DESIGNATED COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Designated Committees met on Thursday, March 16, 2017 in Stewart, Knox and Calvin Halls at Massanetta Springs. Instructions were provided to all committees to prepare reports using Power Point in order to reduce the need for paper reports during plenaries.

CONVENCING PRAYER
The 239th Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic convened Friday, March 17, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Stewart Hall with the opening prayer given by Vice Moderator, Richard Claterbaugh.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
In Moderator Alice Tewell’s absence due to illness, Richard Claterbaugh assumed the Moderator’s role. He extended a warm welcome to commissioners, presenters and guests.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM
The Moderator declared a quorum with 26 commissioners in attendance including the vice-moderator. Thirteen Teaching Elders and Thirteen 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
Cindy Privette
Nam Hong Cho
Aaron Frank
Debra Reese
Riley Burgess
Greg Busby
Robbie Phillips
James Kirkpatrick
Helen Bessent-Byrd
Nikki Morris
H. Carson Rhyne Jr.
Madeline Jervis
Margaret Washnitzer
Nancy Rowland
Mawuna Gardesey

OFFICE
Ruling Elder
Teaching Elder
Teaching Elder
Teaching Elder
Ruling Elder
Ruling Elder
Teaching Elder
Teaching Elder
Teaching Elder
Ruling Elder
Teaching Elder
Ruling Elder

PRESBYTERY
Abingdon
Abingdon
AKAP
Baltimore
Charlotte
Charlotte
Coastal Carolina
Eastern Virginia
James
James
National Capital
New Castle
New Castle
John Etheredge  
Sarah Eller  
Dale Brown  
John Hartman  
Troy Lesher-Thomas  
John Bethard  
Susanne Taylor  
Charles Sellers  
Sylvia Sellers  
Richard Claterbaugh – Vice Moderator  

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

New Hope  
Peaks  
Peaks  
Salem  
Salem  
Shenandoah  
Shenandoah  
Western Carolina  
Western Carolina

EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS  
Kim Hyongsun Robinson  
Franklin Arnold  
Delores Parker  
Charles Davenport  
Alice R. Tewell  

Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Moderator

Office  
Presbytery  
AKAP  
Coastal Carolina  
New Hope  
Western North Carolina  
National Capital

RE Charles Sellers (Western North Carolina), was the alternate commissioner for Western North Carolina Presbytery.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK  
Moderator, Richard Claterbaugh appointed Tami Scott, Synod Administrator, as the recording clerk.

COMMISSIONERS INTRODUCTIONS  
Each Commissioner introduced themselves, their designation and the Presbytery they represent.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS  
Executive/Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane; Finance Manager, Cindy Hollingshead and Administrator, Tami Scott and facilitator-Jim Moseley (New Castle) were enrolled as corresponding members.

GUESTS AND VISITORS  

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET  
The Moderator presented the 239th proposed docket on behalf of the Executive Committee. 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 238TH SYNOD MINUTES  
The Minutes of the 238th Stated Meeting were presented and approved.
OPENING WORSHIP
Worship convened at 9:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall. Richard Claterbaugh presided. RE Margaret Washnitzer was the musical accompanist. Rev. Antonio Lawrence Jr. preached “The Courage to See Again”. Mark 10:46-52 speaks of a blind man whose sight was restored by Jesus. He referred to the blind man who had exhausted his resources as he sat on the side of the road; he wanted to see again. Worshipers then took part in The Lord’s Supper. See attached service for worship.

PLENARY RESUMES

MASSANETTA SPRINGS HOSPITALITY
Executive Director, Clayton Rascoe welcomed the Assembly and extended special thanks. He gave a brief history of Massanetta, offered the names of the new board members and highlighted recent happenings such as Massanetta’s rededication of the “The Hubler Lodge”, renovation of the bookstore and the partnering with Shenandoah Presbytery for their resource center/meeting space. He extended appreciation to Bobby Kay and Mary Ellen Lockridge for their endowment generosity.

STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE REPORT
Stated Clerk, Lesane welcomed commissioners, corresponding members and visitors. He highlighted portions of the written report. (See attachment for full content).

- **Excused Commissioners:** The following Commissioners requested an excuse: Kim Robinson, Franklin Arnold, Delores Parker, Charles Davenport and Alice Tewell.
- **Welcome:** Martha Reisner (Board of Pensions) and Sy Hughes (Presbyterian Engagement Advisor-PMA) are new field staff for the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian Mission Agencies.
- **Non-Compliance:** Two presbyteries are not in compliance with the Synod Standing rules that states that “each presbytery within the bounds of the Mid-Atlantic shall elect to the Stated Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic one Ruling Elder commissioner and one Teaching Elder commissioner.” New Hope has elected two Ruling Elders and Salem has elected two Teaching Elders. Both presbyteries have been notified of such.
- **Ecumenical Involvement:** As a member of the Virginia Council of churches, the Executive/Stated Clerk has signed on to letters opposing the Presidential Executive Order on Refugees and Immigration. He has also participated in the National Moral Tour featuring Dr. William Barber and Dr. James Forbes, and the Annual Retreat of judicatory leaders hosted in Richmond.
- **Funding Consultation:** The Synod Funding Consultation (as instructed by the 238th Assembly) was held November 7, 2016 in Richmond, VA. Fourteen presbyteries were present. Outcomes have been shared with Finance Committee. The Rev. Dr. David Crittenden served as consultant.
- **General Assemblies:** 223th GA (2018)- St. Louis, MO (June 16-23, 2018) 224th GA (2020) – Baltimore, MD (June 20-27, 2020) and the 225th GA (2022)-Columbus, OH (June 25-July 2, 2022)
- **Highlights of the 238th Assembly** were produced and sent to commissioners, stated clerks, presbytery executives and churches.
- **Omnibus Motion:** The minutes from Kate B. Reynolds, Speer Trust and Executive Committees are listed under the omnibus motion.
- **Synod Minutes:** The 238th Assembly Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved during the December 7, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.
• **Mission Partnership**: Bethany PC (Korean) in Marietta, GA has agreed to fund the mission of the Fellowship Place (African American) Congregation in Charlotte, NC in the amount of $2,400.00 for 2017. Both Pastors Choi and Robinson have agreed to exchange pulpits in 2017.

• **Per Capita**: Thanks was extended to presbyteries for their per capita support (2016). Presbyteries with outstanding per capita are Coastal Carolina $66.63; Eastern Virginia $124.80 and Peaks $1,951.15. 2017 Per Capita received total is $199,792.80.

• **Presbyterian Leadership Formation (PFL)**: This training orientates new presbytery executives in the region. Synod has funded training for Bill Reinhold, Roy Martin and Ted Churn from the Osborne Fund. Jackie Taylor and Carl Utley will participate also.

• **Presbytery Staff**: TE Nancy Dawson (GP-Peaks) is retiring February 2017 and TE Carl Utley has been elected as Transitional GP for Peaks effective May 2017. TE Nancy Meehan Yao will become the Associate GP at Shenandoah effective April 10, 2017. The synod executive is consulting with Shenandoah and AKAP presbyteries in their EP Search.

• **SPJC Complaints**: Since the 238th Assembly, SPJC has held two trials and one hearing. Webb vs Abingdon Trial (Nov. 29, 2016) ruled in favor of the Presbytery. Maryland PC vs AKAP (January 20, 2017) ruled in favor of Maryland PC. The Stated Clerk received a new complaint February 8, 2017 requesting a stay order.

• **Special Administrative Review Commission (SARC)**: The Executive Committee approved the Stated Clerk corresponding with one of its presbyteries asking if it wants the synod to come along-side it to conduct a Special Administrative Review. To date, the presbytery has not replied.

