

Opening Prayer

Teaching Elder Cam Murchison moderated and convened the meeting at 9:02 am with prayer.

Attendance

Teaching Elder Ted Churn, Ruling Elder Tamara Williams, Teaching Elder Cam Murchison, Ruling Elder David Vaughan and Teaching Elder Jan Edmiston. Synod staff includes Warren Lesane and Tami Scott.

Guests

Wells Fargo David Miller, (CFP – VP Sr. Charitable Administrator), Mike Joyce (Senior VP-Sr. Investment Manager), and Tiffany Scales (Wealth Management Associate).

Approval of Docket and Minutes

The meeting docket was approved. The November 7, 2018 Minutes were approved with a correction made on page 2, third line (distribute funds to ministers on ~~June~~ December 11, 2018).

Wells Fargo Presentation

Mike Joyce reviewed the account balance, available funds, asset allocation and provided a market update noting recent market volatility. The market had been on steady rise up but has experienced volatility due to government's response to feds dropping rates so low. We are now seeing the "*end of easy*"; interest rates are beginning to climb and markets are responding with a temper tantrum. Joyce cited the need to defend the portfolio against volatility. We are looking at generating a 7.3% return over the long term and want to retain the principal balance of portfolio at a minimum. Since this portfolio was invested in 1984, there has been an exceptional 10.55% return with the assets projecting continued growth.

David Miller reviewed the Summary of Account Activity highlighting that funds available are \$4,300 more than they were 3 years ago. The number of ministers is up from the last meeting and the amount of money distributed is slightly down due to this increase. We have grown the portfolio over the years in order to pay the ministers more money. The goal is to cover the payout fees and have growth in portfolio; which is exactly what is happening.

List of New Applicants and Presbyteries - (17)

There was a motion and approval to accept the following list of applicants: Revs. Annette Bedford, Larry Hill, Elizabeth M. Hyland, Robert M. Jack, Ivan W. Lowery, Robert P. Trice II, Dwight H. Williams and Elizabeth A. Williamson (Charlotte); John L. Bryan II, John W. Coker Jr. (Coastal Carolina); Wilson Gunn and William Hawkins (New Hope); Lou M. East, George T. Lashley and Randolph T. Wellford (Salem); John L. Frye and Jamie Bibee Lloyd (Western North Carolina)

Review of Presbytery Lists of Qualified Retired Ministers (New Applicants Inclusive)

The total number of recipients according to presbyteries are: Charlotte – 90; Coastal Carolina - 98; New Hope – 84; Salem - 106; and Western North Carolina - 70; totaling **448**. There was a motion and approval to accept the total of 448 participants.

Certification of Qualified Retired Ministers for the June 2019 Distribution.

Recommendation:

That Wells Fargo Bank be authorized on June 11, 2018 to distribute \$576,740.99. This figure represents one-half of four percent of a three year rolling average of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund market value, minus administrative fees of the Synod and Presbyteries. The distribution should be made in equal shares of \$1,287.37 to the certified ministers and that Wells Fargo Bank further be instructed to distribute to the ministers the odd cents guaranteeing that the entire \$576,740.99 is disbursed. A motion was made to authorize Wells Fargo to distribute funds to ministers on June 11, 2019 and to make appropriate adjustments if the needed qualified ministers total changes. Motion approved.

Old Business

1. Review of updated Draft KBRT Guidelines

Updated draft guidelines but are not ready for final action. The synod office will arrange another Zoom meeting to review and finalize guideline revisions. Final guideline changes will influence updates to the KBR application and brochure.

2. Persistent Correspondence regarding K-1s have been received and addressed by that minister's presbytery. Actions have been taken by each presbytery by issuing a K-1 information letter outlining the K-1 mailing process. David Miller reported a decline in calls for K-1s and recommended that a letter be sent the end of every year.

New Business

- Minister relocations outside of North Carolina boundaries were readdressed – Do they lose their benefits? Matter resolved, if you move out of the boundaries, then the benefits are lost (this should be written into guidelines).
- Deadline for participation clarified- Committee members agreed that for ministers to qualify for participate, application must be approved by presbytery, submitted to synod office by application deadline and their retirement date must occur prior to Certification Meeting.
- Accounting of Administrative costs pertinent to KBR will be provided by synod's Finance Manager for review and updating.

Dates and Deadline

New applications and spreadsheets are due to synod office by Monday, October 21, 2019.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

The Certification Committee will meet November 5, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. Tamara Williams will moderate. David Vaughan offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Date: June 4, 2019

Signed



Warren J. Lesane, Jr.
Executive and Stated Clerk
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic