

**THE 240<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING OF  
THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
GINTER PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RICHMOND, VA  
SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2017**

Commissioners to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic gathered for registration and coffee at 9:00 am on September 11, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia.

**CONVENING PRAYER**

The 240<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Synod convened at 9:20 a.m. with prayer by Moderator Alice Tewell.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Moderator welcomed commissioners and guests. Everyone was allowed to introduce themselves.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The Moderator declared a quorum with 19 commissioners in attendance including the moderator and vice-moderator. Eight Teaching Elders and Eleven 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  
Kim Hyongsun Robinson  
Franklin Arnold  
Robbie Phillips  
Helen Bessent-Byrd  
James Kirkpatrick  
Nikki Morris  
H. Carson Rhyne  
Madeline Jarvis  
Margaret Washnitzer  
Nancy Rowland  
John Etheredge  
Dale Brown  
Sarah Eller  
Troy Leshner Thomas  
Susanne Taylor  
Charles Davenport  
Sylvia Sellers

**OFFICE**

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

**PRESBYTERY**

Abingdon  
Abingdon  
AKAP  
Coastal Carolina  
Coastal Carolina  
Eastern Virginia  
Eastern Virginia  
James  
James  
National Capital  
National Capital  
New Castle  
New Hope  
Peaks  
Peaks  
Salem  
Shenandoah  
Western North Carolina  
Western North Carolina

Alice Rose Tewell  
Richard Claterbaugh

Moderator  
Vice Moderator

National Capital  
Peaks

**EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS**

Nam Hong Cho  
Debra Reese  
Gregory Busby  
Riley Burgess  
Mawuna Gardesey  
John Bethard

**Office**

Teaching Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Teaching Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Ruling Elder  
Teaching

**Presbytery**

AKAP  
Baltimore  
Charlotte  
Charlotte  
New Castle  
Shenandoah

**APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK**

The Moderator appointed Tami Scott, Synod Administrator, as the recording clerk.

**SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

The following persons were seated as Corresponding Members - Executive/Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane; Finance Manager, Cindy Hollingshead and Administrator, Tami Scott; CW Hargrave (Moderator-Committee on Representation), Jim Moseley (Executive Presbyter-New Castle Presbytery), and John Wiederholt (Stated Clerk-Peaks Presbytery).

**GUESTS AND VISITORS**

Sue Brossart-Synod Volunteer, Kim Bobo (VA Interfaith Center), Jeff Chapman (RBC Investments), Lana Heath de Martinez (VA Interfaith Center), Chang Densmore, Ken Henry (Westminster PC-Charlottesville, VA), Sherika Hockaday (VA Interfaith Center), Sy Hughes (Presbyterian Mission Agency), Carrie Finch Burriss and Eric Burriss (BAL), Jim Yao and Nancy M. Yao (SHE), Ted Ham and Scott King-Chaplains US Army Recruiters, Martha Reisner (Board of Pensions), Charles Sellers, Elaine Ellis Thomas (St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church-Charlottesville, VA) and Randy Webb.

**ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

The Moderator presented the 240<sup>th</sup> proposed docket. It was approved by common consent.

**ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL GUIDE**

The Procedural Guide was presented for approval. A motion was made to amend Section 6 of the guide to include the following, *"that all business shall be distributed to council at least two weeks prior to convening of council."* The amended motion was referred to the Administration Committee for review of the implications. The Procedural Guide was approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF THE 239TH SYNOD MINUTES**

The 239th Stated Meeting Minutes were approved with the following change: Presbytery Initiatives section (page 8; #4), the Women's Spirituality Retreat was awarded \$1700 instead of \$2500 as stated. The minutes were approved.

**STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane Jr. welcomed commissioners, presenters and visitors. Presenters included The Rev. Carrie Finch-Burriss, Mr. Jeff Chapman, Rev. Ken Henry, Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas, Mrs. Kim Bobo and Ms. Lana Heath de Martinez. Highlights of the Stated Clerk report is listed below:

- Excused: Commissioners requesting to be excused are Nam Hong Cho (AKAP), Debbie Reese (BAL), Riley Burgess and Greg Busby (CHA), Mawuna Gardesey (NEW), John Bethard (SHE).
- Resignations: The following persons resigned as commissioners having accepted new calls outside of the synod. Aaron Frank (BAL) and John Hartman (SAL).
- 9/11: September 11, 2001 was remembered in ways to honor our nation and those innocent lives lost.
- Hate Group Condemnation: The synod Stated Clerk wrote a statement condemning White Supremacist, Neo-Nazis and all hate groups in response to Charlottesville, VA on August 11-12, 2017. It was sent to presbytery stated clerks/executives, synod commissioners and across the denomination. Scores of statements have been received in the synod's office that include OGA Stated Clerk, the PCUSA Office on Public Witness, The National Council of Churches, Virginia Council of Churches, Baptist General Convention, the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, etc. Silence is not an option. See Appendix **A-2**
- Presbytery Minute Review: Stated Clerks of each presbytery participate annually in reviewing the minutes of another presbytery in the synod. The Administration Committee has charge of this process; however, the following observations were reported to the Assembly: (a) Thirteen of the fourteen presbyteries submitted minutes for review. (b) Repeated requests have been unsuccessful in securing the minutes from AKAP, (c) While actions of the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly mandated that all councils of the church develop Child Protection Policies, the majority of the synod presbyteries are not in compliance. (d) The synod is grateful to the presbytery clerks for performing this annual function.
- SPJC Complaints: The SPJC has before it four complaints. Three complaints from the same presbytery. One complaint may be dismissed as it appears that the complainant and respondent have reached an agreement. Three complaints are expected to go to trial.
- Omnibus Motion: Only minutes from the Jubilee Fund, Kate Reynolds Trust Fund, and Speer Trust Fund Committees are listed under the omnibus motion.
- Executive Committee Actions: The Executive Committee approved the 239<sup>th</sup> Assembly Minutes and granted permission to observe the Lord's Supper during the 240<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly and subsequent assemblies.

Topics summarized in the Stated Clerk written report are: the 240<sup>th</sup> assembly docket, Natural Disasters (Hurricanes Harvey & Irma and Mexico City Earthquake), Peace and Global Witness Offerings and related Freedom Rising Initiative, membership on the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, Presbytery Staff Transitions involving stated clerks and executives, NC Presbyteries hosting Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, Presbyterian Leadership Formation Training Program, 2020 General Assembly Presentation by Carrie Finch- Burriss and resources available addressing White Privilege and Race and Reconciliation. See Appendices **A-A4** (Stated Clerk Report and Addendum)

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Rev. Carrie Finch-Burriss, Chair of the Local Planning Committee (COLA) for the Baltimore Presbytery, addressed the assembly with plans for the 2020 General Assembly. GA's theme will center on Race and Reconciliation. The local COLA will address needs around Transportation, Moderator's Reception, Worship Services and Hospitality. These items require local funding and volunteers. Rev. Burriss appealed to the assembly for both monetary and volunteer assistance. Baltimore (COLA) is requesting \$40,000 to assist in hosting the Baltimore General Assembly. Burriss's request was referred to the Finance Committee for study, review and to bring back a recommendation.

**RBC INVESTMENTS**

Jeff Chapman, Financial Advisor with RBC Wealth Management provided a folder summarizing synod fund's performance. Investments have done very well in 2017. Chapman's advice is for the synod to draw down its gains for 2017 and 2018 now. He is cautiously optimistic and encourages any money needed to be drawn down now.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT I**

Chair Nancy Rowland recommended acceptance of the designated committee assignments. The motion was approved.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2017	Franklin Arnold	BMRE	Coastal Carolina
2017	Nam Cho	AMTE	AKAP
2017	John Etheredge	BMRE	New Hope
2019	VACANT		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
2017	James Kirkpatrick (Chair)	WMRE	Eastern Virginia
2019	VACANT		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
2019	Troy Leshner-Thomas	WMTE	Salem

**PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES**

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	John Bethard	WMTE	Shenandoah
2017	Greg Busby (Chair)	BMTE	Charlotte
2017	Sarah Eller	WFRE	Peaks
2017	VACANT		Salem
2017	Debbie Reese	WFRE	Baltimore
2018	Kim Hyongsun Robinson	AFRE	AKAP
2017	Mawuna Gardesey	BMRE	New Castle

