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To All Commissioners, Presbytery Executives and Stated Clerks of the Synod of the Mid Atlantic

Greetings!

It is almost that time again - - the 242nd Synod Assembly is coming right up. The dates are September 10th and 11th, and the meeting will once again be held at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. I look forward to seeing you there for a time of glorious worship, heartfelt fellowship and productive business. In that vein, and on behalf of the Executive Committee and Synod Staff, I look forward to welcoming you to Richmond then.

Our theme for this Assembly will carry on a bit further into the passage of Ezekiel 37 regarding the Valley of the Dry Bones. Moderator Richard Claterbaugh, who unfortunately will not be able to attend due to a recent surgery, selected verses Ezekiel 37:6 – 10 for our theme because it shows the Lord reattaching the sinew, flesh and skin onto the dry bones, and breathes life into them, so that they become a vast army. It is appropriate that we, too, build on the framework established with our previous assemblies and continue becoming the vast army that our God has breathed life into yet again. We, too, are an army awaiting orders from our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ!

All presbyteries have replaced commissioner's vacancies, so we anticipate 30 commissioners being present as well as corresponding members, guests and visitors. Several committees have been meeting since the March Assembly. The Administration Commission has been reviewing all synod policies and procedures. It will present several amendments for update along with items related to a new position description for the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk. The Finance Committee has been working diligently to plan long-term financial stability for the synod. And of course, Presbytery Initiatives and Grants/Awards Committees can hardly wait to award successful applicants funding to engage mission.

It is my hope that we will meet promptly Monday morning, fresh from our travels and a good night's rest the previous evening, and ready to get to the business at hand. I look forward to seeing you then!

Until then, I remain,

Susanne Hooker Taylor

Ruling Elder from Shenandoah Presbytery and

Vice Moderator of the Synod