

PRESBYTERY REPORTS—MAY 2019

From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk reports the following resignations from committees/commissions:
 - Commission on Preparation for Ministry: Bob Porter
 - Permanent Judicial Commission: Melissa Kirkpatrick
- The Stated Clerk reports that the following sessions did not submit a statistical report for 2018: Church of the Pilgrims, Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville, Northern Virginia Korean Presbyterian Church, Wheaton Community Church
- The Stated Clerk reports that the following sessions failed to have their minutes and rolls and registers reviewed during the 2018-2019 session records review season:

Wheaton Community	Furnace Mountain
Litchfield	Old Presbyterian Meeting House
First Arlington	Geneva
Rockville United	The Rock
National	Northminster
Riverdale	Korean of Rockville
Westminster, DC	Takoma Park (rolls and registers)
United Korean	Knox

Some of these have indicated an intention to have a review done over the summer.

- The Stated Clerk reports that she has implemented the plan adopted by presbytery in May 2015 for the equalization of Ruling Elder commissioners and minister of Word and Sacrament commissioners eligible to vote at presbytery meetings as mandated in Book of Order G-3.0303 with the following results:

Ministers of Word and Sacrament Resident Within the Bounds	301
Ruling Elder Commissioners by Church Size	224
Ruling Elders on Leadership Council	6
Officers/Exempt Staff	2

Ruling Elders Needed for Equalization: 61

So, the Stated Clerk allocated an additional Ruling Elder to 61 congregations regardless of membership size beginning with Rockville United and ending with Garden Memorial as listed in the National Capital Presbytery Directory. The Stated Clerk has informed the ruling elders who are entitled to voice and vote of their status and has informed the churches of their commissioner allocations.

- The Stated Clerk reports the names of Permanent Judicial Commission members whose terms expired in the last six years:
 - Class of 2013 – Ruling Elders John Davidovich, Rufus McKinney, and Lora Tredway
 - Class of 2015 – Ruling Elder Devarieste Curry
 - Class of 2017 – Reverends Chien-Di Hung and Leslie Klingensmith and Ruling Elder Mary Hobbie

2018 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery	National Capital		
Address	11300 Rockville Pike #1009, Rockville, MD 20852-3050		
Phone	240-514-5348	Fax	240-514-5349
Email	jmoody@thepresbytery.org		
Web Site	www.thepresbytery.org		



Membership

Prior Active Members	28255	Adjusted membership	28194
----------------------	--------------	---------------------	--------------

Gains

Certificate	294
-------------	------------

Youth Professions	329
-------------------	------------

Professions & Reaffirmations	602
------------------------------	------------

Total Gains	1225
--------------------	-------------

Total Ending Active Members	26923
------------------------------------	--------------

Losses

Certificate	1013
-------------	-------------

Deaths	305
--------	------------

Deleted for any Other Reason	1178
------------------------------	-------------

Total Losses	2496
---------------------	-------------

Baptisms

Presented by Others	302
---------------------	------------

At Confirmation	26
-----------------	-----------

All Other	50
-----------	-----------

Average Weekly Worship Attendance	11670
-----------------------------------	--------------

Female Members	15671
----------------	--------------

Friends of the Congregation	3125
-----------------------------	-------------

Ruling Elders on Session	969
--------------------------	------------

Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	61 / 36
-------------------------------	----------------

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	3377
------------	-------------

26 - 40	4703
---------	-------------

41 - 55	4777
---------	-------------

56 - 70	5236
---------	-------------

Over 70	4860
---------	-------------

Total Age Distribution	22953
-------------------------------	--------------

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	510
--------------------	------------

