

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 1:30 PM
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

OPENING:

Moderator Susanne Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. with prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Present were Susanne Taylor, Richard Claterbaugh, Helen Bessent-Byrd, Robbie Phillips, Jim Kirkpatrick, and Cindy Privette. Absent were Riley Burgess and Mawuna Gardesey, Staff present was Warren Lesane Jr., and Tami Scott.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET:

The docket was approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:

The Synod Administrator was appointed as Recording Secretary.

QUORUM:

The Moderator declared a quorum was present.

MINUTES:

The February 12, 2019 meeting minutes and the March 11th, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

MODERATOR'S REPORT:

The moderator explained to all that the layout of the docket for this meeting listed specific items under each committee. This does not mean that committee chairs would report during this meeting; rather it was a way of laying out business items to be addressed by each committee in the future. She commented briefly about a conference that she is attending on behalf of the stated clerk. Most denominations have clergy that are leaving ministry prematurely. The event seeks ways to help stop the bleeding. Her report on such will be forthcoming.

EXECUTIVE /STATED CLERK REPORT:

Reporting from the Miami Synod Executive Forum in Deerfield Florida, the stated clerk shared that the Matthew 25 Vision is taking root across the PCUSA. Synod Execs are meeting with the President of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Stated Clerk of the PCUSA. Highlights from the executive staff summary include:

- The Assembly award checks will be sent to presbyteries for presentation at upcoming presbytery meetings.
- 243rd Assembly Highlights have been emailed to commissioners, presbyteries etc.
- Conflict of Interests forms second requests have been made
- Assembly minutes will be ready for review/discussion at the May 14, 2019 Executive Committee meeting as will a report on Disaster Relief grants received and approved.
- Bill Reinhold will share a report of his consultation with World Wide Mission in May
- Disproportionate Grant Distribution is somewhat complicated. How is synod marketing grants and awards? Several commissioners are presbytery staff members. There is an imbalance of power! The synod needs to address this matter. How can we certify that commissioners sitting

around the table will ensure that: (a) one presbytery will not receive 42% of the awards, (b) all 14-presbyteries have equal opportunity and access to funding, (c) marketing is done evenly across the board, and (d) some applicants don't tap into more than one pool of synod funds. This matter required broader and in-depth conversation.

- The Executive Committee was tasked with envisioning a possible merger of funding committees as some grant applications are tapping into more than one source with funding coming from the same pot. How should we communicate and oversee our funding stream? A face to face meeting or retreat might be the best way to address these items and more in the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Administration Committee** – No Report
- **Finance Committee – Riley/Robbie** – No Report
- **Grants & Awards – Jim Kirkpatrick**- Disaster Relief Committee (Jim Kirkpatrick and Cindy Privette) have been in communication discussing and approving a request from Coastal Carolina (Disaster Recovering Group for \$5,000) to purchase construction material for home repairs from Hurricane Florence. Jim requested from the synod office a sample confirmation letter that can be sent to the Disaster Recovery Group.
- **Presbytery Initiatives** – PI letters have been composed and will accompany the checks to be awarded at presbytery meetings.

BUSINESS ITEM:

- Reflections of the 243rd Synod Assembly were expressed with favorable comments.
- An update on the AKAP Administrative Commission was provided with six members having been secured; plans are to move forward while seeking a final (seventh) commission member.
- Follow up business items and Timelines were provided for each committee including a list of items to be addressed at future committee meetings. The stated clerk encouraged committee chairs to hold meetings so that there is more time for broader discussions during assembly. Establishing regular meetings via zoom would be a tool to better accomplish these to-do items.
- What's Next? At the May 14th meeting, we will discuss where we go from here and should be ready to plan a retreat to discuss a number of items but especially the combining some committees.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with prayer by Susanne Taylor. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 via Zoom Video Conferencing.

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 1:30 PM
Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

OPENING:

Moderator Susanne Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. with prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Present were Susanne Taylor, Mawuna Gardesey, Riley Burgess, Richard Claterbaugh and Cindy Privette. Excused was Jim Kirkpatrick. Absent were Helen B. Byrd and Robbie Phillips. Staff present was Warren Lesane Jr., and Tami Scott. Guest was Bill Reinhold.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET:

The docket was approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:

The Synod Administrator was appointed as Recording Secretary.

QUORUM:

The Moderator declared a quorum was present.

