

SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC
Summary Digest of the 230th Stated Meeting
September 17-18, 2012

The 230th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic was held at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia on September 17 & 18, 2012. The following is a summary digest of the discussions, actions and decisions.

ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Sale of Office Building - The sale of 3218 Chamberlayne Avenue was completed on August 31, 2012 with \$149,850 as the Synod's share from the proceeds. (Note: these proceeds will be held in a separate account until decisions are made as to its best use for the synod.)

Office Lease – the lease agreement for office space at Ginter Park church was renewed for another year, through July 2013.

Review of Presbytery Minutes – the two-year trial of the new procedure for the required annual review of Presbytery minutes was completed this summer. The Presbytery Stated Clerks found that the review groupings worked successfully, and indicated their decision that the process be continued.

Personnel – It was noted that the General Assembly did not take the anticipated action of phasing out synods. In light of the ongoing uncertainty regarding the future of synods in the PC(USA), however, and the continuing uncertainty in the financial situation of our presbyteries, the Synod Assembly voted to reduce the position of Synod Executive & Stated Clerk to a half-time position. No changes will be made in the other two staff positions of Synod Administrator and Finance Manager. The new arrangement will begin in mid-November of this year, at the conclusion of the initial four-year covenant with the current Executive, David McKee. David indicated that he would not be a candidate for the new position, but would be willing to assume the part-time position on an interim or “bridge” basis, while the search for the next installed Executive/Stated Clerk is conducted.

Executive Search Committee – it was noted that a new Search Committee would be selected to nominate an Executive/Clerk to fill the part-time position, and that no members of the present Administration (Personnel) committee would serve on that committee.

Future Synod Assembly dates – The following dates have been set for Stated Synod Assembly meetings to be held at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond in 2014: March 17-18 and September 15-16,. The 2013 dates were previously approved for March 18-19 and September 16-17.

FINANCE

2013 Budget – the committee is working on the 2013 Synod Budget. Due to the decision to reduce the Executive/Clerk position, a corresponding reduction in per capita askings will be calculated and approved at the next Executive Committee meeting in mid-October.

Investment Advisory Committee – three new members have been added to the Investment Advisory Committee, replacing members who have rotated off: Floyd Gilbert (Eastern Virginia) Carolyn Sprinkle (Salem) and George Wilson (Coastal Carolina).

Osborne Grant for Leadership Formation for New Presbytery Executives – a new project has been undertaken jointly by presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly. It will provide a three-year process of leadership training and formation for new presbytery executives. The Synod Assembly voted to designate an unrestricted gift of \$35,900 from the Osborne Grant, through the General Assembly, to generate income to support our synod's participation in this project.

New Committee Moderator – Carolyn Sprinkle (Salem Presbytery) was elected by the Committee to serve as its moderator. The synod expressed its gratitude to Hugh Robertshaw (Shenandoah) upon the completion of his six years of faithful service as synod commissioner and committee moderator.

Grants & Awards

Synod approved grants from the following funds:

New and Small Church Grant Fund

- Union Mills (Western North Carolina) - \$2,500
- Elkton (Shenandoah) - \$2,500
- Westminster (New Hope) - \$2,500
- Washington Dansan (AKAP) - \$2,500
- Grace (Peaks) - \$2,500
- Gethsemane (Peaks) - \$2,500
- Westminster (National Capital) - \$2,500
- First Presbyterian, Chase City (James) - \$2,500
- Lochearn (Baltimore) - \$2,500

Peacemaking Fund

- Covenant Presbyterian Church (Baltimore) - \$2,500
- Resource Center of the James (James) - \$1,100

Visionary Fund

- The Fellowship Place (Charlotte) - \$2,600
- Knox Presbyterian Church (Baltimore) - \$2,500
- Daughters of Zelophehad (James) - \$2,500

Albert Sidney Wooding Fund (for retired ministers in Virginia)

- The Rev. Dr. Zolton Phillips (James) - \$5,200

Task Force Authorized

A Task Force was authorized to review the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Grants and Awards Funds to insure that where possible the funds are used up instead of being turned over to whatever new synod structure is adopted after the General Assembly Mid Council Commission presents its findings and recommendations in 2014. Bill Parish (Abingdon), Katherine Jackson (Shenandoah) and Tolokun Omokunde (New Hope) along with the Synod Moderator, Moderator Elect and Executive/Stated Clerk will present a report to the next Assembly.

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

The Committee recommended, and synod approved, \$10,000 for the funding of a joint initiative of Baltimore, National Capital and New Castle presbyteries. The project is the EQ Pastoral Skills Development Project, involving 30 pastors from the three presbyteries.

ELECTION/INSTALLTION OF MODERATOR & VICE-MODERATOR

Upon their proper election to office, David McKee conducted a brief installation of the new Moderator Tanya Wade (Baltimore) and Moderator Elect/Vice-Moderator Bill Parish (Abingdon).

COMMISSIONERS – CLASS OF 2012

Outgoing Moderator William Kantonen expressed the synod’s heartfelt thanks to the following commissioners, whose terms expire at the end of 2012, for their faithful service to the Synod:

- D. Lynn Burris (Charlotte)
- Eddie Deas, III (Western North Carolina)
- James Pak (AKAP)
- Kenna Payne (James)
- Hugh Robertshaw (Shenandoah)
- Janice Smith (New Hope)
- Carolyn Sprinkle (Salem)
- Linda Williams (new Castle)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following nominees were elected, after providing opportunity for nominations from the floor;

Speer Fund Committee

- Eddie Deas (Western North Carolina) 2015

Jubilee Fund Committee

- Margaret Washnitzer (National Capital) 2014

Nominating Committee

- Joseph Young (James) 2015
- Betty Douglass (National Capital) 2015
- George Wilson (Peaks) 2015

Submitted by
Rev. David McKee

**Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
Richmond, Virginia
September 17-18, 2012**

Following registration on September 17, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic convened at 12Noon for the 230th Stated Meeting. Following a welcome and prayer, lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall of the

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. Synod Committee meetings began at 12:45PM in assigned church rooms. Following a break, commissioners convened in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum was declared with the presence of approximately eighteen commissioners. Also present were Synod staff members David McKee, Synod Executive/Stated Clerk, Sarah Cash, Administrator of the Synod office and Cindy Hollingshead. Following approval of the docket and of the 229th Stated Meeting minutes, Moderator Tonya Wade gave an interesting and enthusiastic moderator report.

Synod Executive McKee presented a request for a boundary change for Coastal Carolina Presbytery. Change was approved. Also presented and approved were Board members for the William Black Lodge in Montreat.

Reports or minutes were received from the Executive Committee, Investment Committee, Nominating Committee, Speer Fund, Presbytery Stated Minutes Review, Committee on Representation, Jubilee Fund and the Reynolds Fund. Reports were also received from Designated Committees of Administration, Finance, Presbytery Initiatives and Grants/Awards.

Following adjournment, dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall. The evening concluded with a worship service and communion held in the Ginter Park Chapel. Incoming officers were installed, the necrology was read and outgoing Commissioners were recognized.

Tuesday AM session was reconvened withi prayer in the Fellowship Hall followed by any unfinished committee reports. Discussion followed regarding the Synod Staffing Configuration

Nominating Committee report was presented and nominees were elected by acclamation. Moderator-in-Nomination is Bill Parrish of Abingdon Presbytery. Closing prayer was provided and the Synod meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Martha Rockett