

**THE 244th STATED MEETING OF
THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC (PCUSA)
GINTER PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RICHMOND, VA
September 13-14, 2019**

Synod Commissioners gathered for registration and coffee at 8:30 a.m. September 13, 2019 in Ginter Park PC Fellowship Hall Richmond, VA. Commissioners were asked to sign the attendance roll each day.

CONVENING PRAYER

The 244th Assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic convened at 9:15 a.m. in the Ginter Park PC sanctuary. The convening prayer was offered by Moderator Susanne Taylor.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Moderator Taylor greeted everyone with a warm welcome. During her introduction, she acknowledged that the synod is meeting on land originally occupied by the Native American Powhatan Nation. She gave honor to the Monacan Tribe noting that this was first their land.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The Moderator declared a quorum with 26 commissioners in attendance. Thirteen Teaching Elders and eleven Ruling Elders represented fourteen presbyteries in the synod. The Procedural Guide states “the quorum for the Stated Meeting shall be fifty percent (50%) of the total number of voting commissioners, which is thirty; 28 presbytery commissioners, plus the moderator and vice moderator. Such a quorum shall be comprised of at least seven commissioners who are elders and at least seven who are ministers, which is constituted such that at least five presbyteries are represented.”

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CLERK

The Moderator appointed Tami Scott, Synod Administrator, as the temporary clerk.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Stated Clerk Warren Lesane, Administrator Tami Scott, Financial Manager Cindy Hollingshead, Jacqueline Taylor (BAL), Jan Edmiston (CHA), Rachel Shephard (PEA), Liza Hendricks (EVA), Fred Holbrook (JAM), Tracy Keenan (NEW), Steve Mabie (SCOR Chair), George Wilson (Nominating Chair) were seated.

PRESENTERS, GUESTS and VISITORS

Sue Brossart, Beverly Bullock, Richard & Pam Claterbaugh, Felecia Ward Hardy, Sy Hughes, Mary Ann Glover, CS Kim, Vera Lewers, Stephanie Marsden, Diane Givens Moffett, Rev. Sung-Joo Park, Dorothy Piatt and Martha Reisner.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Moderator presented the 244th proposed docket. It was approved by common consent.

ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL GUIDE

The Procedural Guide was presented and adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE 243rd SYNOD MINUTES

The 243rd Stated Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CLERK

Warren Lesane Jr., greeted commissioners and reminded them that the 244th Assembly is a two day meeting. All Commissioners are expected to remain for both days. He noted that visitors and guests would be acknowledged later.

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

Vice Moderator, Mawuna Gardesey welcomed and introduced the Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, President and Executive Director (PMA), and the preacher for the Opening Worship Service. Rev. Moffett energized the congregants as she spoke from Matthew 25:31-46 (Seeing Jesus). Jesus taught to nations using parables. She imparted a story of a family member’s death and their personal affects left for the taking. A piece of jewelry had been passed over as its value went unnoticed. Rev. Moffett’s mother was left with this pin, had it appraised and found it to be authentic. No one had seen its value in plain view. Jesus is not limited in the way he shows up. He is present with those hurting and those who are suffering. He expects his followers to respond with compassion and love and his parables are given to make us change. What is Jesus seeking to change in us by telling the story of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25? Rev. Moffett’s sermon encouraged us to follow Matthew 25 by Building Vital Congregations, Dismantling Racism and Eradicating Poverty. She asked that the synod participate in strengthening a vision that everyone can align; reminding that believers are saved to serve. Rev. Moffett and Rev. Jan Edmiston officiated for Communion. Worship included a necrology report with commissioners reading aloud ministers’ names.

