the event was derived from recommendations of the 2015 Discernment Committee and the event would offer a time of learning, fellowship and worship in much the same manner as the Big Tent event. The synod recognizes the importance of reaching out to its many constituency groups in order to better understand those topics and features of a retreat that would encourage their attendance. The proposed theme is “Gathering around the Table” as it is felt that people in the synod need to see one another. Massanetta Springs has been contacted as a venue and the dates of March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 18<sup>th</sup> have been confirmed for a two night event with meals. The cost in shared guest rooms would be \$170. Assembly would take place on March 16<sup>th</sup> through noon the next day and the Synod Wide Event from the later part of March 17<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, March 18, 2016. – **See Appendix C - Report of Synod Wide Event**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT I**

Chair Nancy Rowland motioned to accept the Nominating Committee Report with commissioner assignments to the four designated committees. The motion was approved.

**ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
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**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
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 IV	WMTE	Abingdon

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
--------------	-------------	--------------------	-------------------

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	VACANT		Salem

**PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES**

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Greg Busby (Chair)	BMTE	Charlotte
2017	Sarah Eller	WFRE	Peaks
2017	John Hartman	WMTE	Salem
2017	Debbie Reese (Pending)	WFRE	Baltimore
2018	Kim H. Robinson	AFRE	AKAP
2018	Susanne Taylor	WFRE	Shenandoah
2016	Pat Undercuffler	WFRE	New Castle

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Greg Busby	BMTE	Charlotte
2015	Laura Lupton (Past Synod Moderator)	WFTE	Coastal Carolina
2016	Tolokun Omokunde	BMTE	New Hope
2017	Bill Parish	WMRE	Abingdon
2016	Kevin Powell	BMTE	National Capital
2015	Nancy Rowland (At Large Member)	WFTE	New Castle
2016	David Sanders (Synod Moderator- Executive Com. Chair)	BMRE	Charlotte
2017	Alice Rose Tewell	AFTE	National Capital

See Appendix **D**- Nominating Report Part 1.

**LIVING INTO THE BELHAR CONFESSION**

The Stated Clerk introduced Rev. Dr. Raymond Roberts, Senior Pastor at River Road Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. He was invited to help commissioners Live into the Belhar Confession. He was giving two plenary sessions to engage commissioners in conversations. In Plenary One, he provided the history of the Confession which was written out of the context of Apartheid in South Africa. Its name comes from Belhar, a town in South Africa. Reverend Roberts spoke about the role of confession in the life of the church and further discussed topics around unity, reconciliation, justice and faithfulness. Also explored was the rejection of slavery, lack of understanding of sin, redlining, Jim Crow and Civil Rights.

Roberts continued his presentation in the second plenary focusing on how we live into Belhar/Issues in the world that the church can address. When reading the confession, he urged to pay special attention to metaphors for sin/grace (dark, lost, alienation, estrangement/found, reconciliation). He spoke of a

two- step Conversion of Turning to God and away from the world; turn back to world to love it as God loves it and sited Colossians 1:15-20. Roberts finalized his message by imparting that Unity is a gift and an obligation and that we must believe that Unity is a reality in order to live into it. He led everyone in a scripture reading of II Corinthians 5:16-20.

#### **BOARD OF PENSIONS**

The Reverend Helen Locklear updated attendees on a new benefit plan that is open to staff and clergy. To enroll, forms must be turned into the Board of Pensions by September 30, 2016. A resource guide that is provided online is the 2017 Benefit Plan Employer Decision Guide. A modeling tool is provided to show what the costs will be. The mission is to identify the benefits determined for your staff and an employer agreement is generated with every decision that is made. Helen encouraged immediate enrollment for a January 1, 2017 effective date. The assembly acknowledged Helen's retirement as a field representative with the Board of Pensions at the end of 2016.

#### **DESIGNATED COMMITTEES**

Commissioners were dismissed from the assembly at 2:30 p.m. to begin their work in their respective designated committees. Committees include Administration, Finance, Grants and Awards and Presbytery Initiatives. Each committee was asked to submit its report and meeting minutes to the Synod Administrator by the end of the meeting day.

#### **WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Commissioners and guests gathered at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church for Worship and Holy Communion. Reverend Dr. Frances Gench, Parish Associate at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C, was the preacher and Vice Moderator Alice Tewell presided. The annual Necrology was read during the service.

#### **DINNER AND RECESS**

Commissioners gathered for dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A blessing was provided. After dinner, the moderator recessed the assembly to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday morning.

#### **RECONVENING**

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

#### **SYNOD FINANCES CONVERSATIONS**

Kevin Powell, Finance Committee Chair, discussed synod budgetary challenges and presented the state of the synod finances. The synod is operating with a deficit. Kevin offered both short and long term solutions to ending deficit spending. The solutions included possible increase of per capita and the use of designated and restricted funds. A pivotal part of TE Powell's presentation came from a visionary perspective. He asked the assembly to be opened minded and to look at possible long term solutions that address budgetary concerns. He introduced the importance of Branding a product, referring to the synod, with the purpose of defining the synod's mission and bringing attention to how the synod is embracing a changing environment. The assembly was reminded that in view of the synod theme of doing a new thing, that Branding can help to identify the role of the synod in issues and challenges that face our society and also on how the synod does business out of today's needs.

### **MASSANETTA SPRINGS REPORT**

Clayton Rascoe, Executive Director of Massanetta Springs updated the assembly on the activities and renovations that have taken place at Massanetta Springs. Massanetta has adopted a new mission statement which is “A place for all people to experience God through renewal, discovery and hospitality”. The Mary Lou McMillian Resource Center is being renovated in partnership with Shenandoah Presbytery. This project is to be completed by the end of 2016. There is currently a Hubler Legacy Campaign (David Hubler-former Executive Director) the lodge will be renamed to the Hubler Lodge. Massanetta receives 80% of its revenue from conferences, 3% from Endowments and 17% from donations received from individuals and congregations.

### **SYNOD EVALUATION**

Bill Parish, Administration Committee Chair, noted that the World changes and the synod’s need to respond to change. He informed the assembly that a Synod Evaluation process is forthcoming and he encouraged responses from commissioners. The evaluation will focus on synod structure, mission, finances, staffing and the overall health and vitality of the synod. A report will be brought to the September 2017 (240<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting).

### **REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES**

The assembly entered into plenary session four and the first item of business was the OMNIBUS MOTION. It was moved and seconded that the omnibus motion be approved. The motion included minutes and reports from the Executive Committee, Jubilee Fund, Kate Reynolds and Speer Trust Funds. See Appendix E - Committee Reports

### **PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

John Goodman, Clerk for the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission, provided a detailed report on the work of the SPJC. He listed the membership of the commission, types of cases brought before the SPJC, cases before the commission since September 2014, cases that have been completed and cases in process. He further explained the steps of a complaint and elaborated on the threshold questions that determine if there is a case. Goodman highlighted the increase in cases that have come to the synod office and before the commission. It motioned, seconded and approved that the report be received as information. See Appendix E- Permanent Judicial Committee Report

### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

Chair C.W. Hargrave presented the Committee on Representation Report. The COR met in Richmond on August 9, 2016. Prior to this meeting each presbytery was requested to provide a number of COR reports to be assessed at the August meeting. Those presbyteries that provided their reports were: Charlotte, Coastal Carolina, Eastern Virginia, The James, National Capital, New Castle, New Hope, The Peaks, Salem, Shenandoah and Western North Carolina. No reports were received from Abingdon, AKAP or Baltimore presbyteries. Representatives from each presbytery present were provided a packet that included information and reports for 2014/2015. In addition, a COR Toolbox was distributed. Hargrave expressed concern as to whether presbyteries are adequately reporting because forms are not complete. There will be a greater focus in the next year on diversity and leadership. He concluded his report with the saying “Shared Leadership Opportunities is another word for Representation”. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the COR Report be received as information. See Appendix G - Committee on Representation Report.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair Nancy Rowland presented the Nominating Committee report Part II by providing a slate and list of vacancies. She also informed the assembly of the need to identify people (coding system) so to determine if leadership is being shared. She raised the question about how to code people from immigrant congregations.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE SLATE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2017	Vanessa Gamble	BFRE1	Eastern Virginia
2018	VACANCY		New Hope
2019	Joon Kwon	AMTE2	AKAP
2019	VACANCY		Charlotte
2019	Nancy Rowland	WFTE2	New Castle
2019	Charlie Sneed (Primary)	WMTE1	Western North Carolina
2019	Charlie Kincaid (Alt)	BMRE1	Western North Carolina

The floor was opened for nominations. There were none from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. The motion carried.

**MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
Moderator	Alice Tewell	C/WFTE	National Capital
V-Moderator	Richard Claterbaugh	WMRE	Peaks

The Moderator and Vice Moderator were elected by acclamation.

**COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION SLATE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2017	Loui Nino	HMTE1	Coastal Carolina
2018	Steve Mabie	WMRE1	New Hope
2019	Lisa Beachum	WFRE1	Baltimore
2019	VACANCY		Eastern Virginia
2019	Donna Bowers	WFTE1	New Castle
2019	Kaye Barrow Ziglar	BFTE1	Salem
2019	VACANCY		Western North Carolina

The floor was opened for nominations for the COR. The name of Lisa Beachum (WFRE-Baltimore) was placed on the slate. It was motioned and seconded to approve the slate. Motion approved.

**JUBILEE FUND SLATE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2018	VACANCY		AKAP
2018	Sallie Mayfield	BFRE1	Charlotte
2018	Francis Turner	BFRE1	New Hope
2019	VACANCY		Baltimore
2019	VACANCY		James
2019	Sarah McHenry	BFRE1	Salem
2019	Karen Thatcher	WFRE2	Shenandoah

The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, it was motioned, seconded and approved.



**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION SLATE - 5 Year Term**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2021	VACANCY		Baltimore
2018	VACANCY		Eastern Virginia
2021	Mack Dagenhart	WMRE1	Salem

The floor was opened for nominations, there being none, it motioned, seconded and approved.

**SPEER TRUST FUND SLATE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2017	VACANCY		Salem
2018	VACANCY		AKAP

2019	VACANCY		Charlotte
2019	VACANCY		Eastern Virginia
2019	Beth Braxton	WFTE2	National Capital
2019	VACANCY		Shenandoah

The floor was opened for nominations, there being none, it motioned, seconded and approved. There was a motion to approve the nominating report in total. Motion approved. See Appendix H – Nominating Report II

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair Kevin Powell presented the Finance Committee report that focused on a review of the financial statements for 2015 by Mr. Russell Coleman, representative for Cherry Baekert, CPA. Powell stated that a full audit is due with financial statements for 2016. This is why the proposed cost is \$17,900. Additional costs for 2017 are due to the Synod Wide Event.

The Finance Committee is looking at various ways to address the budget shortfall. He pointed out that the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic per capita rate is the lowest among the 16 synods even though it is the largest synod. Based on the report of the Finance Committee and feedback, the following motion was made. That a funding consultation be held in Richmond inviting the Presbytery Executives and up to two additional individuals from their presbyteries. The motion was made, it was seconded and approved.

Recommendations:

- The Finance Committee presented the 2017 operating budget for approval and it passed. (There is an estimated need for \$77,000 in order to achieve a balanced budget) The amount of the 2017 budget totaled \$287,333.00.
- That per capita remain at \$.80 for 2017
- That \$6,000 be approved from Presbytery Initiatives to fund the Synod Funding Consultation.

Each recommendation was approved and the Finance Committee Report was received for information. See Appendix I - Finance Committee Report.

**GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Tolokun Omokunde presented the Grants and Awards Committee report. The committee considered Five Visionary Fund applications and Twelve New and Small Church Fund grant applications. \$6,274.72 is available for allocation to Visionary Grants and \$22,275.05 is available to the New and Small Church Grants. The Peacemaking Fund has \$173,935 available.

1. Visionary Grants
  - Western North Carolina (for spiritual retreats) in the amount of \$1,500.00; Lumos at University of Delaware-New Castle (for vocational discernment) in the amount of \$2,000.00.
  - Northminster –Western North Carolina Presbytery (for day care program) in the amount of \$1,500.00; Riverfront Church- New Castle Presbytery (1001 Worshiping Community-Leadership and Space Rental) in the amount of \$1,250.00
2. Peacemaking Grant
  - Cann Memorial – New Hope Presbytery (to create 100,000- meals through Stop Hunger Now) in the amount of \$5,000.00.
3. New and Small Church Grants
  - Oakland Presbyterian Church- National Capital Presbytery (for doors) in the amount of \$3,000; Westminster Presbyterian Church (Petersburg)- James Presbytery (for a handicap ramp) in the amount of \$3,000; Bryson City Presbyterian Church- Western North Carolina Presbytery (for termite repair) in the amount of \$4,000.00 pending documentation of previous bills paid; Coastal Carolina Presbytery (for coaching) in the amount of \$3,450; Ryburn Memorial Presbyterian Church –Western North Carolina Presbytery (for painting and computers) in the amount of \$1,325.00; Third Street Presbyterian Church – Western North Carolina Presbytery (Fellowship Hall heating) in the amount of \$3,500; Second Presbyterian Church Kannapolis – Charlotte Presbytery (for painting) in the amount of \$4,000.00.