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2018	Riley Burgess Finance-Co Chair	WMRE	Charlotte
2017	Greg Busby Presbytery Initiatives Chair	BMTE	Charlotte
2017	Richard Claterbaugh Synod Vice Moderator	WMRE	Peaks
2017	Jim Kirkpatrick Grants/Awards Chair	WMRE	Eastern Virginia
2017	Bill Parish Administration Chair	WMRE	Abingdon
2018	Robbie Phillips Finance-Co Chair	WFTE	Coastal Carolina
At Large	David Sanders	BMRE	Charlotte
2017	Alice Rose Tewell Synod Moderator	AFTE	National Capital

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

**PLENARY ONE – REFLECTIONS ON CHARLOTTESVILLE VA**

Moderator Tewell facilitated plenary one “Faithful Response of the Church”. All gathered were reminded of their responsibility to stand together, to advocate and take risks for those who are vulnerable. Provided was a handout highlighting biblical passages (Exodus 23:9; Leviticus 19:33-34; Matthew 25:34b-40; Galatians 3:23-29) supporting this point. Alice introduced the presenters who focused their presentations on personal experiences from Charlottesville, VA on August 12, 2017.

Rev. Ken Henry – Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church shared that Charlottesville has become a symbol of racism. The residents feel badly that the city is getting this stigma. Leading up to the Charlottesville uprising was a July 8<sup>th</sup> event where the KKK marched in the city parks. The Faith community took the event seriously and saw it as a dress rehearsal for what occurred. Pastors gathered earlier to hold a vigil and to pray for peace for the August 12<sup>th</sup> rally. Ken witnessed Neo Nazis, KKK and other hate groups; people beating each other up and bleeding; looks of hate on people’s faces. He saw what appeared to be the National Guard but was instead Neo-Nazis in military gear. Young kids were in attendance, primed and ready to escalate violence. The resounding message from Rev. Henry was that we must educate our children at an early age about the effects of hatred and violence so not to encourage future outbursts but also to know how mankind should treat one another.

Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas- Assoc. Rector at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church is part of the Charlottesville Collective, a group started by an African American clergy to meet with other pastors for mutual support. The group focused on building relationships, supporting each other and confronting people who are spewing their hate. The day of the KKK rally, the collective gathered and marched to Justice Park. August 11<sup>th</sup>, a mass prayer meeting was hosted (700 people attended, Cornell West, Tracy Blackman, students and rabbis). Attendees to the prayer meeting feared violence upon them as hate groups congregated outside of the church. Rev. Elaine realized the need to be available to people who were physically and emotionally attacked. People were being traumatized. Leftist were protecting the clergy from spewed threats and attacks from KKK, Neo Nazi’s and White Supremacists. City council has since

voted to take down the civil war memorial. Elaine's hope is that Charlottesville will be known as the place where change came.

Mrs. Lana Heath de Martinez-VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy- Welcoming All Coordinator works on Immigrant and Racial issues through the Virginia Interfaith Center. While in worship August 11, 2017, worshippers were alerted that there were people outside with Tiki Torches and looking to invoke violence and fear. She recalled that the Methodist Church was essential on August 12th; people were recording what was going on as the church served as a place for people to come for pastoral care and medical help and where refreshments were made available. Hate groups are slated to come to Richmond on Saturday, September 16, 2017 and de Martinez has been doing outreach to churches in the area to become a safe place for water, mental health care, spiritual care etc. There will be a peace rally at Maggie Walker Monument and then a march to announce that RVA is united against hate. De Martinez asked Commissioners to become activists. She challenged churches to provide fellowship and purpose to the youth in order to see a positive cultural shift and not have youth joining terrorists groups.

Mrs. Kim Bobo – VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy- Executive Director said that she was unprepared for Charlottesville; she had never seen this level of hatred and violence before. She commended and found the faithfulness of the religious community to be amazing. What are the next steps as the center is working on Public Policy? How do we make VA a more welcoming place? Ms. Bobo provided a draft strategy. The topics include (1) Pass Legislations for immigrants – give them driver's license. (2) Provide In state Tuition for Dreamers. (3) Forming a commission on racial justice, truth and reconciliation (like in Greensboro). (4) Criminal Justice reform. (5) Wage theft reform-getting rid of Jim Crow language in major labor laws. (6) Push the VA Delegate commissioners for a new dream act.