COMMISSIONERS

Jane Davis
 Cindy Privette
 Nam Hong Cho
 Yong Mi Kim
 Keith Paige
 Ed Terry
 Riley Burgess
 Calvin Lewers
 Luis Nino
 Helen Bessent-Byrd
 Cherry Peters
 H. Carson Rhyne
 Miriam Dewhurst
 Margaret Washnitzer
 John Curtis
 Ben Cahoon
 Tolokun Omokunde
 Dale Brown
 William (WD) Hasty
 Stephen Scott
 Wing, Andy
 Charles Davenport
 Dorothy Descieux
 Susanne Taylor
 Mawuna Gardesey

OFFICE

Ruling Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Teaching Elder
 Ruling Elder
 Moderator
 Vice Moderator

PRESBYTERY

Abingdon (ABI)
 Abingdon (ABI)
 Atlantic Korean American (AKAP)
 Atlantic Korean American (AKAP)
 Baltimore (BAL)
 Baltimore (BAL)
 Charlotte (CHA)
 Charlotte (CHA)
 Coastal Carolina (CCC)
 Eastern Virginia (EVA)
 James (JAM)
 James (JAM)
 National Capital (NAT)
 National Capital (NAT)
 New Castle (NEW)
 New Hope (NHO)
 New Hope (NHO)
 Peaks (PEA)
 Peaks (PEA)
 Salem (SAL)
 Shenandoah (SHE)
 Western North Carolina (WNC)
 Western North Carolina (WNC)
 Shenandoah (SHE)
 New Castle (NEW)

EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS

Jim Kirkpatrick
Kimberly Kline
Robbie Phillips

Office

Ruling Elder
Ruling Elder
Teaching Elder

Presbytery

Eastern Virginia (EVA)
Shenandoah (SHE)
Coastal Carolina (CCC)

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Commissioners, Corresponding Members, Presenters and Guests were introduced and welcomed.

PLENARY ONE

VIDEO REVIEW AND RAYMOND BYRD

A video review of Commissioner TE Cindy Privette's 243rd Assembly presentation was shown. This video refreshed Privette's visit to The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Her mission was to acknowledge and expose her community's silence of Raymond Byrd's lynching. She engaged commissioners with the compelling story of Raymond Byrd, a black man in her community who had been accused of and lynched for an affair with a white woman. She shared updates and brought recognition to his story. Cindy expressed that she stands in a place of vulnerability and offered the awakenings that she has had in her journey. Several things have been accomplished, but not all the pieces have fallen into place. There will be a plaque presented in recognition of Raymond Byrd to serve as a reminder to the community that still does not address this injustice. A reporter visited Wythe County, VA to interview and to bring recognition to John Johnson, a man who has researched and dedicated his life to unearthing the story of Raymond Byrd's lynching. "The Keeper of the Secrets" is the name of the article profiled in the Washington Post. A step forward was made for Cindy in the acknowledgment of Raymond Byrd and the silent shame of many who have chosen to not address or speak of the travesty. Frustration developed because clergy were unwilling to address the issue openly to bring about healing. The fear to unite was fueled by riots that took place in Charlottesville in 2017. Another frustration has been the ancestral grief experienced by African Americans and the pain that often prohibits them from recanting what has occurred or living over generations with the fear of bringing it up. Cindy asks "What am I going to do with Raymond Byrd and what are you going to do? Are you going to do anything?"

PLENARY TWO

MATTHEW 25 BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett led the Assembly in visioning what it means to be a Matthew 25 Church, Synod, Presbytery or Congregation. Matthew 25 is a bold new vision and invitation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that calls us to actively engage in the world around us — serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. When we practice justice, love and kindness, we become a living translation of Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (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. Moffett encouraged that this not be just a presentation but a dialogue. We hope to see an increase of the church in the world. What we do matters to God. **Congregational Vitality** has to deal with Intentional and Continuous faith development leading to Active Community Engagement. How faithful is the congregation to the gospel of Jesus Christ? How we are growing inwardly/outwardly. **Systematic Poverty** deals with the Economic Exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices & systems that perpetuate an impoverished status. **Structural Racism/White Privilege** affects laws, policies & practices that structure, reinforce and perpetuate discrimination, bias prejudice and oppression of "People of Color". How do we

deal with these three areas? What is driving you? Every organization operates on 3 levels: What we do, how we do it, and why we do it. April 1, 2019, Matthew 25 was launched. Rev. Moffett encouraged attendees, synod and presbyteries to commit to at least one focus of this vision.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT I

Nominating Committee Co-Moderator, George Wilson, provided Designated Committee recommendations for the Administration, Finance, Grants & Awards, and Presbytery Initiatives Committees. Motion was made and approved to accept nominations.

ADMINISTRATION

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	Helen Bessent-Byrd (Chair)	BFTE	(EVA)
2020	Benjamin Cahoon	WMTE	(NHO)
2020	Nam Hong Cho	AMTE	AKAP
2020	Miriam Dewhurst	WFRE	(NAT)
2020	W.D. Hasty	WMTE	(PEA)
2020	Calvin Lewers	BMTE	(CHA)
2020	Ed Terry	WMRE	(BAL)

FINANCE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	Dale Brown	WMTE	(PEA)
2021	Riley Burgess (Co-Chair)	WMRE	(CHA)
2021	Charles Davenport	WMTE	(WNA)
2020	Jane Davis	WFRE	(ABI)
2021	Cherry Peters	WFRE	(JAM)
2021	Robbie Phillips (Co-Chair)	WFTE	(CCC)
2019	Margaret Washnitzer	BFRE	(NAT)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2021	Vacant		(NEW)
2020	Kimberly Kline	WFRE	(SHE)
2020	James Kirkpatrick (Chair)	WMRE	(EVA)
2019	Mack Dagenhart	WMRE	(SAL)
2020	Luis Nino	HMRE	(CCC)
2020	Keith Paige	BMTE	(BAL)
2019	Carson Rhyne	WMTE	(JAM)

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2019	Andy Wing	WMTE	(SHE)
2020	Dorothy Descieux	WFRE	(WNC)
2020	Stephen Scott	WMTE	(SAL)
2019	Omokunde Tolokun	BMTE	(NHO)
2019	Cindy Privette (Chair)	WFTE	(ABI)
2021	Yong Mi Kim	AFRE	(AKAP)
2020	John Curtis	WMRE	(NEW)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
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2019	Helen Bessent-Byrd	BFTE	(EVA)
2021	Riley Burgess	WMRE	(CHA)
At -Large	Richard Claterbaugh	WMRE	(PEA)
2019	Mawuna Gardesey	BMRE	(NEW)
2020	Jim Kirkpatrick	WMRE	(EVA)
2021	Robbie Phillips	WFTE	(CCC)
2019	Cindy Privette	WFTE	(ABI)
2019	Susanne Taylor (Moderator)	WFRE	(SHE)

The Designated Committee recommendations were approved. See **Appendices A & A-1** - Nominating Report Parts I & II

DESIGNATED COMMITTEES

Designated Committees were dismissed to conduct the business before them. Committee Chairs were provided flash drives containing Meeting Minutes and Report templates to record meeting actions and recommendations. They were asked to submit their flash drives to the Synod Administrator upon completion. Each committee chairperson will report on general information, actions and recommendations and ask for approval of their report when the assembly convenes on Saturday.

DINNER AND RECESS

Dinner was provided. The meal was blessed by Susanne Taylor at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The moderator recessed the assembly with prayer to reconvene at 8:45 a.m. Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

MEETING RECONVENES

The assembly was called to order at 8:45 a.m. with prayer and updates offered by Susanne Taylor.

PLENARY THREE

MONTGOMERY IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

TE Tracy Keenan (NEW) shared a story of George White, a black man accused of the rape and murder of a white teenage girl. The Mom of the teen came to the jail where George was being held and was being supported by a minister of the Presbyterian Church. "If George White doesn't get a speedy trial, there is no telling of what might happen". Based on this rhetoric, people immediately came to the jail to get George White. The Presbyterian Church brought the Presbyterian minister to task for this statement. The minister ultimately ran off to another community in the mid-west. Recognition that Presbyterians were somehow complicit in this had Tracy thinking that some people in our church don't want to deal with the past and don't want to deal with our complicity. We are the only people that do a public prayer of confession, so we need to say these things out loud and not put them behind us by not dealing with them. Tracey proposed what the idea for the people of New Castle Presbytery to journey to Montgomery (perhaps on the Train or Bus), going to the museum and experiencing the awkwardness of journeyers experiencing together the emotions and feelings evoked by the visit and acknowledgment of our painful past. Comments during the assembly resounded that the return trip would present an opportunity for everyone to express their feelings. This experience would serve as an exercise in healing. Mawuna Gardesey discussed how to make this immersion experience happen noting that \$10,000 has been made available to facilitate some of these trips. It should be understood that this is not enough money to get everyone to Montgomery but might

there be a team of people to go and bring back a report? The assembly engaged in this conversation. Ideas were shared, namely that presbyteries could identify teams or representatives from synod to journey and that a videographer should be sent on the pilgrimage to capture the expressions and feelings after the tour. It was recommended that the journeying group be diverse with someone present to help process their emotions. It was agreed that the caravan proposal should be moved forward.