MINUTES:

The April 9, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

WORLD WIDE MISSION REPORT:

Bill Reinhold (Retired Stated Clerk of Coastal Carolina Presbytery) represented the synod by attending the PCUSA World Mission Southeast Consultation on March 21-23, 2019 at Calvin Center Atlanta, GA. Bill is also a member of the Congo Mission. Other international global partner consultations were held in Nairobi, Kenya, Berlin, Germany, Chiang Mai, Thailand and Cartagena, Colombia. The consultation presented an opportunity for leaders of Presbyterian World Mission to discuss common issues with partner churches. Themes of the consultation were: (1) Commitment to partnership in mission relationships that recognize our engagement in God's mission around the world; (2) Understanding the role of long-term mission co-workers who form a bridge between partner churches and members, congregations, presbyteries/synods... (3) Strong commitment to inclusion of every member in PC(USA) in world mission and representing diversity; (4) Strong desire that every agency of PC(USA) be encouraged to consider how its work engages the world-wide mission of Jesus Christ. High point of the consultation was the diversity and low point was the lack of Matthew 25 study and discussion.

MODERATOR'S REPORT:

Susanne attended on a Think Tank for the Sustainability of Clergy Leadership coordinated by Archibald Wallace. It focused on unhealthy congregations and reasons for the mass exodus of pastors in various denominations. "How do we work on keeping pastors?" When she receives final discussion information summarizing the meeting, it will be shared.

EXECUTIVE /STATED CLERK REPORT:

The Stated Clerk reported from Salem Presbytery Meeting in Taylorsville NC. His goal is to attend one presbytery meeting of the SOMA presbyteries during the 2019 year. Salem is experiencing staff

downsizing. He will meet Wednesday with Salem staff offering pastoral care. Salem is planning a trip to Montgomery, AL as part of its Social Justice Ministries. It would be nice if SOMA and the various presbyteries could coordinate a trip to Montgomery.

See written Executive Summary Report for entirety

- SOMA increased workload. How can some of the work be directed to committees? Where we don't have committee assigned to the work, how do we include commissioners to assist?
- Encouraging Presbyteries to share the Highlights from the 243rd Assembly.
- Thanks to the Disaster Relief Work Groups as a number of applications have been awarded. 6 applications to date awarded being: Neuse Forest PC (NHO), Charlotte Presbytery, Massanetta Springs, Carteret, Dublin and Cumberland (CCC).
- SPJC- Currently, no cases before it
- GA Per Capita – GA has taken action on Presbyteries requesting per capita reductions. Requests will have certain criteria: (a) It must come from the SC of the presbytery representing the action by the appropriate body in that presbytery; (b) only the requests for relief representing at least a 10% membership loss from the year upon which the assessment is based, and the currently billing year will be granted and; (c) in addition, presbyteries should provide a copy of the request to their synod, OGA will copy the synod in its response and include a disclaimer that any OGA action taken does not bind the action of any other words.

MEETING BUSINESS

- A Face to Face Executive Committee Retreat is needed to address its work and to accomplish it before September Assembly. This would allow the assembly to continue generative conversations such as at the last assembly. Retreat dates June 10-11, 2019. Tami will check on a retreat center that can house our work and meals. Possibly arrive Monday the 10th, working an evening, staying one night, working Tuesday morning and then drive back on Tuesday afternoon. Committee members are encouraged to bring a guest from their presbytery who is passionate about our work and who will be an asset to us from the Presbytery (Brainstorming). Retreat to be funded by Executive Committee budget line item.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Disaster Relief Workgroup-** 6 applications have been received and approved (Executive Summary). Stated Clerks have been made aware of this Disaster Relief Assistance.
- **Administration, Grants & Awards and Presbytery Initiative Committees- No reports**
- **Finance Committee – Riley/Robbie** – Wait and watching the market, market is steady right now and we are in good shape with budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with prayer by Susanne Taylor. The next meeting will be a retreat and planning meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 in Richmond. Information is forthcoming.

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING & RETREAT
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 10AM-2PM
Tuesday, June 11, 2019**

OPENING:

Moderator Susanne Taylor called the meeting during the June 11, 2019 Zoom Video Meeting/Retreat. Mawuna Gardesey led the meeting/retreat with Bible Study and prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Present were Susanne Taylor, Mawuna Gardesey, Helen Bessent-Byrd, Riley Burgess, Jim Kirkpatrick, Robbie Phillips and Cindy Privette. Excused was Richard Claterbaugh. Staff present was Warren Lesane Jr., and Tami Scott.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET:

The docket was approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:

The Synod Administrator was appointed as Recording Secretary.