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**GA Decision and Order Remedial Case 223-01:**

The following is to be shared with the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic by order of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission. “The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, by and through its active Ruling Elders (aka The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, “D-Church,” by and through its active Ruling Elders) Bob Briner, Brenda Bradshaw, Gilbert Broyles, Lloyd Candell, Bill Durant, William Eadie, Marjorie Heaver, Richard House, Mary Jamieson, Henry Leissing, Marguerite Martin, Eloise Murray, William Nagle, Greg Pope, Dale Stephens, Marvin Thomason, all both individually and as Ruling Elders Appellants (Original Complainants) v The Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Appellee (Original Respondent).

- IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Decision of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Permanent Judicial Commission is hereby affirmed and this case is dismissed. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the appellants be notified of this Decision and Order.

- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Session of First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville report this Decision to the Session at the first meeting after receipt, that the Session enter the full Decision upon its minutes and an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the Decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina report this Decision to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at the first meeting after receipt, that the Presbytery of Western North Carolina enter the full Decision upon its minutes and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the Decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

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See additional information concerning Presbyterian Investment Loan Program, New Way Forward Commission identifying a vision for structure and function of GA Agencies, Hiring of Luke Choi (PCUSA’s Manager for Korean-Speaking Councils Support), Big Tent 2017 (July 6-8, 2017 in St. Louis, MO., in the
attachments. The Stated Clerk report was received as information. See Appendix ______(Stated Clerk Report and Addendum).

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES
The OMNIBUS MOTION included minutes and reports from the Executive Committee, Kate Reynolds and Speer Trust Funds. The motion was seconded and approved. See Appendix _____ - Committee Reports

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT I
The synod Executive Committee met prior to assembly to approve the Nominating Committee’s roster for Designated Committees.

ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Presbytery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Franklin Arnold</td>
<td>BMRE</td>
<td>Coastal Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Nam Hong Cho</td>
<td>AMTE</td>
<td>AKAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>John Etheredge</td>
<td>BMRE</td>
<td>New Hope</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Aaron Frank</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Madeline Jervis</td>
<td>WFTE</td>
<td>National Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Bill Parish (Chair)</td>
<td>WMRE</td>
<td>Abingdon</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Susanne Taylor</td>
<td>WFRE</td>
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FINANCE

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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Helen Bessent-Byrd</td>
<td>BFTE</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Dale Brown</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
<td>Peaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Riley Burgess (Co-Chair)</td>
<td>WMRE</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Charles Davenport</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Nikki Morris</td>
<td>WFRE</td>
<td>James</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Robbie Phillips (Co-Chair)</td>
<td>WFTE</td>
<td>Coastal Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Margaret Washnitzer</td>
<td>BFRE</td>
<td>National Capital</td>
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GRANTS AND AWARDS

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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Troy Lesher-Thomas</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
<td>Salem</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>James Kirkpatrick (Chair)</td>
<td>WMRE</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Delores Parker</td>
<td>BFRE</td>
<td>New Hope</td>
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<td>Cindy Privette</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>H. Carson Rhyne</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
<td>James</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Nancy Rowland</td>
<td>WFTE</td>
<td>New Castle</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Sylvia Sellers</td>
<td>WFRE</td>
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PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>John Bethard</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
<td>Shenandoah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 | Greg Busby (Chair) | BMTE | Charlotte  
2017 | Sarah Eller | WFRE | Peaks  
2017 | John Hartman | WMTE | Salem  
2017 | Debbie Reese | WFRE | Baltimore  
2018 | Kim Hyongsun Robinson | AFRE | AKAP  
2017 | Mawuna Gardesey | BMRE | New Castle

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Presbytery</th>
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</table>
| 2018  | Riley Burgess | WMRE | Charlotte  
| 2017  | Greg Busby (Chair) | BMTE | Charlotte  
| 2017  | Richard Claterbaugh | WMRE | Peaks  
| 2017  | Jim Kirkpatrick | WMRE | Eastern Virginia  
| 2017  | Bill Parish | WMRE | Abingdon  
| 2018  | Robbie Phillips | WFTE | Coastal Carolina  
| 2016  | David Sanders | BMRE | Charlotte  
| 2017  | Alice Tewell | AFTE | National Capital  


