



3601 Seminary Avenue | Richmond, Virginia 23227 | 804 342-0016 | www.synatlantic.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

“O, Breath of God, come fill this place”

On behalf of the Synod Executive Committee and the Executive/Stated Clerk, we welcome you to the 241st Assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic March 12-13, 2018. Thank you for having an interest in the synod. We look forward to greeting you personally in a few days.

The Assembly’s theme is taken from Ezekiel 37:1-6. Ezekiel is prophesied to God’s chosen people that God would blow New Breath on them. New Breath is being blown across the PCUSA at all levels. We clearly feel the same new breath in our region. New breath in the initiative to address the urgent need of African American Clergy Leadership. New breath is in how the Assembly has addressed Race and Hate Groups. New Breath in the changing of presbytery leadership. This is in fact what we believe God is doing for our region.

The Executive Committee has been hard at work carrying out the synod directives. Staff is busy with the normal work, including dealing with a number of judicial complaints. However, over the past five months, the Executive/Stated Clerks has resourced six presbyteries as they begin to discern God’s will about new leadership. Let me lead the charge in congratulating Warren Lesane, Jr., for being elected Vice Chair of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board for two years followed by two years as Chair.

This Assembly will highlight a couple’s team addressing the new initiative, the Rev. Jerry Cannon and the Rev. Veronica Cannon from Charlotte, NC. The Rev. Jon Barton will present the Doctrine of Discovery conversations about Race, Privilege and Power. Ms. Catherine Lynch will share about the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program and will present Rebate Checks to particular presbyteries. The Rev. Jim Moseley, a usual fixture at assemblies, will address next steps in addressing the new initiative.

Each Commissioner is assigned to a Designated Committee (Administration, Finance, Grants and Awards or Presbytery Initiative). Be on the lookout for an email or call from your committee chair very soon. In the meantime, prepare yourselves for a time of worship, fellowship and being stretched beyond your comfort zone!

Again, we look forward to seeing you March 12-13, 2018 at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, 3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond, VA and may God bless you with safe travels.

God’s Blessings to you,

Richard Claterbaugh, Synod Moderator