QUORUM:

The Moderator declared a quorum was present.

MINUTES:

The May 14, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

MODERATOR/EXECUTIVE REPORTS – There were no reports.

MEETING BUSINESS- Discussions, Planning and Updates were shared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Presbytery Initiative Committees shared that they had met on Monday, June 10, 2019 to discuss future tasks and ideas.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. with prayer by the stated clerk. The next meeting will take place Tuesday, July 11, 2019 via ZOOM.

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 1:30 PM
Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

OPENING:

Moderator Susanne Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Present were Susanne Taylor, Richard Claterbaugh, Riley Burgess, Jim Kirkpatrick, Cindy Privette, and Helen Bessent-Byrd and Robbie Phillips. Excused was Mawuna Gardesey. Staff present was Warren Lesane Jr., and Tami Scott.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET:

The docket was approved as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:

The Synod Administrator was appointed as Recording Secretary.

QUORUM:

The Moderator declared a quorum was present.

MINUTES:

The June 11, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

MODERATOR'S REPORT:

The Moderator is working on an updated job description for the Moderator/Vice Moderator. She will represent the synod at the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Mid-Council Consultation in Baltimore in August. Her expenses will be covered by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

EXECUTIVE /STATED CLERK REPORT:

The Stated Clerk thanked Vice Moderator and Moderator for their leadership during the retreat. Participants had energy and were engaged throughout the retreat. The staff meets on a regular basis and allocates time in prayer for our presbyteries, committees, commissioners and staff etc. Several points in the written Executive Summary were highlighted which include: The National Council of Churches Statement (Southern Border-Human Rights Issue) this is a travesty and the NCC is addressing this; Presbyteries information (James) ordination Warren stood with Presbytery Executive to handle any media presence or any possible disturbance; There will be a consultation (zoom) where presbytery execs from Mid-Atlantic will be in discussion regarding per capita (7/16/19 at 2pm) presbytery input; PM's Retreat, Chaplains Experience in Georgia showing what the military is about and the role of chaplains; offered was a calendar of Activities and Travel. See the attached summary for further details.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SUMMARY:

The Synod Administrator provided highlights of her day to day duties and activities to give committee members a snapshot of some of the work that crosses her desk. She reported on her contact with new and returning commissioners, Disaster Relief Award letters and checks sent, Grants & Award

applications received, SCOR/SCON Meeting preparations, Kate B. Reynolds Guideline updates, Restricted Fund applications sent to Louisville, Assembly Prep and more. Upcoming synod deadlines were provided as well as calendar items. See the attached summary for further details.

MEETING BUSINESS

Executive Committee Retreat, Reflections, Actions and Updates were discussed. Retreat Notes were provided for feedback. An opportunity to gather committee chairs that provide synod grants and funding is in the works; its purpose is to address possible restructuring of the committees. Fall of 2019 is projected for this meeting. Some of the guiding questions for the meeting might include, 'who gains, what is gained, who loses and how does this help the synod? A recommendation will be brought to an assembly. This topic may be integrated into Synod Assembly (Planning Committee to address).

The 244th Synod Assembly Planning Team will be contacted by the moderator for its first meeting in preparation for upcoming Assembly. Members are Susanne Taylor, Mawuna Gardesey, Cindy Privette, Warren Lesane and Tami Scott.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Disaster Relief Workgroup (J. Kirkpatrick & C. Privette)** - 2 recent applications were awarded (Scotland Co -\$5,000 & Coastal Carolina Presbytery - \$1,470).
- **Administration-(H. Bessent- Byrd)** – Working on a number of assignments, some will take more time/work. Committee to meet next week.
- **Finance – (R. Burgess/R. Phillips)** Actual vs Budget Report was provided for review. Synod finances are in overall good shape. Committee will meet soon with the idea of reporting on the board designated funds. The Budget is just a projection of what might happen. It is easier to project per capita but when trying to put in an income budget it is difficult to project what the amount will be. We must be creative in finding other funding sources. The Stated Clerk has requested to be included in the finance committee meeting.
- **Grants & Awards – J. Kirkpatrick- No report-** Will be In Scotland at next assembly meeting; will connect with Stated Clerk to discuss his absence and the committee reporting.
- **Presbytery Initiative Committees- C. Privette-No report**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. with prayer by the Stated Clerk which included prayer for Marceline from Guatemala, who is traveling by bus to Atlanta. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 13, 2019 via Zoom.