**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE- PART 2**

Chair Nancy Rowland presented the slate for vacancies.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Presbytery</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2018-Moderator | Richard Claterbaugh | WMRE | Peaks  
| 2018-Vice Moderator | Susanne Taylor | WFRE | Shenandoah  

Opportunities for nominations from the floor were provided. There being none, The Moderator and Vice Moderator were elected by acclimation.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (by presentation from the Executive Committee)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Presbytery</th>
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</table>
| 2018  | Delores Parker | BFRE1 | New Hope  

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

**COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Presbytery</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2019  | Barbara Yancy | BFRE1 | Baltimore  
| 2019  | Vacancy | | Eastern Virginia  
| 2019  | Don Cooper | WMTE1 | Western North Carolina  

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

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>AKAP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Urla Eversley</td>
<td>BFTE1</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ron Duvall</td>
<td>WMRE1</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Karen Thatcher</td>
<td>WFRE2</td>
<td>Shenandoah</td>
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The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, it was motioned, seconded and approved.

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (Previously elected by the Executive Committee 12/13/16)

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<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Aaron Frank</td>
<td>WMTE</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Donna Graves</td>
<td>BFRE</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Eric Hulett</td>
<td>WMRE</td>
<td>Shenandoah</td>
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The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, it was motioned, seconded and approved.

SPEER TRUST FUND

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Larry James</td>
<td>BMTE1</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td>Eastern Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Amy Fetterman</td>
<td>WFTE2</td>
<td>Shenandoah</td>
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The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, it was motioned, seconded and approved.

The full report of the Nomination Committee was received and approved. See Appendix _____

Nominating Report II

ADMINISTRATION

Bill Parish, Committee Chair, introduced committee members and discussed four topics related to Personnel, Osborne Fund Guidelines, Synod Evaluation and Westminster Presbyterian Homes.

Personnel

- The Financial Manager has requested a change of employment status effective January 1, 2017 from employee to contractor. The Administration Committee recommended the change and it was approved by synod assembly.

- Executive/Stated Clerk employment contract ends on December 31, 2017. The Administration Committee moved the approval to extend a new four year contract. The motion was seconded and passed.

Osborne Fund Guidelines

- The synod Executive/Stated Clerk has hired a coach for professional development. Currently, the Osborne Fund will pay for the training of new presbytery executives but does not include a provision for the synod staff. A request has been made to change the guidelines of the Osborne Fund to include the synod exec and stated clerk. The following motion was presented and approved.

- That the guidelines of the Osborne fund be expanded in order to include the Synod Executive/Stated Clerk participation in a three year long Coaching Program with the Servant Leadership Institute. The annual cost is $2,400.
Synod Evaluation
- The Administration Committee requested permission to employ a consultant to work with it on evaluating the Synod Structure and to bring a report to the next assembly. A Consultant has been identified. Administration will work with the Finance Committee to secure funding. The motion was seconded and approved.

Westminster Presbyterian Homes Bylaws
- The Administration Committee reviewed the Westminster Presbyterian Homes bylaws and found them unacceptable. There was no motion made but the assembly was informed that Madeline Jervis, Susanne Taylor and John Etheredge will review these bylaws for further conversation with Westminster Presbyterian Homes.

There was a motion to accept the Administration Committee Report. Motion was seconded and passed. See Appendix __Administration Report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE- AKAP/SOMA Partnership Proposal
The Moderator read on behalf of the Executive Committee a summary of the determination to bring a partnership proposal back to the fall assembly. A proposal between AKAP/Synod to provide critical leadership for AKAP was presented. The proposal would provide funding for presbytery staff and for the synod in the areas of part time stated clerk, EP and part time New Immigrant Synod staff. A glitch was discovered that impacted financing the proposal. The proposal was withdrawn from consideration during the assembly with the understanding that it would be brought back to the 240th assembly. See Partnership Proposal Addendum _____