Rev. H. Carson Rhyne- Stated Clerk of the James Presbytery-Richmond, VA participated in vigil to support the pastors in Charlottesville. The James Presbytery has not decided their next steps. With the effects of all the events that are simultaneously occurring (Charlottesville, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma) he stressed his approval of the way the PDA has shown its help and presence.

SUMMATION – Moderator Tewell facilitated a panel for questions after presenters concluded. The underlying question posed was how to stop the violence and hatred witnessed at the rally and that is present in the nation. Resounding responses were: (1) conversations need to start earlier in life to assist children in resisting hatred, (2) There is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the community, and (3) we are historically, racially and economically segregated; we need to know each other from different backgrounds and expand our friendships/relationships to include people from other backgrounds, cultures, religions etc. The moderator reminded attendees of how we as a church can build bridges and relationships. She encouraged a continuation of conversation over lunch.

#### **ARMY CHAPLAINS**

Chaplains Ted Ham and Scott King are Army Officers who recruit clergy for the Army Chaplaincy. Col King highlighted the work and roles chaplains have in the lives of service women/men. He then offered prayer for Lunch. The Moderator thanked them for their service and for attending the assembly.

## **PLENARY TWO**

### **TED TALKS REFLECTIONS AND MISSION FORWARD**

Jim Moseley, facilitator for the TED TALK presentations during the 239<sup>th</sup> synod assembly, offered an introduction, history and summarized the March assembly meeting held at Massanetta. He reminded the commissioners of the topics discussed which were New Immigrant Ministries, Young Adults and Race and Reconciliation. Nine practitioners presented. After a discernment process highlighted in the year 2015, it was realized that the synod was out of alignment in that its mission needed to be identified. Branding the synod with a compelling and well defined mission would bring clarity. Commissioners were given summary sheets provided by the Ted Talk Personalities and were referred to the synod webpage to review the video clips of each. Moseley asked if commissioners had been moved by a particular presentation, if they felt there was a personal take away and what did they hear from the Ted Talks. Some responses included:

- That the strategy of learning was reflective and lasted better than handouts.
- That the presentations were diverse and served as great exposure for people from rural areas.
- The importance of learning about the value of safety to those who are new to context, culture, church and community. We learned of the historical African American Presbyteries that have been absorbed into larger presbyteries and their names have been lost. It is important to remember what our history was when we were separate but not equal and now when we are not separate and still not equal.
- Expressions began to freely flow as commissioners sat in a circle to discuss.
- Commissioners expressed the importance of starting and continuing these conversations so that they will not be forgotten. The overwhelming take away is the importance of educating everyone, especially our youth to evoke change and arm against ignorance and hatred.
- Advocacy, Education and Networks for support were major topics to help address alignment. Commissioners gained clarity on the compelling mission and how we should align ourselves.

### **DESIGNATED COMMITTEES**

Commissioners were recessed at 2:35 p.m. to work in their respective designated committees which include Administration, Finance, Grants and Awards and Presbytery Initiatives. Each 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 assembled at 5:30 p.m. in Ginter Park Presbyterian Sanctuary for Worship and Holy Communion. Reverend Marina Godpaze, retired minister from Buchanan Presbyterian Church in Buchanan, Virginia preached and administered communion. The Necrology Report was read. An offering totaling \$193.00 was received. It will be distributed to the Presbyterian Disaster Agency.

### **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 8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning.

### **RECONVENING**

Moderator Tewell called the Assembly to order at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 12, 2017 with an opening prayer which were the words to the song, "This little Light of Mine, I'm going to let it shine".

**PLENARY THREE- COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The OMNIBUS MOTION included minutes and reports from Kate B. Reynolds, Jubilee and Speer Trust Funds. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Omnibus Motion. See Appendices **C- C3** -Committee Reports

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Part II**

Chair Nancy Rowland presented the slate of nominees for Synod Moderator and Vice Moderator.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
Moderator	Richard Claterbaugh	WMRE	Peaks
Vice Moderator	Susanne Taylor	WFRE	Shenandoah

The Moderator and Vice Moderator were elected by acclamation.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2019	James Moseley	WMTE1	New Castle
2020	VACANT		Abingdon
2020	VACANT		Baltimore
2020	Vanessa Gamble	BFRE2	Eastern Virginia
2020	Ray Mims	WMTE2	Salem
2020	Rachel Crumley	WFTE2	Shenandoah

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

**COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2019	VACANT		Eastern Virginia
2020	VACANT		AKAP
2020	VACANT		Coastal Carolina
2020	VACANT		Eastern Virginia
2020	VACANT		National Capital
2020	VACANT		Peaks

The floor was opened for nominations. There being none the assembly moved onto the next report.

