

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 1:30 PM  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

**OPENING:**

Moderator Susanne Taylor called the meeting to order with prayer.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Susanne Taylor, Cindy Privette, Riley Burgess, Mawuna Gardesey, and Robbie Phillips. Staff present: Warren Lesane Jr & Tami Scott. Excused: Jim Kirkpatrick. Absent: Helen Bessent Byrd.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:**

The docket was approved as presented.

**APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:**

The Synod Stated Clerk was appointed as the Recorder.

**QUORUM:**

The Moderator declared a quorum.

**MINUTES:**

The August 12, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

**EXECUTIVE /STATED CLERK REPORT:**

- 244<sup>th</sup> Assembly Docket is included in the packet to be reviewed later.
- Kate B. Reynolds Guidelines will be presented in March.
- NEW Missional Presbyter Jessica MacMillan says farewell. The synod provided a going away gift.
- Next Generation Initiative under the leadership of Antonio M.K. Lawrence will convene a consultation in Richmond VA November 8-9, 2019. The consultation will include young and not so young persons who are theologians, pastors, business persons, presbyters, and persons interested in the initiative. While this is a face-to-face consultation, some persons will attend aspects of the event via zoom. These persons will collaborate to identify partners and timelines
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Jim Kirk called to share that PDA has reached out to CCC and NHO concerning Hurricane Dorian. PDA is watching, waiting and ready to respond once the storm passes through. Let's lift everyone in the path of Dorian in prayer and be ready to respond when the needs are there. Lord, hear our prayers!
- Presbytery Visitation Schedule: SHE honored the Synod Executive allowing him to preach during its August Stated Meeting and to serve on a panel addressing Racism. Synod Moderator, Susanne Taylor, introduced the preacher. Visitations in September include NEW and NAT. October visit include CCC.
- The Speer Trust Fund Committee has conducted its last function as a permanent committee of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. The committee has been informed that its request had been denied and the rationale for such. The committee chair informed its membership of the decision. The committee officially goes out of business December 31, 2019.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- A summary of Assembly registration and meeting logistics and updates were provided in writing.

## MEETING BUSINESS

- 244<sup>th</sup> Assembly Docket is included in the packet and the stated clerk guided the committee through it. The ordering of the work has shifted in a number of ways. The President of the PMA will preach and serve communion. Bible Study will be featured during the assembly. Committees have about three hours to work. The first day ends early. The docket will be tweaked once more. The 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies of the PCUSA (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC (USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people by Building Vital Congregations, Dismantling Structural Racism and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. This is the heart of Matthew 25.
- Matthew 25 - The committee will convene after the Matthew 25 presentation to see if it wants to make a recommendation that the synod become a Matthew 25 synod.
- Gratitude was expressed to Cindy Privette for her willingness to serve the synod and to share her assets for the building of God's Kingdom within the synod.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Disaster Relief Workgroup (J. Kirkpatrick & C. Privette) - Awarded two grants since the last assembly with the expectation that more may be requested resulting from Hurricane Dorian.
- Administration – (H. Bessent-Byrd) – No report
- Finance – (R. Burgess/R. Phillips) – The committee will hear an audit report and will discuss per capita alternatives for the coming years. Research to be done on obtaining outside grants.
- Grants & Awards - C. Privette - There are 6 applications to be reviewed and considered.
- Presbytery Initiatives – C. Privette – Received two applications that are incomplete. They will be sent to originators before action can be taken. Grants & Awards and Presbytery Initiatives will meet jointly during assembly.

## ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m. with prayer by Cindy Privette. The next meeting will take place on October 8, 2019.

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 1:30 PM  
Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

**OPENING:**

Moderator Mawuna Gardesey called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. with prayer by Cindy Privette.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Jim Kirkpatrick, Cindy Privette, Mawuna Gardesey, Felecia Hardy. Staff present: Warren Lesane Jr & Tami Scott. Excused: Riley Burgess, Susanne Taylor Absent: Helen Bessent Byrd and Robbie Phillips

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:**

The docket was approved as presented.

**APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:**

The Synod Administrator was appointed as the Recorder.

**QUORUM:**

The Moderator declared a quorum.

**MINUTES:**

The September 10, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT:** Mawuna thanked everyone for their commitment to the synod. He proposed to the committee fewer meetings but extending the time of each meeting. He recommended that every other month we meet with an extension of meeting time to 75 minutes. As we get closer to synod assemblies meeting schedules could be adjusted. He proposed that there be one meeting a year with the Nominating Committee to address vacancies and to strategize. **All three proposals were adopted by the Executive Committee.** Mawuna attended two presbytery meetings (NEW/NAT) and commented that with Warren in attendance, we are very well represented. Mawuna plans to attend at least half of the presbytery meetings in the synod to forge a tighter relationship with presbyteries.

**EXECUTIVE/STATED CLERK REPORT:** Warren reminded the committee that Bobbi White (WNC) is retiring in October. The synod will present her with a gift and letter. The updated Kate B. Reynolds Guidelines have been reviewed by Wells Fargo and approved. \$10,000 has been sent to Baltimore's COLA. The office has received a Welcome Matthew 25 Packet that includes the next steps. Highlights of the assembly will be sent in the next couple of weeks to presbyteries, commissioners etc. providing a summary of the 244<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly and with the hope that presbyteries and churches include in their newsletters. Synod's Moderator/Vice Moderator will be going to Louisville, KY November 21-23, 2019 for Moderator Training. Warren shared his upcoming calendar of presbytery meeting visits. He also shared general information about a sensitive matter from a North Carolina Presbytery in which an incident occurred at a particular church.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Office updates were provided and summarized. The majority of the administrator's work has been in post assembly details but also in planning several meetings (Jubilee, Nominating, Kate B Reynolds and pre 245<sup>th</sup> Assembly discussions).

## MEETING BUSINESS

- 244<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly Reflections (Matthew 25/Meeting Evaluation) – The committee entertained thoughts about actions, discussions and presentations made at September's Synod Assembly. There was overall agreement that the gathering was successful especially with Worship Service and the expressed support of moving forward with the Immersion Experience. Cindy Privette was thanked for opening herself to the Assembly by sharing internal struggles with the outcome of the Raymond Byrd situation. High praise was generated regarding the Small group interactions. The time spent in small groups was most effective.
- GP/EP Participation in Synod Assemblies - How do we encourage presbytery leadership more closely into the work of the Assembly in ways that would be more meaningful to them? The past Assembly had seven Eps attending, but a hope is to gather more. One suggestion was to a lot some time on the docket for them to share. Perhaps an invitation/proposal could be raised when synod executives convene at their annual meeting. Mawuna and Warren will further discuss how to move this topic forward.
- Immersion Experience (Montgomery, AL) – Preliminary discussions have been made between Mawuna and Tracy Keenan in New Castle. Further discussions for plans are forthcoming.
- Meeting Frequency – Future Executive Committee meetings will take place every other month on the second Tuesday at a new time of 1p.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting Calendar Information will be generated and sent to committee members.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Disaster Relief Workgroup (J. Kirkpatrick & C. Privette) – No Report
- Administration – (H. Bessent-Byrd) – No Report
- Finance – (R. Burgess/R. Phillips) – No Report, however, Riley provided an email which stated that budget and financial statements are not reflecting anything unusual.
- Grants & Awards– Jim Kirkpatrick – Warren Wilson College application for playground equipment was rejected from G& Awards because both estimates were not provided. They were encouraged to reapply for the next cycle. A checklist was suggested to accompany applications to help ensure that everything has been included in the submission. Also, a liaison should be provided so that applicants have a contact in leadership to communicate with.
- Presbytery Initiatives – Cindy Privette- Hispanic Caucus application was rejected because it was incomplete. An email has been sent to the applicant explaining what is needed for a second submission.

## ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. with prayer by Felecia Hardy. The next meeting will take place on December 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. **(NEW TIME)**

**SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES 1:30 PM  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

**OPENING:**

Vice Moderator Felecia Ward Hardy called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. with prayer.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Jim Kirkpatrick, Felecia Hardy, Susanne Taylor, Riley Burgess, Robbie Phillips, and Cindy Privette.  
Staff: Warren Lesane Jr and Tami Scott. Excused: Mawuna Gardesey; Absent: Helen Bessent Byrd.  
Visitor: George Wilson, Synod Nomination Committee.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:**

The docket was approved as presented.

**APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY:**

The Synod Administrator was appointed Recorder.

**QUORUM:**

The Moderator declared a quorum.

**MINUTES:**

The October 8, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

**VICE MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Felecia Hardy reported on the Moderator's Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky November 21-23, 2019. She attended workshops in which Roberts Rules of Order served most helpful personally and professionally. J. Herbert Nelson and Dianne Moffett lead two workshops. Felicia translated information learned from the conference into how the work and business of the synod impacts us all. Dianne Moffett closed the conference with Matthew 25.

**EXECUTIVE /STATED CLERK REPORT:**

Warren provided an executive staff summary that documented several items of information which includes: (1) Presbytery Visits – Twelve of the synod's 14 presbyteries in the synod have been visited and presentation made by Warren. (2) Abingdon Presbytery has elected a General Presbyter Search Committee. (3) Charlotte Presbytery welcomed Alice Ridgill as the new Associate General Presbyter. Cindy Privette transferred her membership to Charlotte. (4) Coastal Carolina commissioned 25 dynamic Youth Council Members and their parents presented them with stoles. (5) Salem Presbytery is currently interviewing for a new presbytery leader. (6) Vilmarie Cintron Oliveri, GA Co-Moderator, preached at Union Presbyterian Seminary and visited the synod office while being hosted by Ginter Park PC. (7) White Privilege Conference 2022 will be hosted by Charlotte Presbytery. Warren met with the local planning group and its founder Dr. Eddie Moore. The synod funded the breakfast meeting. (8) A Remedial Complaint was filed against the synod with the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commissioner by a commissioner in reference to the 244<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The Synod Stated Clerk has appointed a Committee of Council to respond to the complaint. The COC members are the Rev. Lawrence Willis (EVA) and Teaching Elder Susanne Taylor (SHE). (9) Salem Per Capita remittance has severely fallen behind. Warren provided documents addressing this matter. Salem has several

committees meeting the week of December 9-12, 2019 in hopes to respond. See email attached. (10) Presbyterian Mission Agency Board work is very busy. Warren traveled to Chicago twice in November to attend meetings. He will travel to Chiang Mai Thailand January 15-23, 2020 as a member of the PMAB to serve as chaplain during the Asian Pacific Gathering. (11) Committee Restructuring – Grants/Awards and Presbytery Initiatives Committees are ready for restructuring. A small group will meet in 2020 begin that work. The group will include Jim Kirkpatrick, Warren Lesane, Harold Bennett and possibly others.

### ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Tami provided a summary of office projects, events and calendaring. She participated in the Mid-Council Financial Network Continuing Education Training November 20-22, 2019 in VA Beach. The conference highlighted topics from Per Capita, Presbyterian Investment Loan types, Balboa Travel Tips, Best Audit Practices and more. She also presented the office calendar and upcoming deadlines.

### MEETING BUSINESS

Synod Nominating Committee Report – SCON Moderator, George Wilson reported that the committee was unable to fill all vacancies at the September 24th Assembly. The committee has met three times since. His written report included an updated slate with nominees by committee, class and designation. He moved the recommendation in the nomination Committee that the following persons be elected to committees and commission of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic according to the class. Those names highlighted in red represent updates.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2022	Vacant		AKAP
<b>Class of 2020</b>	<b>Jacob Snowden</b>	<b>WMTE1</b>	<b>Baltimore</b>
Class of 2022	Vacant		Charlotte
<b>Class of 2020</b>	<b>Vanessa Gamble</b>	<b>WFRE2</b>	<b>Eastern Virginia</b>
<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Dan Acker</b>	<b>WMRE2</b>	<b>National Capital</b>
Class of 2022	Mae Hall	BFRE2	New Castle
Class of 2021	Vacant		Peaks
<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Charles Kincaid</b>	<b>BMRE2</b>	<b>Western NC</b>

#### COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Class of 2021	Paul Min	AMTE1	Abingdon
<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Jamie Wilkins</b>	<b>BFRE1</b>	<b>Baltimore</b>
Class of 2022	Vacant		Eastern Virginia
<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>George Hall</b>	<b>BMRE1</b>	<b>New Castle</b>
Class of 2020	Vacant		Peaks
Class of 2022	Kaye Barrow-Ziglar	BFTE2	Salem
Class of 2021	Tom Holden	WMTE1	Shenandoah
Class of 2022	Vacant		Western NC

#### JUBILEE FUND

Class of 2021	Vacant		AKAP
Class of 2022	Vacant		Baltimore
<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Clement Bowman</b>	<b>BMRE1</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>
Class of 2019	Charles Grant	WMTE1	James
Class of 2022	Charles Grant	WMTE2	James
Class of 2021	Vacant		Peaks
Class of 2022	Laqreshia Bates-Harley	BFRE1	Salem
Class of 2022	Stephanie Sorge	WFTE1	Shenandoah

## SPJC

Class of 2025	Ronald Gilmer	WMTE	Abingdon
Class of 2025	CS Kim	AMRE	AKAP
Class of 2025	Vacant		Charlotte
Class of 2025	H Carson Rhyne	WMTE	James
Class of 2025	Charles Knox	BMRE	New Castle
Class of 2025	Dan Blue Jr	BMRE	New Hope

245<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly Planning Team – Those to serve on the planning team will include Mawuna Gardesey, Felecia W. Hardy, Susanne Taylor, Warren Lesane and Tami Scott. Felecia asked if there were other volunteers to work on the planning team for the March 2020 assembly and there were none.

Montgomery Immersion Experience- The Task Group met on Thursday, December 5, 2019 to discuss plans for a pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL to visit the Lynching Museum and the Equal Justice Initiative. This week a letter will go out to synod Commissioners and GPs asking to reach out to those with interest in this activity. The Executive Committee approved a motion to allocate \$10,000 additional funding from Presbytery Initiatives Committee 2019 budget to help fund this project.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Administration – (H. Bessent-Byrd) – No Report – Warren shared that the committee is working with Westminster Presbyterian Homes Board and have met two times.
- Finance – (R. Burgess/R. Phillips) – The committee has not formally met but is watching how the market is performing and watching Salem Presbytery per capita issue. They will continue to formulate ways to come up with per capita amounts. Starting January 2020 they will meet monthly. Plans to present at the March Assembly. Everything appears to be on track.
- Grants & Awards– Jim Kirkpatrick – No report.
- Presbytery Initiatives – Cindy Privette- No report. Warren informed Executive Committee that one application that applied for a PI Grant was not funded. The applicant responded crudely to Cindy Privette (PI Chair). A Zoom conference was suggested with the applicant regarding his abusive communication and will work with that person's general presbytery to address him.
- Disaster Recovery – Jim Kirkpatrick/Cindy Privette received two applications for assistance (Columbus County/Cumberland Disaster Recovery). Cumberland was funded earlier in the year. There needs to be a policy to address handling applications that ask for a second round of funding. Though there is a policy for other synod grants and their resubmission, Disaster Recovery is different and should have a different policy from other grants. It was moved and approved that the Cumberland grant, as well as the Columbus County be awarded with the addition of policy guidelines to be developed for the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- Funding Racism Training Opportunities – Riley, Helen & Robbie - One application for Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Salem Presbytery was received with funding in the about of \$1,500.00. Salem will be making a written report as they have made their pilgrimage.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m. with prayer by Cindy Privette. The next meeting will take place on February 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