PLENARY FOUR

DISASTER RECOVERY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Updates were provided by TE Robbie Phillips via Zoom on disaster recovery efforts in Coastal Carolina Presbytery from Hurricanes Florence and Dorian. Robbie reported that to the day, Hurricane Florence pounded her community and 36 counties in North Carolina. Recovery efforts have come a long way in a year with a long way to go with PDA being a strong presence of support. A recovery video was shared with the assembly that profiled the journey of a family who experienced Hurricane Florence and who are still rebuilding and receiving the assistance and kindness of others. There are still many unsafe and unsanitary places. Robbie gave a Hurricane Dorian update highlighting the suffering of many but especially low income families. She expressed appreciation for the money that Synod of the Mid-Atlantic made available through grants and how it is making a difference with recovery with the purchase of computers and money for staff. Over \$400,000 has been received from PDA and other monies received have made it possible to assist 52 different groups and 4 congregations. TE Ben Cahoon of NHO presbytery serves as mayor of the Outer Banks and has been a board member of a group that deals with evacuations. He reported that Hurricane Dorian performed much as forecasted. Much of a flood event included 6-7 foot storm surges to Ocracoke/Lower part of Hatteras islands. The residents of Ocracoke experienced much the same as those in the video that Robbie shared. Most residents of Ocracoke Island lost everything but immediately received response and supplies. There is still a need for food, medical supplies, clothing and cash, also for building materials for homes and businesses. He cited some organizations to which donations can be sent (i.e. Community Foundation and Methodist Men of Buxton United Methodist Church). Attendees were made aware that a grant awarded by the synod to Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church has made possible for a facility to open in October and Charlotte Presbytery's grant award will accommodate 60 recovery volunteers to be housed and have new facility showers.

PLENARY FIVE

STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane, welcomed everyone, acknowledged guests, presenters, commissioners, and corresponding members and thanked Diane Moffett. He highlighted the Clerk's Report on the synod website and underscored the following:

1. Omnibus Motion: Minutes and report are included under the Omnibus Motion: Speer Trust Fund and Kate B. Reynolds. He presented 244th Assembly excused absences of commissioners – Jim Kirkpatrick (EVA), Kimberly Kline (SHE) and Robbie Phillips (CCC).
2. Pastoral Concerns and Correspondence: Prayers and support were expressed to Pastor Steve Cheyney (Campus Pastor at UNC Charlotte) surrounding the campus shooting and his news article expressing a student's need for campus ministry in their development and assimilation into campus life. Synod website resource persons from Synod of the Sun; Bobbi White (WNC) expressed her thanks for small church grants and visionary grants. She urges the synod to continue small church funding to include capital and emergency expenses that have helped churches continue in ministry; PMA Public Witness and Advocacy Ministries have informed us that in June 2019 the US House of Representatives passed the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 which provides permanent

status to undocumented immigrants brought to the US as minors and to those living in the US under the Temporary Protection Status Program; Rosemary Mitchell (Mission Engagement/Support Senior Director has mailed to congregations and mid-councils a resource packet concerning Gun Violence to support whatever work is being done.

3. Assembly Follow-Up: Letters were sent to presbytery Stated Clerks/General Presbyters Commissioners requesting docketed time to report on the work of SOMA and to make awards to grant recipients (To date presentations made at: Peaks, Baltimore, Salem, James, Ne Hope, Western NC and Shenandoah); Highlights of the 243rd assembly were published and distributed to commissioners, presbyteries etc.; Cindy Privette reported on an article published in the Washington Post about the lurching of Raymond Byrd. **Ecumenical Ministries:** The Evangelical Lutheran Church, National Council of Churches, Virginia Interfaith Center and the Virginia Council of Churches have all communicated with and invited SOMA to various meetings, events and have shared current initiatives in need of attention and support (i.e. VA Interfaith Center's Petition for Paid Sick Days). **GA Per Capita Policy & Financial Sustainability:** The GA approved the following policy related to the consideration of requests from presbyteries for relief from per capita apportionment and that the Stated Clerk will consider requests that meet the following criteria: **1)** The request must come from the Stated Clerk of the presbytery representing an action by the appropriate body in that presbytery; **2)** Only those requests for relief representing at least a 10% membership loss from the year upon which the assessment is based, and the current billing year will be granted and; **3)** Presbyteries should provide a copy of the request to their synod, and OGA will copy the synod in its response, and include a disclaimer that an OGA action taken does not bind the action of any other council. **Financial Sustainability** – The OGA has a committee to collaborate with mid councils and other groups to discern the future of per capita and financial sustainability of the Presbyterian Church. The synod exec coordinated a conversation with presbytery leaders and the per capita listening team on July 16, 2019 to listen to questions regarding per capita to better define it and its purpose, to find out how it is interpreted and communicated with congregations, to focus on its strengths and weaknesses, etc. Participants in this meeting were: Jessica McMillan, Bobbi White, Bronwen Boswell, Fred Holbrook, Steve Scott and Warren Lesane. **Judicial Matters-** There are no complaints before the synod at this time. The Remedial Complaint filed by Johnston Memorial PC Session vs. Charlotte Presbytery was dismissed in its Final Decision and Order issued April 15, 2019. While the synod is not involved, the GAPJC is addressing a complaint ruled on by the synod. The SPJC moderator and Clerk will complete their six-year term in December and recruitment has begun for both positions.
4. Meetings, Committees and Retreats: The Executive, Finance, Administration, Kate B. Reynolds Certification, Speer Trust and Staff have met with the following purpose and outcome: **Executive Committee** held a retreat with a focus on finding ways to move the synod away from maintenance to mission and exploring ways to become greater partners (with presbyteries) and ways to hold presbyteries accountable for grants they approve for synod funding; **Finance Committee** announced that the annual audit for 2018 had been completed with the financial statements in the office for the committee's review and presentation at the 244th assembly; **Administration Committee** will provide a report to assembly addressing the (2018) Presbytery Minutes Review conducted by Stated Clerks, all of the presbyteries (with the exception of Atlantic Korean American Presbytery) provided 2018 presbytery minutes for review and evaluation; **Kate B. Reynolds Certification Committee** met to finalize updated guidelines to be sent to Wells Fargo for review. These guidelines will be submitted to a 2020 assembly for final approval. Stated Clerk for WNC will apply the guideline changes to the KBR brochure and application; **Speer Trust Fund Committee** held its final meeting on June 24th 2019 and five applications sought funding with a total of \$30,000.00 available for distribution. The synod exec made a presentation about the work and

direction of the synod; Synod Staff meets regularly to address work load, for assistance and information and to pray for synod presbyteries, leadership, commissioners and the church at-large.

