

**THE 239th STATED MEETING OF
THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
MASSANETTA SPRINGS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER, HARRISONBURG, VA.
MARCH 16-17, 2017**

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.

CONVENING 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 Jarvis
Margaret Washnitzer
Nancy Rowland
Mawuna Gardesey

OFFICE

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

PRESBYTERY

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

John Etheredge	Ruling Elder	New Hope
Sarah Eller	Ruling Elder	Peaks
Dale Brown	Teaching Elder	Peaks
John Hartman	Teaching Elder	Salem
Troy Leshner-Thomas	Teaching Elder	Salem
John Bethard	Teaching Elder	Shenandoah
Susanne Taylor	Ruling Elder	Shenandoah
Charles Sellers	Ruling Elder	Western Carolina
Sylvia Sellers	Ruling Elder	Western Carolina
Richard Claterbaugh – Vice Moderator	Ruling Elder	Peaks

EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS

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

Office

Commissioner
 Commissioner
 Commissioner
 Commissioner
 Moderator

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

Althea Bacon, Sy Hughes (Presbytery Mission Agency), Kim Merritt, Martha Reisner (Board of Pensions), Doug and Pat Valentine -Assembly Assistants. Clayton Rascoe (Massanetta Springs), Randy Webb (Minister at Large Shenandoah), Rev. Amantha Barbee, Rev. Gun Ho Lee, Rev. Edwin Estevez, Rev. Antonio Lawrence, Rev. Molly Casteel.

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 presbyter 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.

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.

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

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Franklin Arnold	BMRE	Coastal Carolina
2017	Nam Hong Cho	AMTE	AKAP
2017	John Etheredge	BMRE	New Hope
2019	Aaron Frank	WMTE	Baltimore
2017	Madeline Jervis	WFTE	National Capital
2017	Bill Parish (Chair)	WMRE	Abingdon
2018	Susanne Taylor	WFRE	Shenandoah

FINANCE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	Helen Bessent-Byrd	BFTE	Eastern Virginia
2019	Dale Brown	WMTE	Peaks
2018	Riley Burgess (Co-Chair)	WMRE	Charlotte
2018	Charles Davenport	WMTE	Western North Carolina
2018	Nikki Morris	WFRE	James
2018	Robbie Phillips (Co-Chair)	WFTE	Coastal Carolina
2019	Margaret Washnitzer	BFRE	National Capital

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	Troy Leshner-Thomas	WMTE	Salem
2017	James Kirkpatrick (Chair)	WMRE	Eastern Virginia
2019	Delores Parker	BFRE	New Hope
2019	Cindy Privette	WFTE	Abingdon
2019	H. Carson Rhyne	WMTE	James
2018	Nancy Rowland	WFTE	New Castle
2017	Sylvia Sellers	WFRE	Western North Carolina

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	John Bethard	WMTE	Shenandoah

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

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
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

See Appendix ____ - Nominating Report Part 1.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE- PART 2

Chair Nancy Rowland presented the slate for vacancies.

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
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 acclamation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (by presentation from the Executive Committee)

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2018	Delores Parker	BFRE1	New Hope

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

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
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

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2018	Vacancy		AKAP
2018	Urla Eversley	BFTE1	Charlotte
2019	Ron Duvall	WMRE1	Baltimore
2019	Karen Thatcher	WFRE2	Shenandoah

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)

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2021	Aaron Frank	WMTE	Baltimore
2021	Donna Graves	BFRE	Eastern Virginia
2021	Eric Hulett	WMRE	Shenandoah

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

SPEER TRUST FUND

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Vacancy		Salem
2018	Vacancy		AKAP
2019	Larry James	BMTE1	Charlotte
2019	Vacancy		Eastern Virginia
2019	Amy Fetterman	WFTE2	Shenandoah

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 Sumer 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.
4. Knox PC (Baltimore): for digital board, 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)
10. Roberson Chapel PC (New Hope): for church sign, approved for \$1447.
11. St. Paul PC (New Hope): for bell tower, approved for \$2100.

EVALUATIONS RECEIVED FROM:

1. Colonial Heights PC (James)
2. Good Hope PC (WNC)
3. Silver Hill PC (Coastal Carolina)

PEACEMAKING - \$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:

- **RACE & RECONCILIATION**- Rev. Amantha Barbee (Pastor-Statesville Ave. PC); Rev. Molly Casteel (TE-Manager for Equity & Representation/Asst. Clerk to GA); Rev. Jimmy Hawkins (Director-Office of Public Witness (PCUSE) Washington DC).

- **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