**JUBILEE FUND**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Presbytery</b>
2018	VACANT		AKAP
2019	VACANT		James
2020	VACANT		Abingdon
2020	VACANT		Black Caucus
2020	VACANT		Coastal Carolina
2020	VACANT		Eastern Virginia
2020	VACANT		National Capital

The floor was opened for nominations. There being no nominees we moved onto the next report.



**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2021	VACANT		Baltimore
2023	Elizabeth Forester	WFTE1	Coastal Carolina
2023	Key Young Kim	AMRE1	National Capital

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

**SPEER TRUST FUND**

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2018	VACANT		AKAP
2019	Stephanie Sorge Wing	WFRE1	Shenandoah
2020	VACANT		Abingdon
2020	VACANT		Baltimore
2020	VACANT		Eastern Virginia
2020	Jim Ferry	WMTE2	New Hope
2020	VACANT		Salem

The floor was opened for nominations. There being none, it was motioned, seconded and approved. The full report of the Nomination committee was approved. See Appendix **D** - Nominating Report II.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Robbie Phillips, Co- Chair of the Finance Committee reported the following:

- The committee reviewed the \$40,000 request from Carrie Finch Burriss to help host the 2020 GA in Baltimore and tabled the issue until the March 2018 synod assembly.
- The auditors from Cherry Bekaert reported favorable outcome on the audit for the year ending December 31, 2016. They highlighted changes in accounting rules relating to leases (842) and donor restricted funds (958) and provided financial statements for the synod year ending December 31, 2016
- Reviewed the per capita and budget report as of August 31, 2017
- Discussed the inability to use growth portions from restricted funds
- Discussed changes to the 2018 budget which included; the elimination of office copier, review of less expensive audit, an increase to the budget by \$2500 for sending Synod Moderator to 2018 GA and an addition of \$3000 for the Synod Evaluation
- That the synod promote the Euler Scholarship Fund in Rockingham County Churches

**Recommendations:**

1. That \$114,240.00 be used from an equal percentage of the capital gains and interest income from each of the following board designated funds: (1) Shared Ministries; (2) Jubilee, (3) Visionary, (4) Small Church Loan, (5) Catawba Camping Scholarship. \$67,444.00 will be applied to the 2017 budget and \$46,800.000 will be applied to the 2018 budget.
2. That the 2018 synod operating budget be approved.

The assembly approved the Finance Committee Report. See Appendices **E** - Finance Report

**PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES**

Presbytery Initiatives Committee met via conference call on Thursday, September 7, 2017 and elected Sarah Eller as temporary chair because Greg Busby will be unable to attend synod assembly. Four applications are being recommended for approval. In addition, the application deadline dates are being

changed from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> and from March 1<sup>st</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> to mirror the deadline dates of other synod grants and to provide ample time for processing prior to synod assemblies.

### **Recommendations**

1. Authentic Parenting Retreat – Sponsored by James/New Hope Presbyteries – **Award \$2,156.00**
2. Annual Youth Retreat and Newsletter– Sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Black Caucus- **Award \$4,000.00**
3. Charlotte Youth Ministry Consortium – Sponsored by Charlotte/New Hope Presbyteries- **Award \$2,156.00**
4. Mission Trip to Kenya- Sponsored by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic’s Men’s Council – **Award \$4,000.00**

There was a motion to approve the Presbytery Initiative Committee report and the four applications in the amount stated. The motion was seconded and approved. -See Presbytery Initiatives Committee Report – Appendix F

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Committee chair, Jim Kirkpatrick reported that the committee received and made recommendations for one Peacemaking Grant proposal and ten New and Small Church Grants. The committee also received a report on the activity of presbytery Peacemaking committees but took no action. Actions on changes to the funds brochure were tabled until the March 2018 meeting. A Euler Scholarship applicant was denied due to his no longer being enrolled at a Presbyterian seminary. Letters will go out to each presbytery encouraging them to be engaged in the Peacemaking applications. The committee offered its appreciation for work done by Nancy Rowland a recorder for the past few years and encourages the Assembly to present grant proposals for the Peacemaking Fund as significant funds are available and can be made through the website by February 1, 2018.