The committee also reported their aim to work with the synod office in updating Grants and Awards forms, brochures and any other related materials to updating and uploading to the synod website. It was motioned and seconded to approve the grants listed above and to accept the report as information. Motion passed. See Appendix J - Grants and Awards Committee Report.

#### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Chair Bill Parish presented the Administration Committee Report. The report included Child Protection Policy and Westminster Presbyterian Homes Bylaws. Parish informed the assembly that the 2015 Presbytery Minute Review had been completed with reports received from all fourteen presbyteries. There were five presbyteries whose minutes were reviewed and had no exceptions; those presbyteries were: Charlotte, Coastal Carolina, New Hope, Peaks and Abingdon. The following presbyteries had comments and/or exception(s): Abingdon, AKAP, Baltimore, Eastern Virginia, The James, National Capital, New Castle, Salem and Shenandoah. Bill commented that in the future, if funds are available, that the Stated Clerks have asked to come together to read minutes and discuss other related matters concerning their positions.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Cost of Living Raises of 2% be given to synod staff Cindy Hollingshead (Financial Manager) and Tami Scott (Synod Administrator).
- Training and Mentoring Program for Synod Executive and Stated Clerk to be provided for the next (3) years in the amount of \$2,400 and come from the Osborne Fund. This recommendation was withdrawn due to the Osborne current restrictions.

- Date and Location of the 239<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly and Big Tent Event to follow and take place March 16-18, 2017 at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA.
- Synod Evaluation to be conducted and results to be reported back by the Administration Committee at the September 2017 (240<sup>th</sup>) Synod Assembly. Included in the report will be: 1) Discernment Team Report, 2) Environment post GA Decision, 3) Ministry need of presbyteries, 4) Examination of Funding Patterns, 5) Adequacy of staffing, 6) Funding for process.
- Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program for the synod (Child Protection Policy-modeled after that of Peaks Presbytery) to be approved, further developed and made available to all presbyteries by posting on synod website.

There was a motion to approve the report and each of the recommendations from the Administration Committee. The motion was approved. See Appendix **K** – Presbytery Minute Review Report. See Appendix **K-1** – Administration Committee Report

#### **PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Chair Greg Busby gave updates on committee membership which included Louisa Leslie resignation from Baltimore Presbytery. Debbie Reese (RE-BAL) will be voted upon to finish Louisa's term. He noted that the Synod Black Caucus wishes to use their unused funds of \$2,925.24 to assist in producing a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to African American congregations within the synod. Busby informed the assembly that committee received no grant requests for this cycle; thus, he proposed that funds, be allocated to the Synod Wide Event in March 2017 at Massanetta Springs. Commissioners from New Hope and Abingdon endorsed this recommendation. Commissioners are asked to return to their presbyteries and serve as spokespersons for funds available through Presbytery Initiatives so money allocated can be given out.

#### **Recommendations:**

That up to \$6,000 be used to fund the March 2017 Synod Wide Event at Massanetta Springs. The motion was seconded and approved. See Appendix **L** – Presbytery Initiative Committee Report.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee Minutes were approved.

#### **CLOSING WORSHIP AND INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR**

The Reverend Kathryn Lester-Bacon was the preacher for worship and installation. She used Mark 6 and her message resonated with the synod's theme of doing new things as she spoke of shaking free of the dust and taking the risk of doing something new and different. Her encouraging message left all with a reminder that everyone has witnessed what God has made out of dust. Moderator David Sanders led the assembly in prayer as he installed Alice Tewell (NAT) as Moderator and Richard Claterbaugh as Vice Moderator (Peaks). Prayer was offered for the newly installed officers. Moderator, Alice Tewell received the gavel giving thanks. The new moderator presented the past moderator two framed pictures of his time during the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA in Portland, OR. Commissioners whose terms were ending December 2016 were then presented certificates of appreciation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The assembly adjourned with prayer at 1:20 p.m. by the moderator. Commissioners and guests gathered to celebrate the Moderator and Vice Moderator over cake and refreshments.

The 239<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2017, followed by a Synod Wide Event on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA.

**ATTESTATION**

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

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Warren J. Lesane, Jr.  
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic  
Executive/Stated Clerk