

242nd SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
Report of the Stated Clerk
September 10-11, 2018

Omnibus Motion: The Assembly will address the Omnibus Motion during Plenary Tuesday morning. Commissioners wishing to remove an item from this motion should contact the Clerk by noon today.

Communications: The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) certified that the 2016 and 2017 Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Minutes were approved by the 223rd General Assembly (GA) (2018) without exception. The GA further advises that (1) All Synods include photos and narratives of the mission work being done in their synod as part of the minutes and (2) Synod minutes should be provided to the GA electronically and in paper form to better facilitate the review process. The General Assembly thanks the synods who provided reports and presentations regarding the mission work in their particular synod to the Mid Council Committee. All synods are encouraged to participate in this process for future assemblies.

Conflict of Interest Forms – The purpose of Conflict of Interest Form is to provide safeguards in preventing members of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic from using their position for the purposes that are or give the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private financial gain for themselves or others; such as those with whom they have family, business or other ties. Annual completion of forms required.

Presbytery Leadership: The Synod contains 14 presbyteries. Change is a constant.

1. Abingdon Presbytery – Vacant since 2016
2. Atlantic Korean American Presbytery – The Rev. David Kang is Executive/Stated Clerk
3. Baltimore Presbytery – The Rev. Jackie Taylor is General Presbyter
4. Charlotte Presbytery – The Rev. Jan Edmiston is General Presbyter
5. Coastal Carolina Presbytery – TBA- General Presbyter/Stated Clerk Elect
6. Eastern Virginia Presbytery – The Rev. Liza Hendrix is General Presbyter
7. James Presbytery – The Rev. Carson Rhyne is retiring at the end of the year
8. National Capital Presbytery – The Rev. Wilson Gunn will retire by the end of the year
9. New Castle Presbytery – The Rev. Jessica MacMillan Connectional Presbyter
10. New Hope Presbytery – The Rev. Ted Churn is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
11. Peaks Presbytery – The Rev. Carl Utley is Transitional General Presbyter
12. Salem Presbytery – The Rev. Steven Scott is Transitional General Presbyter
13. Shenandoah Presbytery – The Rev. Bronwen Boswell General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
14. Western NC Presbytery – The Rev. Bobbi White is General Presbyter

Presbytery Minutes Review: The Administration Committee oversees annual review of Presbytery Minutes. It is up to the Presbytery Stated Clerks to conduct the reviews. While Admin will report on the final day of Assembly, the Clerk would have the minutes reflect that thirteen of fourteen presbyteries submitted minutes for review. AKAP did not submit minutes. This is the third year of non-compliance from AKAP. It is one of the concerns the Administrative Commission will address.

Remedial Complaints: Two Remedial Complaints were filed with the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission against the Synod flowing from the 241st Assembly. (1) The complaint filed by TE Nam H. Cho dated March 15, 2018, alleged irregularities and delinquencies and errors in that at the 241st Synod Assembly at Ginter Park PC in Richmond VA on March 12-13, 2018, said Assembly approved the recommendation to organize an Administrative Committee to assume jurisdiction over AKAP. The

complaint requested a “Stay of Enforcement.” (2) The second complaint was filed by the Atlantic Korean American Presbytery (AKAP) April 6, 2018, alleging irregularities and delinquencies, in that at the 241st Synod of the Mid-Atlantic at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church on March 12-13, 2018, said Synod Assembly approved a recommendation to organize an Administrative Commission to assume jurisdiction of AKAP. In response to the two complaints, the Synod Stated Clerk appointed a Committee of Council to answer the complaint. The Committee of Counsel is composed of its chair, TE Wilbur Douglas (EVA), RE Susanne Tayler (SHE) and TE Bill Reinhold (CCC). The Synod Stated Clerk submitted the Committee of Council Concise Answer to the OGA Associate Stated Clerk, Flor Velez- Diaz- May 31, 2018. On August 28, 2018, after reaching out to the GAPJC, we have been informed that a trial will be held October 18th or 19th in regards to this matter in a place yet to be determined.

Speer Trust Fund: New Castle Presbytery has changed its organization structure which has impacted how and whether the synod will be an ongoing recipient of Speer Trust Funding. Jessica Macmillan, Connectional Presbyterian is working with New Castle’s Ignite Work Group to help define and clarify the application process and possibilities of funding.

SPJC: The Synod Permanent Judicial Commission continues as the business entity in the synod. One trial is scheduled in Richmond on October 17, 2018. Two trials were held in May 2018 in Richmond VA. There are no active complaints before the commissioner at this time.

Synod Stated Clerk/Executive Activity Highlights:

- Working with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and with advocacy of many across the region, nearly 400,000 persons will benefit from Medicare Expansion in the state of Virginia
- Virginia Council of Churches – Served on the General Minister Search Committee. Rev. Mary Ann Glover is the new Interim General Minister
- Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB – With the adjournment of the 223rd General Assembly, I become vice chair of the PMAB. This office requires service also as a corresponding member of the Committee of the General Assembly (COGA).
- Presbyterian Military/VA Chaplains – Along with Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann, we lead a three hour presentation on how Chaplains might connect with presbyteries in which they are stationed and the value they bring as effective ministers deployed throughout the world. Primary focus was placed on how the PCUSA has changed or been in transition
- Participated in three Synod Executives Forums in Kansas City, San Diego and Alabama
- Monitored the Middle East and Mid-Council Committees during the 223rd General Assembly and met with the PMAB and PMA Leadership Team
- Participated and lead the August 2018 PMAB Retreat at Stony Point Retreat Center NY
- Consistently consulted with and resourced Synod Committees/Chairs and the Moderator
- The synod office reached out to councils resulting from major storms and tragedies. They include: WNC – flooding, SAL – tornado, BAL – flooding, PEA – flooding, Massanetta - flooding and Synod of South Atlantic – a recent mass shooting
- Attended the Synod Men’s Conference at Massanetta Springs
- Board Work – Virginia Council of Churches, Massanetta Springs, Catawba Economic Development Corp, Sharon Homes, etc.