### **Peacemaking Recommendations**

1. That a special administrative review be established to determine the issues about the conflict in AKAP with funding from the Peacemaking Offering up to \$25,000.00. The intention is that of six members on the commission (three be of Korean ancestry).

### **NEW AND SMALL CHURCH - Recommendations: (TEN) \$22,827.00 available**

1. Covenant PC (Baltimore); handicap bathroom –for \$3800.00
2. Dulatown PC (WNC); renovation for food pantry, - \$3800.00(S. Sellers recused)
3. Ginter Park PC (James); kitchen AKA Compliance - \$3800.00 (C. Rhyne recused)
4. Milner Memorial PC (NH); replacing door to church - \$3800.00
5. Ninevah PC (SHEN); replace roof and manse repairs - \$3800.00
6. St. Paul PC High Point (SAL); new roof - \$3800.00

### **Declined:**

- (1) Ashland PC (James): r retreat (C. Rhyne recused)
- (2) Bear grass PC (NH); Carillon Bells
- (3) Calvary PC (NCP); organ installation
- (4) First PC Portsmouth (EVA); replacing steps (J. Kirkpatrick recused)

There was a motion to accept the Grants and Awards Committee Report. The motion was seconded and approved. See Grants and Awards Report – Appendix G

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Bill Parish, Administration Committee Chair addressed the following topics:

- The Presbytery Minutes Review work has been completed and to be noted for next year are the changes in stated clerks of presbyteries, if there be any.
- H. Carson Rhyne has been named to the Westminster Presbytery Homes Board
- Evaluation of Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane Jr. will be conducted by John Etheredge and Bill Parish as time permits this evening.
- The committee wishes to commend the staff for its hard work, dedication and devotion to the work of the synod however, it is felt that no increases to salary may be entertained at this time.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the Procedural Guide be amended to read, “That all business shall be distributed to council at least two weeks prior to convening.” Rules may be suspended in case of emergency.
2. That the proposed dates for 2018 synod assemblies be March 12-13, 2018 and September 10-11, 2018 and that beginning in 2019, one meeting be held on Monday/Tuesday and the other be held on Friday/Saturday.
3. That a Comprehensive Evaluation be done for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. That the Moderator establishes a small committee to oversee the evaluation and include one or two outgoing Administration Committee Members. That the committee be authorized to hire a consultant to assist with the evaluation.
4. That the Bylaws of Westminster Presbyterian Homes be approved.

There was a motion to accept the Administration Committee Report. Motion was seconded and approved. See Appendix H -Administration Committee Report.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Alice Tewell informed the assembly that the Executive Committee meets by phone once a month and offered appreciation to Jim Moseley for his leadership at the past synod assemblies. See Executive Committee Reports – Appendix I

### **Recommendation**

1. That the minutes for the Executive Committee be approved.

There was a motion to accept the Executive Committee Report. Motion was seconded and approved.

### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

CW Hargrave, synod COR Moderator, delivered the state of representation in the synod. The committee met in Richmond, on July 18, 2017 to review presbytery reports and to assess the state of presbytery’s COR. Because the information from the presbyteries was insufficient, SCOR could not conclude the overall state of the presbyteries. Commissioners were given checklists for presbytery moderators to provide a basis for the current representation. COR packets were provided for each presbytery to have on file and also to provide to their COR Moderator to assist in completing future presbytery COR reports.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the 2018 Synod Operating Budget include funding for a COR two day meeting.
2. Leadership training sessions to be held in each presbytery to train committee membership for committee leadership positions.
3. That a person of racial ethnic be considered to chair committee's leadership positions.
4. That the Synod review the current practice of several Presbyteries that have consolidated representation duties within the Nomination committee duties. See Appendix J- Committee on Representation Report.

