

**Synod of the Mid-Atlantic  
Speer Fund Committee Meeting  
June 11, 2018**

Members present:

Jim Ferry – New Hope (Moderator)  
Ray Mute – Baltimore  
Beth Braxton – National Capital  
Ray Williams – Peaks  
Alice Freeman – Abingdon  
Stephanie Sorge-Wing - Shenandoah  
George Conway – James  
Matlynn Yeoman – Coastal Carolina

Jim Ferry called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. Jim offered a devotion based on Psalm 139:1-10, 13-14a, followed by prayer.

George Conway moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting. Alice Freeman offered the second. The motion passed.

Jim asked for comments regarding the mid-year reports from the programs receiving funding from the Speer Fund. It was noted that the following programs have not submitted their reports:

BeLoved Asheville – Western NC  
StepUp Ministry – New Hope  
Employment Training & Placement – Western NC  
Enderly Park Affordable Housing – Charlotte  
Washington Interfaith Network – National Capital  
Don't Stand Idly By – National Capital

Committee members were asked to contact the programs in their presbytery to request the submission of the mid-year report. Members present were very impressed with the quality of the programs that are currently being funded.

Jim reviewed the timeline for the work of the committee.

1. Funded programs are asked to submit mid-year reports in May.
2. New applications are posted on the synod website in late summer and the application deadline is September 30.
3. The committee meets in Richmond in November to approve grant applications.
4. Programs may receive funding for up to three years.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2018. The meeting will start at 9:30 am and should conclude no later than 1:30 pm. The synod will pay for travel and lodging if you arrive on Sunday. More information will be sent to committee members a month prior to the meeting.

Jim also discussed changes going on in New Castle Presbytery. The presbytery has experienced a complete reorganization in leadership and structure. The presbytery will have two Presbytery Executives, one for internal matters and one for external matters. As part of this restructuring, they are looking at the Speer Fund. The donation that created the Speer Fund was given to New Castle Presbytery for use in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and in New Castle. Warren LeSane, Synod Executive for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, will be discussing the future of the Speer Fund with the new Presbytery Executive for New Castle, after the General Assembly. New Castle Presbytery has already issued the \$40,000.00 for this year. Jim will share the results of Warren LeSane's meeting with the committee. Alice Freeman asked that we get a detailed history of the funding for the Speer Fund. George Conway asked if we needed to send letters to new Castle discussing the importance of these funds in our presbyteries. Jim asked that we hold off on this idea until after Warren LeSane has met with New Castle.

Since this is the first time that we have used Zoom as a meeting platform for this committee, we discussed some of the issues we experienced today. George Conway mentioned that there are various levels of service with Zoom. He uses it in his business and offered the use of his Zoom account, which may have a higher level of options than the plan held by the synod office.

Beth Braxton thanked Jim Ferry for taking on the leadership role for this committee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am with Beth Braxton offering the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Matlynn Yeoman  
Acting Secretary