Sight impairment	206
------------------	------------

Mobility impairment	643
---------------------	------------

Other impairment	563
------------------	------------

Christian Education

Birth - 3	699
-----------	------------

Age 4	340
-------	------------

Kindergarten	337
--------------	------------

Grade 1	327
---------	------------

Grade 2	360
---------	------------

Grade 3	360
---------	------------

Grade 4	331
---------	------------

Grade 5	325
---------	------------

Grade 6	340
---------	------------

Grade 7	327
---------	------------

Grade 8	339
---------	------------

Grade 9	322
---------	------------

Grade 10	277
----------	------------

Grade 11	276
----------	------------

Grade 12	228
----------	------------

Young Adults	623
--------------	------------

Over 25	4267
---------	-------------

Teachers/Officers	1546
-------------------	-------------

Total Christian Education	11624
----------------------------------	--------------

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	1035
------------------------------------	-------------

Black/African American/African	3933
--------------------------------	-------------

Middle Eastern/North African	83
------------------------------	-----------

Hispanic/Latino-a	229
-------------------	------------

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	13
--	-----------

White	19065
-------	--------------

Multiracial	119
-------------	------------

Total Racial Ethnic	24477
----------------------------	--------------

Financial Data

Annual Income	64,514,480
---------------	-------------------

Annual Expenses	60,481,678
-----------------	-------------------

Mission Expenses	5,811,362
------------------	------------------

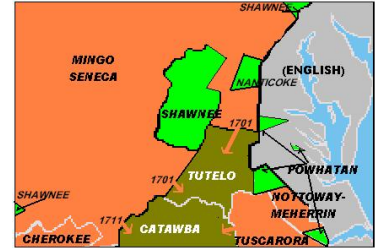
Personnel Expenses	31,362,312
--------------------	-------------------

Facilities Expenses	11,663,310
---------------------	-------------------

SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 243rd ASSEMBLY

“Transforming Institutional Beings into Missional Actions”

How does one begin to describe the experience of the 243rd Synod Assembly? One commissioner responded, “The Assembly created an atmosphere where truth could be told, pain would be held, and hope was a present possibility.” Another said, “The meeting provided a space where commissioners could do the heavy lifting, and we did!” I describe the experience this way, “The Holy Spirit let loose and began working the redemptive act of “Crossing the Line!” One staff member said, “I liked the feel of the Assembly.” Moderator Taylor convened the Assembly by clarifying whose land we gather. The **Native American Tribes in Virginia** are the indigenous tribes who currently live and have historically lived in what is now the Commonwealth of Virginia in the United States of America. We are on land owned and occupied by the Monacan and Pamunkey Tribes.



Congregating under the theme “Transforming from Institutional Beings to Missional Actions,” the assembly launched into meeting March 11, 2019 at Ginter Park PC in Richmond, VA. Romans 12:2 undergirded the transformational assembly. This scripture shadows Big Tent and the 2020 General Assembly both to be hosted in Baltimore, MD using the same passage. Twenty-Seven Commissioners, Presbyters from Peaks, New Castle, AKAP, Coastal Carolina and James were present. Corresponding members included synod chairs of the Permanent Judicial Commission, Nominations Committee, Jubilee Fund Committee all surrounded by fifteen or more guests.

In previous assemblies, worship was central to the gatherings. The 243rd Assembly was no different. Teaching Elder Jerrod Lowry, six months into the General Presbyter/Stated Clerks position at Coastal Carolina Presbytery, delivered the opening sermon and celebrated communion assisted by Teaching Elder Robbie Phillips. He challenged us using Romans 12:2. The sermon title was, “Change, Challenge and Controversy.” Lowry argued that, “*the culture is changing, causing some to be frustrated. Some say that change is not coming fast enough. The question to the Church is how do we respond to the change? Knowing what we know now, how do Disciples of Christ respond to change? Our response must be first to Discern and then respond!*” Evening worship the first day provided respite to reflect allowing the Word of God to permeate the full day of intense learning. Thank you Jerrod for a good word!



Powerful preaching convened the assembly AND **prophetic preaching ended the assembly.** The preaching of Teaching Elder Tracy Keenan, new Missional Presbyter of New Castle made her Presbytery proud. From the selection of the text to the Jazzy musical rendition of “There is Blessing in the Struggle”, all were mesmerized. Tracy’s 20-minute sermonic conversation with Jesus ended with Tracy herself being “called out” by Jesus as being racist. Furiously, Tracy defended herself and still Jesus insisted, “Tracy you are Racist!” “As you know, no one can win an argument with JESUS! Jesus has the final word! Thanks Tracy for an unforgettable sermon. By the way, New Castle Presbyter’s Ignite Team gifted the Synod with \$30,000.00 to engage in generative and missional ministry. Missional Presbyter Tracy Keenan and Synod Commissioner Donna Bowers presented the financial gift. Historically, New Castle Speer Trust Fund Foundation funded the Synod and the General Assembly (PCUSA) for the purpose of addressing the root



cause of hunger and poverty. The Presbytery has discontinued this funding. However, new funds are available to engage in creative mission. The Speer Trust Fund Committee will dissolve effective December 31, 2019.

Rather than remain inert, stuck on the sandy bottom while the raging current of racial injustice roll, could we Presbyterians choose to spring upward to the surface of this pain and then actually start swimming against it. The Assembly convened during a very precarious period in Virginia's history. Commissioners, presbyters and guests took a "deep dive" to confront enslavement, privilege, power, and racism and gender equity. The meeting occurred a month or so after both Virginia's governor and attorney general admitted to dressing in blackface in their past. Allegations of sexual abuse have been brought against the state's lieutenant governor. Just 18-months ago, White Supremacists, Neo-Nazis, and other hate groups marched in Charlottesville in support of confederate monuments, resulting in three deaths. Where is the voice of the church? What do Presbyterians have to say about such? The Assembly's strategy was to move persons from talk to actions around issues of white supremacy, power, and privilege and gender equity.

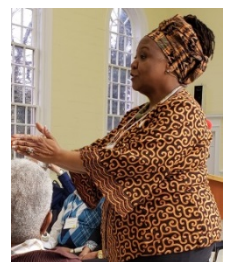
The Assembly Gathering featured dynamic plenaries and presentations. The first plenary set the context and



provided the framework for examining the ways systemic racism, privilege and power have impacted everybody beginning in childhood when boundaries or 'lines' socially separating persons of color and others were put in place. The second plenary traced the influence of historical documents that have guided and continue to guide the United States in making judicial rules! They included the Constitution of the United States and the Doctrine of Discovery, which favors white

male land owners. The third plenary provided a way out or how to address this malaise. Can the SOMA be on the forefront of a redemptive process which moves persons from places of comfort to places of discomfort? The synod offered persons opportunity to engage in an immersion experience that others around the country have taken. **Can Presbyterians Swim?**

Plenary One featured the co-founders of "Coming to the Table Richmond", Danita Green assisted by Martha Rollins who is a descendant of General Robert E. Lee. Coming to the Table is a group that meets at Ginter Park PC monthly to provide resources and support for people who wish to acknowledge and heal wounds from racism rooted in the nation's history of slavery. Danita is a trauma specialist and assists individuals and groups to acknowledge and heal wounds from racism rooted in the nation's history of slavery. She framed her narrative around "crossing the line." It was a riveting childhood story of family, traveling, watermelons, Atlantic Ocean, special friends, and experiencing racism in such a way that permanent "lines" were drawn in her household and culture. The segment was facilitated by a five member team from "Coming to the Table". The small groups addressed two questions, namely, (1) "Was there a time in your life, when you were expected to defend yourself for crossing the line, and (2) Was there a time when you were expected to defend someone else who crossed a line?"



Plenary Two concentrated on a Ted-Talk video presentation by Mark Charles, a dynamic and thought provoking public speaker, writer and consultant. The son of an American woman of Dutch heritage and a Navajo man, Charles offered a unique perspective of three of the most misinterpreted words in American History; "**WE THE PEOPLE!**" Do we mean "all" the people or "some" of the people? The Ted Talk was the primer. The understanding came from the facilitator. Jihyun Oh who is Manager of Call Process Support for the Office of the General Assembly (PCUSA). With precision and focus, she led us on a deep scuba diving expedition to examine how systemic racism, power, privilege, and gender exclusion permeates history, politics, religion, and our own lives. What does this mean

for us as the Church? What does it mean for the individual? How does a nation overcome a Doctrine of Discovery that continues to be used in Supreme Court rulings? Do we really want a nation utilizing historical documents that undergird and support Racism, Power, and Privilege? If truth were told, Racism, Power and Privilege are bipartisan issues. **Can Presbyterians swim?**