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES
Greg Busby, chair, introduced his committee to the assembly and reported the following: (1) Withdrawal of the partnership proposal due to a funding glitch (2) Review of applications and recommendations were made for five grant proposals totaling $12,000.00. See Presbytery Initiatives Appendix ___

Recommendations:
1. Massanetta Springs – Called Together: A Retreat for Married Couples in Professional Ministries. Recused was Debbie Reese (Massanetta Board Member). **Recommended Award - $1800**
2. Moms and Kids- Presbyterian Women’s Synod Summer Gathering. **Recommended Award - $1500**
3. Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Black Caucus- the Black Caucus implements strategies to help African American churches fill their pulpits with ordained ministers. **Recommended Award -$2500**
4. Women’s Spirituality Retreat – **Recommended Award $2500**
5. CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Education in Central America). Their four areas of missioner are: Biblical and Theological Education, Women’s Ministry, Disaster Ministry and Intercultural Encounters. **Recommended Award - $4500**

Each of the recommendations was approved as well as the committee report. See Presbytery Initiatives Appendix ___

GRANTS AND AWARDS
Committee Chair, James Kirkpatrick introduced the committee members who reviewed the Brochure and suggested changes for clarity. Proposed changes will be shared at the September 2017 Assembly. The committee made the following recommendations.
Recommendations:

**EULER SCHOLARSHIP - $32,100.00 Available**
(Denied)
1. Shinbok Cha (Returning) request denied as the terms of the fund specify M. Div. and not Ph.D. study.
2. Sani Athisu Mao (Returning) request denied as the terms of the fund specify M.Div. and not Ph.D. study.

(Approved)
1. Christopher Speaks (New) request approved for $8025 (Troy L. Thomas recused)
2. Jean Chung (New) request approved for $8025
3. William Wilson (New) request was approved for $8025 (Sylvia Sellers recused)
4. David Smith (Returning) request was approved for $8025 (Sylvia Sellers recused)

**VISIONARY FUND - $6,286.00 Available**
(Approved)
1. Pittsboro P. C. – request approved for $5000 (Troy L. Thomas recused)
2. UKirk, WNC – request approved for $1286 (Sylvia Sellers recused)(Ukirk as not yet sent evaluation for September 2016 funds)

**NEW AND SMALL CHURCH - $22,790.00 Available**
(Approved)
1. Buena Vista PC (Shenandoah): for youth church outreach program, approved for $2,100.00.
2. Central PC (Coastal Carolina): for new roof, approved for $2100.
3. Freedom East PC (Coastal Carolina); for ADA restroom, approved for $2100.
5. Love’s Chapel PC (WNC): for sanctuary floor support, approved for $2100. (Sylvia Sellers recused)
6. Marshall PC (WNC): for sound system, approve for $2100. (Sellers recused)
7. Mills River PC (WNC): for playground equipment, approved for $2100. (Sellers recused)
8. Newland PC (WNC): for church repairs to roof/windows, approved for $2100. (Sellers recused)
9. Oakwood PC (WNC): for roof repair, approved for $2100. (Sellers recused)

**EVALUATIONS RECEIVED FROM:**
1. Colonial Heights PC (James)
2. Good Hope PC (WNC)
3. Silver Hill PC (Coastal Carolina)

**PEACE MAKING - $20,581.00 Available**
1. Approved a $20,000 grant for the training of Police Officers who have responded and had to deal with tragic events. It was noted that we cannot approve the two-year grant, but VLEAP can apply in one year. (Carson Rhyne recused)

There was discussion surrounding the assembly authorizing at the September Assembly to recommend up to 25% total of the current balance of the Synod Peacemaking Fund to those presbyteries which currently have an active peacemaking fund. Carson was given authority to contact the presbyteries about whether they have such funds.

There was a motion to accept the Report of Grants and Awards. Motion was seconded and approved. See Appendix ______ Grants and Awards Report

FINANCE

Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee are Riley Burgess (Charlotte) and Robbie Phillips (Coastal Carolina). The committee met and reviewed the 2016 financial statements. Deficit spending was the focus of the conversation. In 2016 there was an operating budget deficit of $50,833. Projected deficit for 2017 is $70,000. The committee reviewed the year to date figures for 2017. They are reviewing assets that can be used to fund the operating budget and reduce the deficits. They are exploring a shared cost of SPJC expenses, if the General Assembly allows.

