

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
REPORT TO THE 244TH STATED MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Reporting Form

Committee Name: Executive

Recorder: Susanne Hooker Taylor

GENERAL ITEMS:

The Synod Executive Committee consists of Helen Bessent-Byrd, Robbie Phillips, Riley Burgess, Jim Kirkpatrick, Cindy Privette, Richard Claterbaugh, Moderator Susanne Taylor and Vice Moderator Mawuna Gardesey. It meets via Zoom video conferencing with Synod Executive Warren Lesane and Synod Administrator Tami Scott providing staff support. The Committee met five times since the last assembly. One meeting was a four-hour retreat. A quorum was present for all meetings and the administrator served as the meeting recorder.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Discussed Disproportionate Grant Distribution. 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.
- A 4-Hour Retreat was held and addressed a Talking Paper presented by the synod executive. The retreat helped participants build trust, discern God's direction for the synod, and develop better ways of accomplishing the work of the synod. It also discussed better ways to resource presbyteries and to examine the current synod structure. Discussion was around repairing historical, physical and spiritual damages.
- 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.
- 2019 Speer Trust Fund Committee unspent funds were addressed. Five 2019 Speer Fund applications were received and four approved at \$5,000.00 each (\$20,000 total). The 5th

application was rescinded leaving a balance to the account of \$10,000. The Speer Fund committee requested that the Speer Guidelines be amended so that the four awards could be increased; however, it was believed that the unspent funds should be used to move forward synod initiatives such as funding trips to Montgomery, AL as a number of presbyteries aim to visit the Legacy Museum.

- The synod has nine presbytery leaders enrolled in the Presbytery Leaders Formation. Cost to the synod is \$4,050.00 over three years. They include David Kang-AKAP, Jackie Taylor-BAL, Jan Edmiston-CHA, Jerrod Lowry-CCC, Fred Holbrook-JAM, Jessica MacMillan and Tracy Keenan-NEW, Carl Utley-PEA, and Stephen Scott-SAL.
- Executive/Stated Clerk Reports are provided as executive staff summaries for each meeting to keep the committee abreast of activities with presbyteries, agencies, EP's, stated clerks, and work with the Presbyterian Mission Agency and stated clerks. The 243rd Assembly Highlights has been produced and emailed across the synod. Bill Reinhold represented the stated clerk at a regional World Wide Mission Consultation in May 2019. Committees are encouraged to meet via zoom in order to allow more plenary time during Assemblies.
- Per Capita Apportionment documents were emailed to committee for information and for further conversation. Should the synod alter their guidelines or leave as is regarding how per capita is dealt with?

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Approved designating Speer Trust Fund unspent funds of \$10,000 for use by the Synod and Presbyteries to address Racism, Power and Privilege including traveling to historical sites in Montgomery AL.** Robbie Phillips, Riley Burgess and Helen Bessent Byrd will oversee grant requests. Staff will edit an application for requests.
- **Approved Jim Kirkpatrick and Cindy Privette to function as a Task Force** of the Executive Committee to receive, review and fund Disaster Relief Grant request of \$5,000 or less.
Approved applications:
 - Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance was approved for \$5,000
 - Disaster Recovery Group of Dublin County was approved for \$5,000
 - Cumberland Disaster Relief Coalition was approved for \$5,000
 - Hoke County Long Term Recovery Group approved for \$5,000
 - Scotland County Long Term Recovery Group was approved for \$5,000
 - Coastal Carolina Staff Resilience Retreat of \$1,470

RECOMMENDATIONS: