

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
Speer Fund Committee Meeting  
Richmond, Virginia  
June 24, 2019**

**Meeting Reporting Form**

Committee: Speer Fund Committee

Recorder: Rev. Connie S. Weaver

**GENERAL ITEMS:**

The Speer Fund Committee met on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Mid-Atlantic Synod Office at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia. The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. Members present included moderator Rev. James Ferry, Presbytery of New Hope; Rev. Frank Covington, Salem Presbytery; Rev. Larry James, Presbytery of Charlotte; Rev. Beth Braxton, National Capital Presbytery; Rev. Ray Williams, Presbytery of the Peaks; Ms. Alice Freeman, Presbytery of Western North Carolina; and Rev. Connie Weaver, Presbytery of the James. Also in attendance was Rev. Warren Lesane of Richmond, Virginia.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Rev. Lesane provided an update on the 243<sup>rd</sup> assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, speaking in particular about efforts within the synod to move forward on concerns of racial justice and reconciliation. Rev. Lesane also informed the committee of changes planned by New Castle Presbytery in administration of Speer Fund monies. Future Speer Fund grants will be directed towards projects within New Castle Presbytery (thus, this was the final meeting of the synod's Speer Fund Committee).

The committee reviewed five (5) 2018 grant applications. Four of the five were approved (see action items, below).

**ACTION ITEMS:**

The committee approved four (4) grant applications, to be funded at their requested amounts of \$5,000 each:

- The Job Program (StepUp, Wilmington, NC); church sponsor is First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
- Hands & Feet of Asheville, NC; church sponsor is Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Asheville, Presbytery of Western North Carolina
- Aspire Mindsets 2019 (Apple Ridge Farm, Inc.), Roanoke, VA; church sponsor is Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, Presbytery of the Peaks
- StepUp Ministry, Raleigh, NC; church sponsor is White Memorial Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, Presbytery of New Hope

Due to the delay in responding to the 2018 applications, the committee agreed to release the approved funds immediately without requirement for mid-year reports.

A grant application for \$5,000 from the Mid-Atlantic Black Caucus was given provisional approval pending resolution of several concerns raised by committee members. The application requested funds to support African-American youth from the synod's presbyteries in attending a 2019 convention of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. Due to the timing of the convention in relation to the committee's delayed meeting, the request for funds was moot; i.e., the time of need had passed. This was communicated to the committee by chair James Ferry following the June meeting.

The Speer Fund Committee has \$10,000 remaining to be disbursed. In a poll of committee members after the June meeting, it was agreed that the committee wishes to disburse these remaining funds by awarding an additional \$2,000 to each of the four (4) ministries whose original 2018 grant applications were approved at the June meeting (see bulleted items, above). Chair James Ferry is seeking permission to waive the fund's guideline of a \$5,000 award limit per application, so that these remaining funds can be disbursed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None