Plenary Three brought forth three riveting testimonials. Each sought to challenge onlookers to trade comfort for more discomfort. January 13-16, 2019, synod leaders and moderators from around the country gathered in Montgomery, Alabama for an immersion experience in The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration as well as The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, commonly known as the "Lynching Memorial." Afterwards, museum staff spoke to synod leaders, and the Rev. Denise Anderson, coordinator of Racial and Intercultural Justice at the Presbyterian Mission Agency, led them in a time of reflection and work, the following day. In a space of discomfort, hearts, heads and our spirit intersect. It is there that the Holy Spirit is free to conduct the work which only the Holy Spirit can do in us.



Abingdon Commissioner, Cindy Privette traveled to Montgomery two weeks before the assembly convened; motivated by the closed-mouth attitude of people from her small town to talk about racism. While listening



to a story on NPR on the Lynching Memorial in Montgomery, she recalled hearing a story about a man, Raymond Byrd who was lynched in her area in 1926. This motivated her to do some research about the lynching of Raymond Byrd and when she did so, there was some intense reaction from community members. The community failed to acknowledge this violent act against a black man who was indeed lynched be-side a church. So she traveled to Montgomery to visit "From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration" Museum at her own expense to research this name, and to review the map documenting lynchings in Virginia. The Commissioner clearly articulated that, *"The blood of Raymond Byrd is crying out from the earth beneath his feet. I am determined to get the word out because there will be no healing until the truth is told."* She urged every commissioner to travel to Montgomery, do the research, and identify lynchings in your town or county and return home to do something about it. Her intentions are to, with a group of like-minded people, be able to dig up soil from the ground on which Raymond Byrd was lynched and take it to Montgomery to join the hundreds of jars. Cindy exclaimed with power and conviction, *"I will not rest and be quiet until it happens!"*

Synod Moderator, Susanne Taylor caravanned to Montgomery January 13-16, 2019 with 43 other synod leaders from across the Unites States and Puerto Rico. The daughter of a Presbyterian pastor, Susanne shared personal accounts of attending grade schools where only a few black students attended her school. Her father moved from Tennessee to Birmingham in 1963 and it created a culture shock. This was at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1966, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. She described the terror and trauma of her mother who paced the floor looking out of the house window as her husband and one elder from the church participated in a Peace March in honor of the slain Civil Rights leader. Taylor describes herself as a descendent from slave-owners for which she not proud. Susanne provided this background to help commissioners understand some factors that have colored her life and influenced her outlook. This is who she was prior to experiencing the Museum and Monument. Her life has changed since hearing the voice of an enslaved "mother singing, children asking whether she has seen their mother and a mother asking whether she has seen her babies." She walked out of the museum for a moment with tears in her eyes experiencing guilt and shame for the historical hatred expressed by her ancestors. Susanne believes traveling to Montgomery has profoundly impacted her life and urges others to do the same.



Stated Clerk, Warren Lesane recalled the 1983 Plan for Reunion which united two bodies of Presbyterianism. The plan had unintended consequences! Five Black governing bodies had to be dissolved in order for the last of 16-synods to be reconstituted along with its presbyteries. Their disillusion has led to disillusionment. This action of the church severely impacted the “pipeline” of African American leadership for the larger church. Warren exclaimed, *“The church said that all parties were asked to live into this new church plan of reunion, however, Black folk and Black churches were asked to bear the burden of the new relationship.”* How do you

live into a new church without discussing and resolving history, heritage and actions that lead to the denominational splitting in the first place? Lesane suggested that, *“Maybe God has provided a “redemptive moment” for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the PCUSA to take the lead in addressing slavery, racism, power, privilege and white supremacy together as we relive the cold, difficult history at this time.”*