5. Presbytery Leaders Updates: **The Leaders Formation** met in Malibu, California May 5-10, 2019 for orientation. This group will meet annually for a one week residency for three years following the new leader's call. Future residencies will be in Richmond (2020), New Orleans (2021) and in Washington State (2022). The cost to the synod is \$4,050.00 per participant over three years and those who participated this past May were: Tracey Keenan, Jacqueline Taylor, Carl Utley Jan Edmiston, Jerrod Lowry, Jessica MacMillan, David Kang and Steve Scott; **Baltimore** will host the June 19-27, 2020 GA and pre-hosted the Bid Tent August 1-4-2019; **Grant** was received by CCC to assist with expenses for a presbytery staff retreat aimed at building relationships and resiliency, spiritual and emotional care from PDA as they continue to deal with damage from Hurricane Florence; Presbyter updates come from EVA, NAT and New Castle Presbyteries where Liza Hendricks returned from sabbatical, John Molina-Moore was elected new General Presbytery and Jessica MacMillan resigned in August to return to Cleveland, OH to pastor and join her family; **Presentations, Reports and Training** were given to NHO, SAL and WNC presbyteries where Ben Cahoon introduced the visiting synod stated clerk at presbytery meeting and spoke of the good works of the synod while Warren Lesane provided a day of training at SAL presbytery and presented at the WNC stated meeting that took place in Brevard, NC. **Synod Executive's meetings attended** has included the Presbyterian Men's Retreat in Richmond (June 2019), an Army Chaplain experience at Fort Benning GA to share internal workings of being a chaplain along with the impact they offer and giving encouragement to become a military chaplain; As Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB)/Committee Executive/Chair-Elect facilitated a Mid-Council Consultation (August 2019-Baltimore) to help develop a set of priorities that will guide the development of the next budget cycle and sat in on a Zoom Conference Call that served as a race audit which addressed the continue top of race; Executive Forums for Synod Leaders hosted synod execs from across the nation on three occasions this year in which J. Herbert Nelson and Dianne Moffett visited – Next year leaders will travel to Puerto Rico to work with the PDA in clearing, cleaning, rebuilding, teaching and preaching.

See Appendix **B** - (Stated Clerk Report, Addendum & Attachments)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Omnibus motion be approved to include the minutes and reports from Speer and Kate Bitting Reynolds Trust Funds. The omnibus motion was approved. See Appendices **C, C-1** Speer & KBR Report-Minutes

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

RE Steve Mabie (Co-Chair of SCOR) reported on the work of the committee emphasizing its purpose for racial diversity. SCOR objectives are: To complete SCOR Team, to Advocate Diversity in Leadership at the Presbytery and Synod Levels and to Encourage participation in Leadership opportunities. The committee has compiled COR presbytery reports from the 2018 year. Commissioners were provided a status of reports received from each presbytery and were asked for assistance by giving a nudge to their presbytery if no report had been submitted. The committee has completed all but one of the goals set forth for 2019: Re-examining Committee purpose, Re-designing Presbytery Report, Meeting twice in the year but outstanding are two presbytery reports. The next SCOR meeting will be 2/6/2020 at 10am to review the presbytery reports and to identify presbytery practices. See Appendices **D**— SCOR Report-Minutes

NOMINATION COMMITTEE Part 2 – Co-Moderator George Wilson presented the report noting that significant vacancies exist. The committee will vigorously work to fill the vacancies in the coming months. The Nominating Committee will convene within 30 days to continue its work.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2022	Vacant		AKAP
2022	Vacant		Charlotte
2020	Vacant		Eastern Virginia
2021	Laura Hollister	WFTE1	National Capital
2022	Mae Hall	BFRE2	New Castle
2021	Vacant		Peaks
2021	Vacant		Western NC

Nominations were opened from the floor. There being none, the Assembly moved to the next report.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2021	Vacant		Abingdon
2022	Vacant		Baltimore
2022	Vacant		Eastern Virginia
2022	Vacant		New Castle
2020	Vacant		Peaks
2022	Kaye Barrow-Ziglar	BFTE2	Salem
2021	Tom Holden	WMTE1	Shenandoah
2022	Vacant		Western NC

Nominations were opened from the floor. There being none, the Assembly moved to the next report.

JUBILEE FUND

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2021	Vacant		AKAP
2022	Vacant		Baltimore
2021	Vacant		Charlotte
2019	Charles Grant	WMTE1	James
2022	Charles Grant	WMTE2	James
2021	Vacant		Peaks
2022	Laqreshia Bates-Harley	BFRE1	Salem
2022	Stephanie Sorge	WFTE1	Shenandoah

Nominations were opened from the floor. There being none, the Assembly moved to the next report.

SPJC

Class	Name	Designation	Presbytery
2025	Vacant		Abingdon
2025	CS Kim	AMRE	AKAP
2025	Vacant		Charlotte
2025	Carson Rhyne	WMTE	James
2025	Vacant		New Castle
2025	Dan Blue, Jr. **	BMRE	New Hope

** Pending NHO Presbytery approval. Nominations from the floor included were Carson Rhyne (JAM-2025) and CS Kim (AKAP-2025).

