

SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
Report to the 245th Assembly
Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Report

Welcome: The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic is happy to welcome you to its 245th Assembly here at Massanetta Springs. In spite of the Coronavirus warning and flu season, we are happy that you showed up. Take the needed precautions but join us in living out the Matthew 25 Vision of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) All Commissioners are reminder that they are expected to remain from the convening of the Assembly on Friday through adjournment on Saturday.

Pastoral Concerns: TE David Kang (EP/SC) father, Mr. Buenghoon Kang died December 10, 2019; Nathaniel Graves II, husband of RE Donna Graves (SPJC), died unexpectedly on November 2019; The 29 year old son of TE Gregory Busby died unexpected in February 2020, and Cindy Hollingshead mother, Linda Daughtry died February 9, 2020.

Celebrations: TE Bobbi White's (GP) retirement celebration was held October 15, 2019, First Pres, Morganton NC. The Synod Clerk provided a congratulatory letter and a gift for the occasion.

Commissioner's Complaint – A commissioner to the 244th Assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic has filed a complaint with the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly asking that the election of RE CS Kim be nullified and that the Synod Standing Rules be revised so that nepotism in the nomination process may be barred. Synod Stated Clerk has appointed a Committee of Counsel composed of RE Susanne Taylor (SHE) and TE Lawrence Willis (EVA) are currently writing a response to the charges and appointing a Committee of Counsel.

Presbyteries Visited between May 4, 2019 and January 25, 2020 were thirteen of the Synod's fourteen presbyteries. The Synod is grateful for time docketed and for the openness in receiving synod staff and Synod Moderator. The following presbyteries are the synod's BEST Presbyteries!

- ❖ ABI – November 7, 2019 133rd Stated Meeting at Tazwell Presbyterian Church, Tazwell, VA
- ❖ BAL- May 9, 2019 883rd Meeting at Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, MD
- ❖ CHA – October 29, 2019, 144th Stated Meeting at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Charlotte NC
- ❖ CCC – October 12, 2019, 117th Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Dunn, NC
- ❖ EVA – January 25, 2020, 121st Stated Meeting at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, VA
- ❖ JAM – June 18, 2019, 102nd Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, VA
- ❖ NAT – September 24, 2019, 292nd Stated Meeting at National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC
- ❖ NEW – September 17, 2019, 847th Stated Meeting at Easton Presbyterian Church, Easton, MD
- ❖ NHO – July 23, 2019, 170th Stated Meeting at Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC
- ❖ PEA – May 4, 2019, 120th Stated Meeting at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Roanoke VA
- ❖ SAL – May 14, 2019, 122nd Stated Meeting at Taylorsville Presbyterian Church, Taylorsville, NC
- ❖ SHE – August 24, 2019, 183rd Stated Meeting at Moorefield Presbyterian Church, Moorefield, WV
- ❖ WNC – July 30, 2019, 121st Stated Meeting at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, Brevard, NC

Presbytery Staff and Status: The Synod continues to maintain 14 presbyteries. ABI, SAL, WNC and NEW have Search Committees in place, either active or on hold, in the search of executive leadership. The Presbytery executives are meeting at Massanetta Springs March 16-17, 2019. Eight persons are enrolled in the Presbytery Leadership Formation for which the Synod pays for three years of coaching. Those leaders are David Kang, Jan Edmiston, Jerrod Lowry, Fred Holbrook, John Molina-Moore, Tracy Keenan, Carl Utley, and Stephen Scott.

Meetings and Travels: Charlotte Presbytery and the larger Charlotte Community gathered with Dr. Eddie Moore, founder of the White Privilege Conference. Charlotte will host the White Privilege Conference in 2020. I gathered with Campus Minister Leaders in Peaks Presbytery to discuss Community College Campus Ministries. I conducted orientation of Salem and Peaks Presbyteries General Presbytery Search Committees. I participated in a Vital Church Consultation focused on evaluating the next phase of PMA Vital Congregational Curricula. February 22-23, 2020 – Traveled to Pittsburgh to make a presentation to National Black Presbyterian Caucus, Pittsburgh Chapter on Saturday and to preach on Sunday. This is in honor of Black History Month. I am so grateful for the planning of the Montgomery Immersion Experience. In spite of the weather, air delays and cancellations, the Experience proved to be productive. Hosted a zoom call for the five presbyteries in VA to hear about and consider an opportunity to endorse, support and help fund 1001 New Worshipping Community.

Committee Work: Kate B Reynolds Fund Certification Committee Guidelines have been approved by Wells Fargo Trustees and will be presented to the Assembly for final approval. Nomination Committee - The Administrator and Stated Clerk have worked closely with the Nominating Committee to fill the large number of committee and commission vacancies. Presbytery stated clerks have been contacted asking them for assistance. Grant and Awards Committee - There has been unusual feedback from applicants submitting grant to the 244th Assembly. This might be an opportunity to reexamine the process of awarding, making personal contact with each awardee, and the development of advocates for each grant. I will be meeting with Grants and Awards, Presbytery Initiatives and the Jubilee Committees during the Designated Committee Meeting time during the Assembly to lead a discussion. Administration Committee continues to work with the board of Westminster Presbyterian Homes, Inc. Documents have been sent to Synod attorneys for review and recommendations.

The Annual Mid Council Leaders Gathering was held in Baltimore and great participation was present from the Mid Atlantic. The Synod hosted Saturday night dinner allowing staff to get to know one another. Presbytery staff included NHO Ted Churn, SHE Bronwen Boswell, PEA John Wiederholt, BAL Jackie Taylor, SOMA Warren Lesane, BAL Jack Carlson, EVA John Tamm, SHE Nancy Meehan Yao, CHA Lisa Dillard, CHA Tamara Williams, SAL Stephen Scott, PEA Carl Utley, and SAL Joe Blankenship. CHA Jan Edminston was ill; CCC Jerrod Lowry and NEW Tracy Keenan attended their PLF Class. Attached is a link for some pics for your viewing.



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EMmTJneYAzRz3hbe8>

Conference Announcement: We just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your attendance at our WPC Charlotte 2022 Stakeholders Meeting on October 28, 2019. If you were unable to attend, you missed a very inspiring presentation from our partner, Dr. Eddie Moore of the Privilege Institute. You also missed hearing how much work we have ahead of us in order to bring this conference to our area. For those who were not there, I encourage you to check out the information related to the conference on the Privilege Institute website at <https://www.theprivilegeinstitute.com/>. We are excited and hope that the energy we witnessed at our meeting is a good indicator of our community's desire to engage issues of social justice and white privilege in an open, honest, and collaboratively, heart changing model through education and engagement. We will be reaching out to you in the next few months with



opportunities for you and your organization to be involved in the planning and execution of the conference, but for now mark your calendars for March 2022 for the WPC Conference - Charlotte!
Charlotte Presbytery Anti-Racism Ministry Team

Ecumenical Work: The Stated Clerk continues to be engaged with the Virginia Council of Churches and serves on the Steering Committee and the Coordinating Committee. Upon the recommendation of the Synod Clerk and with the approval of the General Assembly Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee, the Rev. Dr. Jon Barton will receive during the 224th General Assembly in Baltimore the Ecumenical Faith Recognition Award.

Per Capita – This is the primary source of funding to support the Synod Operating and Mission Budget. Per capita increased in 2020 from \$.85 to \$ 1.15; hence the Finance Committee continues to explore how best to utilize investment earning as well as seeking additional resources to undergird the mission. Salem Presbytery has significantly fallen behind in paying its per capita. Synod Stated Clerk has communicated with presbytery leadership and committee chairs about the importance of addressing this matter. Positive results are beginning to manifest themselves.

Synod Executives Forums: January 4-8, 2020, twelve Synod Executives traveled to Puerto Rico in order to shine a light on the ongoing recovery needs yet to be addressed. Local travel was coordinated by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance personnel. We visited PDA sites in San Juan and two other outlying areas. Travels were cut short because two earthquakes occurred during our stay. Large scale power outages were experienced. Puerto Rico needs the eyes, voices, ears, hands and financial support of the entire Presbyterian Church. April 19-22, 2020 Synod Executives will travel to McAllen TX. We plan to cross over the board into Mexico to visit sites that are providing hospitality to Immigrants and refugees.

Presbyterian Mission Agency Board – Work continues to be very busy as chair-elect of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. In June 2020, I become chair of the board. I am looking for ways to balance the work and mission of synod in this regard. I would cherish your prayers and assistance in maintaining balance. January 12-24, 2020 – I traveled with World Mission staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency World Missions to conduct the Asia/Pacific Regional Gathering in Chiang Mai Thailand. The gathering brought together 50 Mission Co-Workers and their families who are deployed in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Madagascar, Bangkok, Chiang Mia, Korea, etc. My function was to lead daily worship and provide counseling for individuals and families. This encounter has changed the perspective I had for mission work. Travels were during the outbreak of the Coronavirus. Masks were issued for us to wear as we traveled from Chiang Mai to Hong Kong and Hong Kong to Dallas Fort Worth. The link provides pics.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cB6RTMjmDfvWMwvw7>

Assembly Follow up: An email was sent to commissioners and General Presbyters following the assembly to offer thanks and appreciation for their attendance and involvement. It contained a photo gallery of random pictures. Videos have been produced and delivered electronically highlighting aspects of the assembly's work. We have discussed briefly developing a short video to summarize the assembly. This will be a time consuming item. Lastly, the Moderator and Vice-Moderator attended the Moderator's Conference in Louisville November 21-23, 2019.

A Word from J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk, Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and Diane Moffett, President/Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

November 26, 2019



The President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, (left) and Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II (right).

On November 24–25 the Moving Forward Implementation Commission convened a meeting with leadership, board chairs and members of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA),

Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) and Administrative Services Group (ASG). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the creation of a unified budget representing OGA, PMA and ASG. This unified budget will be presented for approval at the upcoming 224th General Assembly meeting to be held in Baltimore, Maryland next June.

As a prelude to the unified budget discussion, the group engaged in robust discussion affirming the unity and “oneness” of the PC (USA). Indeed, though there are many parts, we are one church in Christ. As leaders in OGA and PMA, we pledge our commitment to help unite this church in our mission and ministry. We desire to see the PC (USA) live into its call to be a Matthew 25 church. This call was first made at the 222nd General Assembly and now serves as the biblical and theological basis for the PMA’s tri-fold focus to build congregational vitality, eradicate systemic poverty and dismantle structural racism. We are also supportive of the Office of the General Assembly’s “Hands and Feet” initiative that provides an opportunity for our church to practice what it preaches within the local context and jurisdiction of General Assembly meetings and beyond. It is our hope that this common mission will help our church grow spiritually and numerically as we share the good news of God’s justice and love in Christ and call others to faith in him.

Being a Matthew 25 church requires compassion, generosity and faithful stewardship of our time and resources. Part of creating a unified budget means that we will seek ways to offset some of the deficit anticipated in the upcoming 2021–2022 budget cycle. We are grateful that other leadership of PMA, OGA and ASG stand with us in the commitment to address the deficit. We are also grateful for your ministry and ask for your prayers and support in this matter. We are excited about the future and look forward to the creation of a unified budget and the great things that will happen as we remain faithful to the ministry and mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

May the reality of Christ’s presence among us through the Holy Spirit fill your hearts and minds in this season of Thanksgiving and always!