**Recommendation:**

That per capita increase by .05 to .85 for 2018

The motion was seconded and approved. The assembly approved the Finance Committee Report. See Appendix ____ Finance Report

FROM BOARD OF PENSIONS – Martha Reisner is the new Church Consultant for the Board of Pensions. She will be functioning in the role and territory that Helen Locklear previously held in the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. areas. Martha made herself available for questions about the pension plan and highlighted a Benefits Connection Event on April 27, 2017 in Annapolis, MD aimed at church administrators, CON, Treasurers etc. – anyone who makes decision about benefits. Input was encouraged regarding experience with the Board of Pension on Board Connect.

MISSION ENGAGEMENT FOR PMA - Sy Hughes, Mission Engagement Advisor for Presbyterian Mission Agency, greeted the assembly and explained the nature of his job that connects congregations, individuals, presbyteries etc. with what his agency is currently doing.

**DISCERNING THRU A TED TALK FORMAT**

Synod continues the discernment process mandated by the General Assembly. To facilitate this process and to answer the questions of “What shall the Synod be known for and who is Christ calling to serve” the major portion of the meeting time was given to engaging commissioners in reaction to nine presentations.

The talks were divided into three segments. Each segment allowed for conversations and questions from the commissioners about the presentation. Jim Moseley facilitated the talks. Presenters who are daily involved in these ministries were invited to speak about Race and Reconciliation, Young Adult Leadership and Immigrant Ministries. Those presenters to speak on the three topics were:

• **YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP**: Rev. Edwin Estevez (Presbyterian Church of the Covenant), Rev. Antonio Lawrence (Faith PC-Goldsboro, NC)

• **IMMIGRANT MINISTRIES**: Rev. Gun Ho Lee (Organizing Pastor of Korean Presbyterian Fellowship of Greenville, NC/New Hope Presbytery Associate for Multicultural Ministries); RE Mawuna Gardesey (Pastor of Olivet PC-Newark, DE) - See attached Bios

**DINNER AND RECESS**

Friday’s session was recessed for Dinner. Due to the inclement weather, the evening session was held in the Roanoke Room of Massanetta’s Main Building. The assembly recessed for the evening to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

**RECONVENE**

The Moderator opened by welcoming everyone with a Morning Prayer offered by Commissioner Debbie Reese.

**OPEN FORUM**

The facilitator summarized the presentations from Friday. Branding the synod (defining the work of the synod/identifying what the synod should be known for) was the question that each of the commissioners was asked for personal input.

Another question posed was “What compelling vision will drive the synod forward best focusing our assets and energies on equipping presbyteries for discipleship”? Everyone was asked “What next”? “What are the issues and opportunities that you can personal identify around this theme?

Attendees responded with the following opportunities: Relationship Building (Regional Gathering), breaking down barriers/boundaries of aged vs youth, race politics, justice, defending the marginalized, homeless, hungry; synod visibility to presbyteries; ministries; spreading the word and disassembling Biblical ignorance; deemphasizing self-power and highlighting community power. The work on Branding is not complete; it is an ongoing process to be addressed at the 240th assembly.

**CLOSING WORSHIP**

Reverend Jimmy Hawkins (PCUSA- Director of the Public Office) provided the closing worship. He preached from Esther 3:12 - Such a time as this. Dealing with Challenges in trying times. Noted was that Esther was a Jew/Immigrant who became the King’s wife; the Faith of other people are entwined with ours-Immigrants and that silence of the church will speak volumes in times of persecution. Relief and Deliverance will come to the Jews/Immigrants (God will make a way out of no way).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The assembly adjourned with prayer at 12:30 p.m. The 240th Synod Assembly will take place on September 11-12, 2017 at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

**ATTESTATION**

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

Dated: August 8, 2017

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