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March 3, 2020

Dear Synod Commissioner and All:

I traveled with World Mission Staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency to Chiang Mai Thailand January 12-24, 2020. I served as Chaplain, lead daily worship and provided counseling. I cannot describe the rich experience of interacting with Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers deployed in the Asian/Pacific Region of the world. Daily they live out ministry in their particular context. A few pics will be shared at Assembly, but the link provides a sneak peek. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3wFs5xarFYHUXJUR8>

**“Living out ministry in their particular context”!** I am sure that you do the same daily. It is in this spirit we welcome you to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic meeting March 13-14, 2020 at Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center, Harrisonburg VA., for its 245<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

The Planning Team has designed three significant plenaries since the Synod adoption of Matthew 25. This Assembly will provide opportunities to **“Live out Ministry in this particular context.”** Discussion and interaction between individuals and commissioners will be encouraged in order to address: (1) Dismantling Structural Racism by hearing from participants from the Montgomery Immersion Experience. A delegation of 39 Presbyterians from nine presbyteries completed the experience. There will be solid take-a-ways to return home. (2) Building Congregational Vitality thru responding to the synod’s 241<sup>st</sup> Assembly’s decision to be known as “The Synod that identifies, recruits, develops and nurtures the Next Generation of African American Leadership for the PCUSA and beyond. (3) Eradicating Systemic Poverty by exploring the impact natural disasters have on hunger and poverty. We will receive updates from NC Presbyteries in recovery efforts and provide opportunities for commissioners from each presbytery to share ministries addressing the same in “their particular context.” Commissioners are asked to contact their presbytery leadership who can provide information to share related to hunger, poverty and disaster relief/recovery.

Synod Jubilee Fund Committee Members have been invited to sit with the Grants and Awards Committee and the Presbytery Initiatives Committee. The Synod Stated Clerk will lead these committees in a discussion during Designated Committee time. Resources will be on display and provided to take back home. They include a thumb drive and printed material containing Matthew 25 Bible Studies and more! The Equal Justice Initiative has provided a 2020 Calendar and other resources addressing Lynching in America, Segregation and Slavery in America.

We are 10-days out! Please register by Friday, March 6, 2020 as this will help staff to make preparations to welcome you. Visit the website to download information and registration at [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org). I join with Moderator Mawuna Gardesey in saying that the Synod has provided an ambitious docket, but with God’s help and presence and power of the Holy Spirit, we will have a productive Assembly. We are looking forward to seeing you March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Partners in Mission,



Warren Lesane, Jr.

Executive and Stated Clerk