### **EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION**

The synod is grateful to commissioners and committee moderators who serve unselfishly and promote the work of the synod. The moderator presented certificates to commissioners whose terms will end in 2017. Vice Moderator, Richard Claterbaugh presented the moderator with a gift from the synod for her leadership and talents.

### **General Assembly Representative**

Martha Reisner serves as the Board of Pensions representative for Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia. She greeted the assembly and provided resource information related to Hurricane Harvey and Irma. She informed everyone that Pensions.org is a place to find information for services, teledoc – remote services for doctors, assistance on prescriptions, to find open pharmacies, and information for those seeking mental health services.

Sy Hughes is the Mission Engagement Advisor for the Southeast Region and his goal is to connect the passion, leadership and excitement of congregations, individuals and presbyteries to the mission and ministries of the wider Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

### **PLENARY FOUR - TED TALKS**

Jim Moseley continued the review of our previous conversations. He asked commissioners to imagine how the synod should be known by explaining that branding is a way of identifying **who you are**. It is how the public recognizes and experiences you. He reminded commissioners of the following: (1) The synod seeks a defining mission; (2) Ted Talk Take-a Ways, (3) racial ethnic and immigrant communities need our advocacy; (4) Entry points are needed to engage young adults; (5) Immigrant and intercultural ministries need networks for support. He stressed how important it is to identify reoccurring themes surrounding Racial Reconciliation efforts such as: (1) Racial ethnic and immigrant communities seeking advocacy and support from the church and (2) African American churches in critical need of “next generation” pastors.

After describing two synods that have clear defining missions (Brand) such as, The Synod of the Living Waters is known for ‘Living Waters for the World.’ Synod of the Sun is known for “Developing Solar Panels for Third-World Countries. Might the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic be known for Recruiting, Nurturing and Developing the Next Generation of African American Leadership (Pastors) who will serve the congregations and councils for the PCUSA? The next generation is an initiative that seeks to respond to the crisis and need to identify the next generation of African American leadership to serve in the congregations and in councils. This initiative is one in which the synod can build partnerships with existing ministries and missions of our denomination. These partners might include Johnson C. Smith

Seminary, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Existing associations of African American Leadership within the PCUSA, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of the General Assembly, etc. This initiative is

complemented by the resources and talents of the synod of the Mid-Atlantic, resonates with our legacy and purposes and suggests to us a defining mission around which we focus our energies, rally our resources and make a significant contribution to the larger church.

Discussions transpired of the importance to create partnerships for nurturing a younger caliber of African American pastors and that there is no specific initiative to identify from where the next generation of African American pastors will derive. The demand has never been higher to track, identify and encourage for mentoring and he then noted the Freedom Rising Initiative through the PCUSA that addresses the oppression of racism damaging the lives of African American males. He asked the assembly if this corresponds with the synod's core purpose. Jim summed up his conversation by recapping that the day's topic of alignment was unfinished and to be further developed as there is an urgency to respond to the model or "brand" for defining a mission. Jim agreed to continue crafting work surrounding the development of African American Leadership for the PCUSA.

#### **WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE**

The assembly participated in a live stream Press Conference of the Office of Public Witness (PCUSA) on the grounds outside of our Nation's Capital. The purpose of this press conference was to advocate on behalf of every American for a fair and faithful 2018 federal budget. Rev. Kevin Powell of National Capital Presbytery and past synod commissioner read a statement prepared by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. The statement was built on the Great Ends of the Church. Staff, commissioners and guests looked on with pride as Kevin spoke firmly that, "We lift up the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the Children of God". See statement attached – Appendix K

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

The Assembly entered into worship lead by Rev. Dale Brown whose sermon was titled "Living out our Faith" from Romans 12:9-21. His message stressed how we must love one another and of special importance is to love our enemies. We must overcome evil with good and hate with love. Moderator Alice Tewell led the assembly in prayer as she installed Richard Claterbaugh as synod Moderator and Susanne Taylor as Vice Moderator. Prayer was offered for the newly installed officers. Moderator Richard Claterbaugh received the gavel by giving thanks.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moderator Claterbaugh adjourned the assembly with prayer at 1:07 p.m. All were invited to gather for the Moderator's reception with cake. Take out lunch was provided for commissioners. The 241<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly will take place on March 12-13, 2018 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: November 14, 2017



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