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August 30, 2019

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

Greetings!

As I sit down to write this, I find it difficult to believe that six months have elapsed since I last did this task. It is also, sadly, the last time I will do it as your moderator. I have greatly enjoyed my time in this function, getting to work with such a terrific group of people as we try to bring about significant change for our God and God's beloved Church. I believe that as long as we continue to strive to accomplish God's mission for us, ultimately, we cannot fail.

The Assembly is scheduled for September 13 – 14, 2019, at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond. Please consult the website for information about registration and lodging. Also, please plan to attend the entire assembly. We recognize that having a meeting on Saturday may cause some time crunches for pastors getting back to preach on Sunday morning. We beseech you to make everything ready so that your time in Assembly may be focused and productive throughout the entirety of the Assembly.

Our last assembly in March was a truly special time for us, with the dynamic speakers we had, and the emotional subject matter we discussed. I can assure you that the work continues. We are exploring avenues to make a "Montgomery Immersion Experience" possible for various groups in the Synod and we are continuing to engage in conversations with leaders who can assist us in diffusing the systemic racism in our society. This assembly will be no less informative and engaging.

A couple of weeks ago, I participated as your representative to a gathering of mid council leaders in Baltimore in which we consulted with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board regarding 12 initiatives of the denomination. While I understand that the initial aim of the PMAB was to whittle the list to a more manageable 3 to 5 initiatives, we ended up doing something different. You will have an opportunity to hear and take some action about that, as it has to do with the Matthew 25 initiative.

There are many more words contained in documents that you will need to read through in preparation for the Assembly, so I will not continue to take up your time with mine.

To God be the Glory!

Susanne Hooker Taylor

Susanne Hooker Taylor, CRE
Moderator, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic