

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC**  
**Report of the Executive and Stated Clerk**  
**243<sup>rd</sup> Synod Assembly**  
**March 11-12, 2019**

The Synod Stated Clerks reports the following information since the 242<sup>nd</sup> Synod Assembly.

Communications

- Denver Presbytery Stated Clerk with information about AKAP's Stated Clerk's Church status
- Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural requesting nominations for leaders of color mentorship
- Office of the General Assembly announcing Big Tent dates of August 1-3, 2019 in Baltimore
- Presbyterian Men of Synod announcing the dates and leadership for July 2019 Conference
- Several letters from the GA Stated Clerk announcing the "Hand and Feet Initiative" in Baltimore; Ending Cash Bail; advocacy letters to the President and Legislatures detesting the treatment of Refugees and resettlement
- Synod SPJC Officers addressing concerns with AKAP and its Stated Clerk

Excuses: RE Jane Davis (ABI)

Pastoral Concerns

- Bronwen Boswell and Family in the passing of her mother (SHE)
- Jessica MacMillan and Family in the passing of her father (NEW)
- Stephen Scott and Family in the passing of his father (SAL)
- Donna Bowers and Family in the passing of her husband (NEW Commissioner)
- Ted Churn is on medical leave (NHO)
- Richard Claterbaugh recovering from Heart Surgery (PEA Past Synod Moderator)
- The Staff of Salem Presbytery as the presbytery has adopted a new staffing model

GAPJC – The General Assembly Permanent Commission held a trial for the Remedial Complaint Appeal for AKAP/CHO v SOMA in Atlanta October 20-21, 2018. The SOMA Committee of Counsel was composed of TE Wilbur Douglass II – Chair, RE Suanne Taylor and TE Bill Reinhold. Counsel for the COC was TE Archibald Wallace III. The decision of the trial as required by the Synod and Presbytery Clerks in the next meeting of each bodies following the trails reads:

**"IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Synod action of March 13, 2018, establishing an Administrative Commission is hereby suspended, pending modification of the action to delineate the powers of that Administrative Commission consistent with this decision and in compliance with G-3.0109, "The designating council shall state specifically the scope of the commission's powers and any restrictions on those powers."**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic report this Decision and Order to the Synod at its first stated meeting following the date of this Order, that the Synod enter the full Decision and Order upon its minutes, and that an excerpt from the Synod's minutes showing entry of the Decision and Order be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic deliver a copy of this Decision and Order to its Administrative Commission addressing concerns in the Atlantic Korean American Presbytery.**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Atlantic Korean American Presbytery report this Decision and Order to the Atlantic Korean American Presbytery at the first stated meeting after receipt, that the Atlantic Korean American Presbytery enter the full Decision and Order upon its minutes, and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the Decision and Order be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)."**

Powers and duties of the Administrative Commission have been described in an attachment. Commission members have been appointed by the Synod Moderator and Stated Clerk.

#### Presbyteries, Staffs and PLF:

With new presbytery staff, participation in the Presbytery Leadership Formation is significant for the Synod. The synod pays approximately \$4,050.00 over three years for each new presbytery executive or general presbyter participation. These costs provide about 75% of all costs. The Three year program for the ten persons enrolled from the SOMA includes an initial orientation, annual residency training, a ninety day companion and coaching. A flyer is attached for full detail of the PLF. An asterisk indicates participation.

1. ABI Presbyter is vacant. A consultant has been working with it for nearly two years.
2. AKAP is the Presbyter Executive/Stated Clerk\*
3. BAL – Jackie Taylor is General Presbyter\*
4. CHA – Jan Edmiston is General Presbyter\*
5. CCC – Jerrod Lowry is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk\*
6. EVA – Liza Hendrix is General Presbyter
7. JAM – Fred Holbrook is Transitional General Presbyter/Stated Clerk\*
8. NAT – Vacant – Search Committee continues to work
9. NEW – Jessica McMillian is Connectional Presbyter\* and Tracey Keenan is Missional Presbyter and begins work March 1<sup>st</sup>\*
10. NHO – Ted Churn is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk\*
11. PEA – Carl Utley is Transitional General Presbyter\*
12. SAL – Stephen Scott is Transitional General Presbyter\*
13. SHE – Bronwen Boswell is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
14. WNC – Bobbi White is the General Presbyter

Hospitality Hour - The Synod coordinated opportunities to bring regional staff together providing mutual support around a meal. During the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in St Louis 19 staff gathered for lunch. During the Annual Gathering of the Association of Mid-Council Leaders in Chicago, thirteen persons gathered.

#### Executive Activities:

- Ecumenical Activities included attending a Faith Leaders' Summit which focused on Theological Perspectives on Organ and Tissues Donation. The Annual Judicatory Retreat sponsored by the Virginia Council of Churches hosted at Roslyn Center in Richmond. The retreat was facilitated by Dr. Richard Hamm, VP of Christian Theological Seminary and addressed the Racial Divide.
- The Synod Executives meet three times annually. Recently the decision was made to invite all synod moderators and Execs to participate in a two-day immersion experience by visiting two significant sites in Montgomery AL. Forty-Three Persons attended.
- Participated in three phone calls concerning New Castle Presbytery changing its philosophy and approach to Speer Trust Funds. The Ignite Team of NEW has charge of this mission area. I participated in a Zoom Conference Call to discuss how this decision impacts the SOMA

- In working with the Administration Committee, one goal of the Synod Executive is to visit each of the 14 presbyteries in 2019 either as an observer or a presenter. Another goal is to insure that the “Next Generation Initiative” Task Group is adequately staffed and that its meetings regularly.
- Submitted the 2018 Annual Report of the Committee of Representation to the General Assembly Committee on Representation.
- Presented a Talking Paper to the Executive Committee as to how he sees the Spirit of God at work across and within the SOMA

Presbyterian Mission Agency Board – As a member of the PMAB, I also serve as the Chair Elect and spearheading the development of a new Mid Council Committee. In this role, I serve as a Corresponding Member of the Office of the General Assembly (COGA). List below is an update:

- During all Board Meetings and Gathering, the Board Honors Native Lands and Peoples - If you are looking for assistance with following the 223rd General Assembly’s exhortation to acknowledge the original people inhabiting the land on which you are meeting, here's a helpful resource.
- PMAB, the mission arm of the General Assembly, meets regularly by Zoom and in person. I serve as the vice-chair of the PMAB; I am also a member of the Committee of the General Assembly (COGA). Meetings for 2019 include these dates and locations:
  - January 17, 2019                      PMAB Zoom Call
  - February 4-6, 2019                      COGA – Houston, TX
  - March 27-29, 2019                      PMAB – Louisville, KY
  - April 23-25, 2019                      COGA – Philadelphia, PA
  - May 9, 2019                              PMAB Zoom Call
  - September 25-28, 2019                PMAB and COGA – Louisville, KY

SPJC – The Moderator of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission will report on Tuesday the work of the commission. One trial was held in October. Currently, there is one remedial complaint still on their agenda.