Moderator	Mawuna Gardesey	BMRE	New Castle
Vice Moderator	Felecia Ward Hardy	BFRE	New Hope

The assembly approved all of the nominations, including those received from the floor and received the full report of the Nominating Committee. See Appendix **A-1** - Nominating Report II found with Appendix A-Report 1.

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES and GRANTS & AWARDS

The Presbytery Initiatives and the Grants and Awards Committee met jointly. TE Cindy Privette Chaired the meeting. Applications received by the committee were the Hispanic Caucus of the Mid Atlantic and Paid Sick Days in Virginia (JAM/EVA). Both were incomplete and approval denied. The Grants and Awards Committee is interested in removing amount limits from the Peacemaking Grant Application. It was suggested that the committee study the matter more before moving forward with a recommendation.

GRANTS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

The committee reviewed applications and recommends to the Assembly the following for approval:

VISIONARY GRANT – Totaled \$6,433.00

- Community PC (NEW)-Community Health/Equity Issues \$1,433.00
- Farm Church (NHO)-Assistance for Garden Ministry Expansion \$5,000.00

PEACEMAKING GRANTS - Totaled \$5,000.00

- Specialized Conflict Mediation Training (NHO) \$5,000.00

SMALL CHURCH GRANTS: Totaled \$21,474.00

1. Dulatown PC (WNC)-Rain gutters/repairs to damages \$2,282.00
2. John Knox PC (WNC) – Heating/Air Conditioner replacement \$2,282.00
3. Sherrills Ford PC (WNC) –Kitchen appliance replacement \$2,282.00
4. Bethesda PC (JAM) – Church building siding (C. Rhyne recused) \$2,282.00
5. Hagerstown Korean PC (AKAP) – Heating/Air Conditioning System \$3,000.00
6. Ebenezer PC (CCC) – Heating/Air Conditioning System \$2,282.00
7. Mars Hill PC (CCC) – Heating/Air Conditioning System (L. Nino recused) \$2,282.00
8. Mechanicsville PC (JAM) –Heating/Air Conditioning System (C. Rhyne recused) \$2,282.00
9. Faith PC (CCC) – Parking Lot repaving \$2,500.00
10. Community PC (NEW) Kid’s Space – **DENIED**
11. Warren Wilson PC (WNC) – Children’s Playground - **DENIED**

The recommendations of Presbytery Initiatives, Grants and Awards, Visionary & Peacemaking Grants were approved. See Appendix E & F – Presbytery Initiatives & Grants and Awards Reports.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, Helen Bessent Byrd introduced the committee and reported on the work which included:

- Acknowledged receipt of several documents relating to the request of Westminster Presbyterian Homes, Inc., that the Synod assume the responsibilities of WPH. The committee will discuss these documents at upcoming meetings between now and the 245th assembly.
- Reviewed Presbytery Minutes for the 2018 year.
- Discussed expanding the Synod Administrator position to full-time, with appropriate compensation
- Reviewed dates and locations of 245th/246th synod assemblies. Assemblies to be held March 13-14, 2020 at Massanetta Springs and September 14-15, 2020 at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the synod approved making the position of synod Administrator full-time, with an appropriate compensation package to be determined by the Finance Committee. Suggested range is between \$63,122 - \$65,000.
2. That the synod approved the changes below to the Operations Manual to better reflect current operations:
 - a. Table of Contents: Financial Matters, Personnel Matters, Administrative Matters, and Other Matters.
 - b. Financial Matters: ~~Check Signing~~, Audit, Preparation of Statements, Review of Statements Preparation of Budgets and Expense Reimbursement.
 - ~~Two signatures are required for any check in excess of \$2,500~~
 - ~~Authorized check signers are Synod Executive and Office Manager, with a local Board of Trustee member as alternate~~
 - c. Audit: Once every two to five years, a bidding process for choosing an auditor will be undertaken.
 - The Audit will be completed each year, unless Standing Rules and Procedures are altered to provide for a cycle of audit/review/~~audit~~/review.
 - Synod Assembly Commissioners (who also serve as Trustees) ~~and Board of Trustees~~ must approve each audit.
 - d. Review of Statements:
 - Monthly statements will be prepared and distributed to Finance Committee members, ~~other Synod Commissioners and Presbyteries~~

