

**Mid-Atlantic Synod office, Richmond, VA**  
**Speer Fund Meeting**  
**Ginter Park Presbyterian Church**  
**June 24, 2019**

**OPENING AND PRAYER:**

The meeting was called to order by chair Rev. Jim Ferry, and Rev. Connie Weaver offered an opening prayer.

**ATTENDANCE:**

In attendance in addition to Rev. Ferry and Rev. Weaver, were Rev. Frank Covington, Salem Presbytery; Rev. Larry James, Charlotte Presbytery; Rev. Beth Braxton, National Capital Presbytery; Rev. Ray Williams, Presbytery of the Peaks; and Ms. Alice Freeman, Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

**QUORUM:**

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present

**APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Connie Weaver was appointed as Recording Secretary

**BUSINESS:**

Introductions were made among committee members, and then the Rev. Warren Lesane provided an update on the 243<sup>rd</sup> assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rev. Lesane spoke 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 the New Castle Presbytery in administration of Speer Fund monies. Future disbursement of Speer Fund grants will be directed toward projects within the New Castle Presbytery. Thus, this was the final meeting for the Mid-Atlantic Synod's Speer Fund Committee.

The committee reviewed five (5) current grant applications. Four of the five were approved, as noted, below. A motion was made by Beth Braxton (seconded by Frank Covington) to fund the following projects at their requested amounts of \$5,000 each. The motion was approved.

- **The Job Program (under StepUp, Wilmington)**  
Church Sponsor: FPC Wilmington, NC  
Presbytery: Coastal Carolina  
Project approval moved by Frank Covington, seconded by Alice Freeman
  
- **Hands & Feet, Asheville, NC**  
Church Sponsor: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Presbytery: Western North Carolina  
Project approval moved by Frank Covington, seconded by Beth Braxton

- **Aspire Mindsets 2019 (Apple Ridge Farm, Inc.), Roanoke, VA**  
Church Sponsor: Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Presbytery: Peaks  
Project approval moved by Beth Braxton, seconded by Larry James
- **StepUp Ministry, Raleigh, NC**  
Church Sponsor: White Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Presbytery: New Hope  
Project approval moved by Ray Williams, seconded by Larry James

Due to the delay in responding to the 2018 applications, the committee agreed to release the above approved funds immediately without requirement for a mid-year report; moved by Connie Weaver, seconded by Larry James.

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 requests funds to support African-American youth from the synod's presbyteries in attending a convention of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, in hopes of raising interest among the youth in considering ministry careers.

Specifically, chair Jim Ferry will seek information on the following:

- Total cost for attendance, and amount to be provided to each attendee
- A more detailed rationale that includes:
  - Racial-ethnic make-up for target presbyteries
  - How attendance at a NBPC convention may correlate with a youth's interest in exploring and pursuing a career in ordained ministry

The motion for provisional approval of the above grant request was made by Alice Freeman and seconded by Frank Covington.

*Full descriptions of the above projects are included in the grant applications and will be on file with these meeting minutes.*

Chair Jim Ferry proposed a phone meeting in Sept. 2019 to determine use of remaining \$5,000. He will investigate with the Speer Fund whether awards can be made above the current grant requests, and remain within the fund's guidelines. The committee's inclination at present is to award the remaining \$5,000 toward the grant request from the Mid-Atlantic Black Caucus, if concerns about the project can be properly addressed and with assurance that the funds can be used toward the stated project.

### **ADJOURN/CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting was adjourned, and Rev. Ferry offered a closing prayer.

Minutes submitted by:  
Rev. Connie Weaver