

SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Summary Digest of the 232nd Stated Meeting

September 16-17, 2013

The 232nd Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic was held at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia on September 16 & 17, 2013. The following is a summary digest of the discussions, actions and decisions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee brought forward the nomination of Bill Parish, (Abingdon Presbytery, Ruling Elder) as Moderator, and Laura Lupton (Coastal Carolina Presbytery, Teaching Elder) as Moderator-in-Nomination. The two officers were elected by unanimous acclamation.

ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Executive Search Committee – the Administration Committee chair, Beverly Bullock, noted that the Synod Executive/Stated Clerk Search Committee is moving ahead on its task, and wanted to alert the Synod Assembly to the likelihood of requesting a called meeting of Synod to receive the Search Committee's report and take action on its nomination of a candidate for the position. The specific procedure for calling such a meeting was reviewed.

Review of Presbytery Minutes – the required annual review of presbytery minutes has been completed for all of our presbyteries except Salem, Western NC and AKAP. A need was expressed to clarify the rotation schedule for regional groupings to review one another's minutes.

Office Equipment and Technology – Sarah Cash, Synod Administrator reported to the Committee on recent upgrades to the office computer equipment and internet capability, and to the telephone system. Work has also begun on the task of developing a new and more functional web site for the synod.

Personnel -- the Synod Assembly approved the Committee's recommendation to concur with David McKee's request to retire from the position of Synod Executive and Stated Clerk effective December 31, 2013. The committee had conducted an exit interview with David earlier in the day.

Future Synod Assembly Meeting Dates

The next Stated Meeting of the Synod — the 233rd – will be held March 17-18, 2014 at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

The following dates have been set for Stated Synod Assembly meetings in 2014 and 2015 – also to be held at Ginter Park Church:

2014 -- September 15-16 (234th).

2015 – March 16-17 (235th) and September 14-15 (236th).

FINANCE

Carolyn Sprinkle (Salem), Chairperson, reported for the Committee, The Committee conducted a general review of year-to-date synod finances. They presented three recommendations which were approved:

- that synod staff investigate and monitor fund balances that may exceed FDIC insured limits of \$250,00 per bank.

- that an independent formal audit be conducted every third year, with an independent financial review done in the intervening years. This is a change from a two-year cycle of a full audit followed by a review the next year.
- that the synod per capita asking for 2014 be set at \$ 0.75

Grants & Awards

Synod approved grants from the following funds:

New and Small Church Grant Fund

- Castlewood (Abingdon) -- \$2,500 for roof repair
- Cove (James) - \$2,500 to finish attic space for meetings, etc.
- Glen Alpine (Western NC) -- \$2,500 new heating and a/c
- Praise the Lord (James) -- \$2,500 for new heating and a/c
- Reems Creek-Beech (Western NC) -- \$2,500 for fellowship hall roof
- Ryburn Memorial (Western NC) - \$2,500 replace heating units with heat pumps
- St. James (James) - \$2,500 for a handicap ramp
- Sweetwater (Western NC) -- \$2,500 for furnace expense
- Tappahannock (James) - \$2,500 for video equipment
- Third (Western NC) - \$2,069 for sound system repair and kitchen project
- Jack's Creek (Western NC) -- \$2,500 for sink hold repair (awarded to the Presbytery)
- Portsmouth First (PEVA) – \$5,000 for mold removal
- West Asheville (Western NC) -- \$2,500 for floor repair

Visionary Fund

Crossroads Fellowship (New Castle) – \$4,000 for children's director salary (with stipulation that this is a one-time grant only)

Oxford church (New Hope) -- \$4,000 for leadership and liturgical development, especially in youth-led worship

Presbytery of Western North Carolina - \$2,500 for renovations of existing but vacant office space to be then useable for education, training and meeting purposes

Task Force on Reviewing Grants & Awards Policies and Procedures

The Task Force authorized at a previous Synod Assembly reported that they are continuing their work, and anticipate additional meetings before the next Synod Assembly in March.

PRESBYTERY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Seven proposed initiatives were received and considered by the Committee, as follows:

1. "20 Somethings" Connection Gathering, endorsed by Peaks and Shenandoah, for \$2,000.
2. "Forty Under Forty" Bible Conference, endorsed by Peaks and Shenandoah, for \$2,500.
3. Youth Enablers project, to help lead the Massanetta middle school youth leadership conference at Massanetta, endorsed by Shenandoah and Peaks, for \$5,000.
4. Two PW Mission Projects -- for Hygiene Kits in disaster relief (\$3,600) and Blankets for Project Linus (\$2,000). Endorsed by Shenandoah and New Castle.
5. Child care costs for the PW Summer Gathering next year, endorsed by Charlotte and Eastern Virginia. \$2,000.
6. Charter buses for transporting attendees to and from the PW Summer Gathering next year. Endorsed by James and Eastern Virginia. \$4,800. Award is to cover 60% of the cost of two buses, with registrations verified by March 15th.

7. Synod Presbyterian Men mission trip to Kenya next year. Endorsed by Charlotte and Shenandoah. \$5,000 – (\$2,000 for supplies/furnishings, \$3,000 for three scholarships). The Committee recommended approval of each proposed initiative, and the Synod Assembly concurred.

Other Business

“Round Table” Discussion – Having completed its scheduled and necessary business well before the projected adjournment time, and at the request of Moderator-Elect Bill Parish (Abingdon), the synod commissioners used these “found” moments to discuss the matter of recusal from Commissioners voting on matters affecting their presbyteries, either in committee or in plenary. It was decided to ask the synod officers and Stated Clerk to draft a policy in this regard for consideration at the Spring Synod Assembly.

A full draft of the minutes of this 232nd Synod Assembly will be posted on the synod’s website when a draft has been completed and reviewed by the Executive Committee.