The recommendations of the Administration Committee were approved and the report was received as information. See Appendix **G-G-1** – Administration Committee Minutes-Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met under the leadership of Co-Chair Riley Burgess. The committee will work with the Executive Committee to revise spending policies to make more funds available for synod use. The current policy uses 4% of a 20 quarter rolling average. The committee focused on items listed below:

- Discussed reporting of non-restricted asset balance, growth and draws in upcoming yearly spring assembly, as a supplement to budget reports
- Received the audit and heard the report from Rebecca George of Cherry Bekaert, CPA
- Received a report from Jeff Chapman (RBC) at their August Committee Meeting
- Explored other funding sources other than Per Capita: (i.e. Mission Sharing Pledges from Presbyteries, Grants, Philanthropists, etc.)
- Changed the name of the budget document to the Synod Mission and Operating Budget
- Continued discussion on possible dates for future per capita determinations, with recognition that the per capita contribution will continue to diminish as a percentage of our budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Synod approves the 2020 proposed Operating and Mission Budget.

The recommendations of the Synod Finance Committee were approved and the report was received as information. See– Appendix **H, H1, H2** – Finance Committee Minutes-Budget

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Moderator Susanne Taylor passed the gavel to Vice Moderator Mawuna Gardesey so that she could report to assembly the following information:

- The Next Generation Initiative's Rev. Antonio Lawrence will chair a consultation on in Richmond, VA November 8-9, 2019. This first gathering will assemble a Work-Group to give life to the 241st Assembly's paper and presentation! The consultation will include broad spectrum in lay, clergy and theologians. These persons will collaborate to identify partners and timelines for actions and engagement.
- The Executive Committee has approved designating Speer Trust Fund unspent funds of \$10,000 for use by the Synod and Presbyteries to address Racism, Power and Privilege that includes traveling to historical sites in Montgomery AL.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic becomes a Matthew 25 Synod. The recommendation unanimously passed.

The report of the Executive Committee was received and recommendations approved.

See Appendix I- Executive Committee Report-Minutes

CLOSING WORSHIP & INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR

The Assembly entered into Worship led by The Rev. Dr. Sung Joo Park (Executive Director of the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches (NCKPC). He gave a historical background of the Presbyterian faith arriving in his homeland of Korea. Many graduates of Union Presbyterian Seminary were a part of spreading the gospel. He stressed the importance of their presence as at that time there was no concept of Human Rights. He spoke of the Korean class structure that included slavery. If born into slavery, you were not considered a human being and there were no rights for women, children, disabled etc. Then, the PCUSA came to Korea and started churches to preach the gospel and operated hospitals to treat illness. The PCUSA planted the seed of human rights, education and more. Because of the transformation, Korean churches are indebted to the PCUSA. This 244th synod assembly has voted to be a Matthew 25 synod; to fight injustices and poverty but the Matthew 25 church was already in Korean years ago building congregations. Classism, Sexism and Ageism was addressed through the arrival of PCUSA (A Matthew 25 entity) in Korea. Rev. Park's sermon not only addressed Transforming from Institutional beings into missional actions but it also addressed becoming a Matthew 25 synod, presbytery or church (that calls us to actively engage in the world around us — serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor). During Worship, Moderator Susanne Taylor installed Mawuna Gardesey as New Synod Moderator and Felecia Ward Hardy, as new Vice Moderator, assisted by Ben Cahoon and Tracey Keenan offering prayer for both. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to commissioners completing their terms of service. They included Cindy Privette, Helen Bessent Byrd and Carson Rhyne. A certificate and gift was presented on behalf of the synod to Susanne Taylor for her dedication and leadership.

ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Mawuna Gardesey adjourned the assembly at 12:50 p.m. with prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Sung-Joon Park. All were invited to the Moderator's Reception after adjournment. The 245th Synod Assembly will convene March 13-14, 2020 at Massanetta Springs.

ATTESTATION

This is a true and accurate copy of the Minutes of the Synod Stated Meeting as reviewed by the Executive Committee

March 3, 2020

Date



Warren Lesane Jr.
Executive/Stated Clerk
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic