

**Synod of the Mid-Atlantic  
243rd Synod Assembly  
Nominating Committee Minutes  
10:00 am Zoom Conference Call  
February 29, 2019**

**OPENING**

George Wilson convened the Zoom conference call meeting with a reading from Ezra 1:5 and with prayer

**ATTENDANCE**

Rachel Crumley reviewed attendance

Present: Michael Robinson, Charlotte; George Wilson (Chair), Coastal Carolina; Sarah Schutte, James; Gerry Hendershot, National Capital; Delores Parker, New Hope; Ray Mims, Salem; Rachel Crumley (Co-Chair), Shenandoah; Charlie Kincaid, WNC

Excused: Susanne Martin, Abingdon

Absent: Joon Kwan, AKAP; Todd Smith, Baltimore; Vanessa Gamble, EVA; Mae Hall, New Castle

Presbyteries with no representation: Peaks

Staff present: Warren LeSane, Synod Exec

Guest: Steve Mabie, SCOR

**QUORUM**

George Wilson confirmed we have a quorum.

**APPOINTMENT OF RECORDER**

**Motion #1:** Moved, seconded, and approved to appoint Rachel Crumley as recorder for meeting.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET**

**Motion #2:** Moved, seconded and approved docket, including giving voice to our guest, Steve Mabie.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS**

Rachel Crumley welcomed new committee members George Wilson and Sarah Schutte, as well as Steve Mabie, guest representative from SCOR.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES/REPORT from 243<sup>rd</sup> Synod Assembly**

With our apologies, these documents were not sent to this body ahead of meeting and will need to be approved later.

## BUSINESS

1. Sarah Schutte read the document with basic information for the Nominating Committee. Rachel Crumley responded to a question regarding the election of Vice-Moderator/Moderator, explaining the rotation system and that Tami Scott and Warren Lesane assist with that process. Warren spoke to the importance of nominating with diversity in mind, particularly in regards to the position of Moderator.
2. Review Rosters and Vacancy Reports
  - \*\*\* Warren explained the current status of the Speer Fund. It is currently still a permanent committee of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, whose purpose is to fund projects dealing with and alleviating root causes of poverty and hunger. Monies have been channeled for this purpose into the New Castle Presbytery, the Mid-Atlantic Synod, and the General Assembly from a fund held by New Castle. However, New Castle has ended the Speer trust fund board; and is no longer supporting funding for what had been the Speer Trust fund mission. That funding will now be channeled through an Ignite team of New Castle, whose purpose will be to support projects/proposals for moving forward, being the church in new ways, and the transformation of congregations. The Synod of Mid-Atlantic intends to part of Ignite in some way; however, it will need to be decided if and how the mission of the Speer Fund will continue. Speer has enough funding for 2019. There will be discussion at the 244<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly in March regarding the possible continuation of Speer, as well as partnering with New Castle in the new endeavor to support transformation of congregations.
    - Warren and George recommend filling vacancies on Speer fund even while we wait for the decision regarding the continuation of this fund.
  - We reviewed the Rosters for each of five permanent committees [Representation (SCOR), Permanent Judicial Committee (SPJC), Speer Fund, Jubilee Fund, and Nominations (SCON)] and the Vacancy Report to note resignations, nominations, and vacancies.
    - George Wilson noted that he had tried by phone and email to contact Sandra Gisiner, rep to SCON from Peaks, to find out if she is continuing for a second term, with no response.
    - Michael Robinson of Charlotte Presbytery believes that we are to add the name Larry James as the nominee for Jubilee Fund. He will follow up to let Tami Scott, George Wilson and Rachel Crumley know.
    - Gerry Hendershot of National Capitol noted that he may have forthcoming resignations. He was asked to let Tami, George and Rachel know of resignations, and if/when he has nominees to fill those vacancies.

**Motion #3: To accept resignations and nominations listed on vacancy report.**

Moved and seconded.

- Discussion – Steve Mabie, COR, invited to speak to motion. COR met 2/11 in Richmond, after not meeting in 2018, to review reports from Presbyteries. Some Presbyteries have COR/CON to meet together, some meet separately, and some have CORs which only marginally functional. COR intends to present at Synod: why we have CORs and how do we help them function more effectively. We won't have inclusive congregations until we have inclusive leadership.

Motion approved.

### 3. Review roster of Designated Committees

- Review changes and vacancies (vacancies are handled by the synod office).
- Rachel mentioned the two vacancies noted on the current roster. Warren named the following commissioners nominated to fill vacancies:
  - NOMINATE: AKAP: Kong-Mi Kim Commissioner on PI Committee AF\_E (TE/RE, Warren will let us know.)
  - NOMINATE: Donna Bowers as Commission on Grants Committee WFTE

**Motion #4:** Moved, seconded, and approved the two nominations listed above, and the committee assignments designated by Commissioner Roster.

### 4. Synod Staff Reports – Warren

- Reflection: We have already addressed some things Warren wanted to lift up, particularly the future VM from New Hope.
- SPJC is an essential committee; it needs to be well staffed and with a healthy balance. Right now, SPJC is heavily out of balance with many REs. We need more TEs, as we prepare for a large turn-over at end of 2019.
- The Presbytery make-up of this Synod runs from Delaware to NC with one non-geographic presbytery: AKAP. We have seen great changes in leadership throughout the Synod, especially in executive leadership. Abingdon/NatCap are without GP. More than half are new or transitional. That said, we are beginning to live into greater diversity in Presbytery Leadership.
  - Note: Where the church is really growing, we don't count in our numbers – 1001 communities. Many of these communities are starting out with great diversity and we have not yet determined how to take advantage of the gifts these new communities bring to the church.
  - Synod Execs meet and talk together regularly; also took a trip together. The Synod intends to extend an invitation to Presbyteries to join a caravan to Montgomery, AL to learn together. The Synod is looking to find a way to help fund and provide people to lead processing. We must begin to live into the truth that We ALL belong to God.

### 5. March Meeting of Synod Assembly: March 11-12, 2019

### 6. Moderator/Vice-Moderator

**Motion #5: To nominate Mawuna Gardesey, BMRE, New Castle as Moderator for 2020.**

Moved, seconded and approved.

- Note: We will need to nominate a Vice-Moderator from New Hope for 2020 at the September meeting of Synod.
7. Reviewed Synod report below.

**Motion #6: To approve Synod Report and for co-chair, George Wilson, to act on behalf of SCON to bring additional names before the Synod Assembly in March, if other nominations and/or resignations are brought forward in the intervening time.**

Moved, seconded, and approved.

8. Next Meeting: **Monday, July 22, 2019 in person in Richmond Time TBA.**

**Motion #7:** Moved, seconded and approved date and time for next meeting: Monday, July 22, 2019, in Richmond, VA.

#### **CURRENT STATUS OF MARCH REPORT**

##### **Nominating Committee Report to the Synod Assembly, March 11-12, 2019**

##### **Part I – March 11, 2019**

DESIGNATED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (listed separately)

##### **Part II – March 12, 2019**

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** *(by presentation from the Executive Committee)*

Class of 2021 Co-Chair	George Wilson	BMRE	Coastal Carolina
Class of 2021	Sarah Schutte	WFTE	James
Class of 2021	Gerry Hendershot	WMRE	National Capitol
Class of 2019	Mae Hall	BFRE	New Castle
Class of 2021	Delores Parker	BFRE	New Hope

#### **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION**

Class of 2020	Kim Robinson	AFRE	AKAP
Class of 2021	Donna Fair	BFRE	Charlotte
Class of 2019	Veronica Thomas	BFTE	Eastern VA
Class of 2021	Cherry Peters	WFRE	James
Class of 2021	Steve Mabie	WMRE	New Hope

#### **JUBILEE FUND**

Class of 2021	Rourke Moore	BMRE	New Castle
Class of 2021	Frances Turner	BFRE	New Hope

## **SPEER TRUST FUND**

Class of 2019

Connie Weaver

WFTE

James

### Current Vacancies:

**Abingdon:** COR2021

**Atlantic Korean American:** Jubilee 2021; Speer 2021; SPJC 2019

**Baltimore:** NONE

**Charlotte:** Jubilee 2021

**Coastal Carolina:** Speer 2021

**Eastern Virginia:** Speer 2020

**James:** Jubilee 2019

**National Capital:** NONE

**New Castle:** NONE

**New Hope:** NONE

**Peaks:** CON 2021; COR 2020; Jubilee 2021; Speer 2021

**Salem:** NONE

**Shenandoah:** NONE

**Western North Carolina:** Speer 2021

### Codes:

A = Asian

B = Black

C = Chinese

H = Hispanic

W = White

F = Female

M = Male

RE = Ruling Elder

CRE = Commissioned Ruling Elder

TE = Teaching Elder

1 = First Term

2 = Second Term

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Sarah Schutte closed the meeting with prayer.

**Motion #8:** Moved, seconded and approved adjourning the meeting.