

248th Virtual Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic  
September 13, 2021

Dr. Felicia Hardy, Commissioned Ruling Elder, and Moderator of the Synod, convened the meeting. The theme was the Matthew 25 Initiative, highlighting Congregational Vitality. Rev. Steven Scott served as Acting Stated Clerk/Synod Executive for Rev Warren Lesane who is on medical leave. The Worship Leader for the day was the Rev. Dr. Byron Wade. Special guest presenters were the Rev. Dr. Ray Jones, the Rev. Kathryn Threadgill, and the Rev. Carlton David Johnson, all staff members of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Dr. Jones gave the keynote address on Vital Congregations, and the Revs. Threadgill and Johnson moderated the breakout rooms discussions.

Cindy Corell, Mission Co-Worker to Haiti for a number of years, presented a video on Haiti on behalf of the Presbyterian World Mission and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. It was a very well done production showing some of the incessant plight of the Haitian people, exacerbated in recent years by hurricanes, two earthquakes, and the assassination of their president.

Co-Chairs of the Synod Committee on Representation TE Kaye B. Ziglar and RE Steve Mabie showed a series of slides on Anti-Racism, using her book, "What Lies Between Us."

Note: The entire meeting was recorded and will be available for review in the near future.

Please contact the Synod Office if you are interested.

#### Items from the Business Meeting

- The Rev. Warren Lesane was elected to a third term as Synod Stated Clerk, beginning January 1, 2022. (A term is four years.)
- A Sabbatical Leave Policy was approved to be added to the Synod's Personnel Policies.
- Dates were approved for the 249th and 250th Synod Assemblies (March 18-19, 2022 and September 12-13, 2022, respectively.) If either meeting should have to be virtual, it will be held on one day (March 19/September 12.)
- The Presbytery Minutes from PWNC were reviewed and found to have no exceptions. (We were one of only three in this category.)
- Synod Per Capita for 2022 will remain at \$1.15.
- PWNC grant requests approved for Crossnore for \$5000 for roof, and \$5000 for Old Fort for a ramp and termites. Requests from Dulatown and Sherrill's Ford were denied; both had received grants in 2019.
- PWNC committee members are needed for Jubilee, Nominations, and SPJC.
- TE Steven Scott (SAL) was elected Synod Moderator, and TE Addie Peterson (EVA) Vice Moderator.
- Emerging Ideas Team distributed a questionnaire seeking input from individual or group "Dreamers" to articulate their ideas for the future church.

## For the Future

The Executive Committee plans to evaluate synod structure and consider how best to move forward in the next five years. One step would be to align grant funding with Matthew 25 goals. Another item is redefining the size of a “small” church, for funding purposes.

And, would it be beneficial to increase the term of the Moderator from one year to two?

New Castle Presbytery has given the Synod \$30,000 from its Ignite Fund. It is being made available for innovative ministries. (See attached form for submitting ideas to Emerging Ideas Committee.)

White Privilege Conference is scheduled for March 9-12, 2022, in Charlotte; partially sponsored by Charlotte Presbytery.

Report from Dot Descieux, RE Commissioner