The Stated Clerk offered questions for all to ponder! (1) What would happen if the synod partnered with its 14 presbyteries to help organize, facilitate, fund, and plan the next steps for Immersion Experiences aimed at traveling to Montgomery AL? (2) What could happen in the region if synod made as one of its mission priorities to address racism, power, privilege, and gender equity and assist its presbyteries to do the same? This Assembly provided a “safe space” to address difficult challenges facing God’s People and the Christian church. Might individuals, congregations, presbyteries, and synods begin transforming? **Presbyterians really can swim.** They can even take deep dives without being afraid to “cross the line!”

Executive Committee (1) Refined powers and authority of the Synod Administrative Commission (AC) for AKAP. The AC will not have original jurisdiction and five of the seven members are in place; (2) Received a recommendation from the Administration Committee addressing an overture submitted by AKAP; (3) Heard an update on the Next Generation Initiative; (4) Voted to dissolve the Speer Trust Fund Committee effective December 31, 2019; (5) Approved \$100,000 from the Global Witness and Peacemaking Fund to assist NC Presbyteries with Hurricane Recovery. The chairs of the Grants/Awards and Presbytery Initiatives Committees were assigned to approve requests. \$2,500 was approved for Neuse Forest PC to upgrade an educational building to house permanent volunteer, and \$3,200 was approved for Charlotte Presbytery to build and deliver showers and bathroom trailers to serve churches in NC working in partnership with the Presbyterian Disaster Agency.

Administration Committee (1) Approved guideline changes to the Jubilee Fund to allow New Initiatives, projects that support advocacy interest groups and ministries that preserve and increase longevity of African American churches and congregations. (2) Held the first reading on a policy to address presbyteries requesting reductions in per capita apportionments; (3) Reviewed a proposal from Westminster Presbyterian Homes to ask the Synod to assume its functions; (4) Received proposed goals for the Synod Executive and discussed evaluations; (5) Heard from AKAP Stated Clerk on the details for AKAP overture to the synod; and (6) With synod’s limited funds, the committee is discerning whether to continue funding maintenance requests from presbyteries/churches or to focus on funding mission.

Finance Committee reported that operating budgets for 2018 and 2019 will have deficits. This was anticipated. The deficits are covered by transfers from gains on investments in 2017 & 2018. The committee is exploring creative funding sources other than per capita: i.e. Mission Sharing Pledges from Presbyteries, Grants, and Philanthropists, etc. It will work with the executive committee to revise synod’s 4% 20-rolling quarters spending policy in order to free up more spending capital. The synod approved a Per Capita Apportionment increase from \$.85 to \$1.15 effective 2020.

Grants and Awards Committee approved \$55,885.00 in scholarship, grants and awards. Euler Scholarship approved Daniel Heath for \$6,000 to attend Princeton Seminary. The Stultz Scholarship approved \$5,000 for Alexander J. Freeman to enroll in a Presbyterian college. The Visionary Grant approved \$5,000 for WNC to train *Volunteer Advocates* to specifically help African-American Churches. Peacemaking Grants were approved for Presbytery of the James “Come to the Table (\$5,000),” in its work towards racial healing and racial reconciliation, “Dismantling Racism (\$7,635), and Bott Memorial (\$4,000) to provide school supplies for children. Small Church Grants were approved for Mt. Olive (\$1,500) -NHO to provide backpacks to children receiving free school lunches; Genito (\$1,000) -JAM to replace church sign; 1stPres Milford (\$2,850) –NEW for new air conditioner; Calvary Presbyterian (\$4,000) -WNC plumbing repairs; Marshall Presbyterian (\$4,000) –WNC to repair manse; Little River Presbyterian (\$2,200) –NEW for mold damage; Knox Presbyterian (\$2,850) –BAL for digital media project; Faith Presbyterian (\$2,850) –NHO for parking lot repair; and Bethlehem Presbyterian (\$2,000) – JAM for HVAC repairs.

Presbytery Initiatives discussed streamlining synod structure by folding its work into Grants and Awards Committee. It approved two grants: (1) Mid Atlantic Black Caucus was granted \$4,700 to identify issues in presbyteries in order to revitalize black congregational ministry. (2) WNC was approved for \$10,000 to use for Triennium scholarships for African American and youth of color from five NC Presbyteries.

Committee on Representation reports that synod submitted its annual report to the GACOR. Goals for 2019: (a) redesign presbytery reporting requirement forms; (b) meet twice annually using Zoom and Face to Face; (c) increase presbytery reporting to 100 percent. Synod approved SCOR consulting with individual presbyteries regarding their annual reports so as to increase compliance and to learn best practices.

Nomination Committee reports Nomination Committee - Class of 2021 George Wilson (BMRE) CCC; Sarah Schutte (WFTE) JAM; Gerry Hendershot (NAT) WMRE; Mae Hall (BFRE) NEW; Deloris Parker (BFRE) NHO; Committee on Representation – Kim Robinson (AFRE) AKAP, Donna Fair (BFRE) CHA; Veronica Thomas (BFTE) EVA; Steve Mabie (WMRE) NHO; Jubilee Committee – Rourke Moore (BMRE) NEW; Frances Turner (BFRE) NHO; Speer Trust Committee – Connie Weaver (WFTE) JAM. Current Vacancies: Abingdon: COR2021, Atlantic Korean American: Jubilee 2021; Speer 2021; SPJC 2019, Baltimore: NONE; Charlotte: Jubilee 2021; Coastal Carolina: Speer 2021; Eastern Virginia: Speer 2020; James: Jubilee 2019; National Capital: NONE; New Castle: NONE; New Hope: NONE; Peaks: CON 2021; COR 2020; Jubilee 2021; Speer 2021; Salem: NONE; Shenandoah: NONE; and Western North Carolina: Speer 2021

Stated Clerk Report - Pastoral Concerns included Bronwen Boswell, Jessica MacMillan, Stephen Scott, Donna Bowers, Luis Nino and Jon Barton (all grieving deaths). Concerns were shared for Ted Churn and Richard Claterbaugh with health challenges and Salem Presbytery staff in a time of transition. Judicial Matters: General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission ordered synod to suspend its Administrative Commission, pending modification to delineate the powers of the AC. Presbytery Staff continues to change. Participation in the Presbytery Leadership Formation (PLF) is at an all-time high. Synod contributes \$4,050 for new presbytery leader over three years who receive orientation, residency training, and coaching. ABI is vacant. AKAP David Kang Presbyter Executive/Stated Clerk*; BAL – Jackie Taylor is General Presbyter*; CHA – Jan Edmiston is General Presbyter*; CCC – Jerrod Lowry is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk*; EVA – Liza Hendrix is General Presbyter; JAM – Fred Holbrook is Transitional General Presbyter/Stated Clerk*; NAT Vacant; NEW – Jessica McMillian is Connectional Presbyter* and Tracey Keenan is Missional Presbyter*; NHO – Ted Churn is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; PEA – Carl Utley is Transitional General Presbyter*; SAL – Stephen Scott is Transitional General Presbyter*; SHE – Bronwen Boswell is General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; and WNC – Bobbi White is the General Presbyter. (*Asterisks indicate participants in the PLF)

General Assembly – Baltimore Presbytery COLA updated the Assembly on 2020 General Assembly plans. Carrie Finch Burris wants the Baltimore Assembly to be hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Region. Synod has agreed to provide \$10,000 towards funding. Board of Pension – Martha Reisner and Sy Hughes from PMA Mission

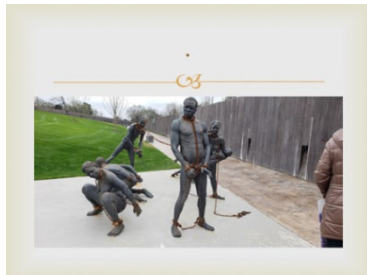
Engagement provided updates on their work. They were available for further conversations. The Synod Stated Clerk is the chair-elect of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB) and also serves as a Corresponding Member of the Office of the General Assembly (COGA).

Hurricane Recovery – Ben Cahoon and Robbie Phillips captivated the assembly as they shared ways they have addressed disaster recovery since Hurricane Florence caused synod assembly to end early September 2018. Ben, who is Mayor of the Nags-Head reflected as a government official, father, church member and member of New Hope Presbytery. Robbie Phillips responded as a pastor, presbyter and a community leader. Coastal Carolina is partnering with organizations including PDA to address long-term-recovery. The Synod set aside \$100,000.00 to assist with disaster recovery in North Carolina. Presbyteries and churches may apply for these funds; however applicants must be endorsed by the presbytery.



#ALMOSTDONE! (1) The Assembly approved the Kate B Reynolds Trust Fund Certification Committee to distribute \$578,341.68 to 445 recipients in the amount of \$1,299.64. (2) The Jubilee Fund Committee awarded \$2,500 to Fifteenth PC (NAT) for Congregational Leadership Development; \$2,500 was awarded to Lloyd PC (SAL) for Outreach to Youth and Families; and \$2,500 was awarded to Calvary PC (WNC) for Grace Young Enrichment Camp. (3) Massanetta Spring Clayton Rascoe provided stats, shared flood damage impact, and encouraged participation in “Giving Tuesday scheduled for April.” (4) The majority of SPJC Complaints coming before the synod were from AKAP totaling six. Two cases involved NAT and one each from WNC, ABI, and SHE Presbyteries. One complaint is currently pending. (5) Synod Presbyterian Men’s Conference will be held at Massanetta Springs July 19-21, 2019. (6) The Assembly received a report from Forrest Kearns, President of the Westminster Presbyterian Homes of Lynchburg Board of Trustees. The Administration Committee is working to address the particular needs.

PARTNERSHIP! Is this a Prophetic Possibility and a Holy Opportunity? What if the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

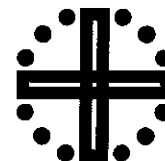


partnered with its 14-presbyteries, 1,300+ congregations, caucuses, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men, Committee Women of Color and others to: (a) Coordinate Immersion Experiences to visit the Legacy Museums “From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration” and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (Lynching Memorial); (b) Help fund and facilitate Immersion Experience Conversations on-site and back at home; (c) Design a Mid-Atlantic “Great Big Tent Event” in which Power, Privilege, White Supremacy are the foci; (d) Model for the Church and the nation our

willingness to faithfully listen to God’s voice that calls us from comfort to discomfort long enough for the Holy Spirit to transform hearts, minds and souls. As Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, I believe that God has provided this synod a “Kairos Moment” to place repentance above all else. Then and only then are we able to ***“Walk Together Children, Don’t You Get Weary, There’s a Great Camp Meeting in the Promised Land.”***

Here’s what you can do! Contact your presbytery, synod commissioner(s), or the synod office. The Synod Executive Committee wants to hear from you. What is the Spirit saying to you? Share your thoughts, prayers and uncomfortable moments. Send comments to clerk@synatlantic.org.

Share the Highlights of the 243rd Assembly with your congregation, presbytery and across the synod!



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

April 25, 2019

Task Force on the Rules of Discipline
c/o Flor Vélez-Díaz, Manager Judicial Process and Social Witness
Office of General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40204

Re: Application of Amendment 18-B-1, on Amending G-2.0509, to the Draft Rules of Discipline

Dear Flor:

As I mentioned on the phone, the Bills & Overtures Committee of National Capital Presbytery has some questions and comments relating to Amendment 18-B-1 (amending G-2.0509) which concerns former Ministers of Word and Sacrament who renounce jurisdiction while the subject of a disciplinary accusation. This amendment has now been approved by the majority of presbyteries. We would appreciate your forwarding our letter to the Rules of Discipline Task Force for their consideration.

National Capital Presbytery's Committee on Bills and Overtures has concerns with this amendment separate from the Rules of Discipline. The amendment puts the onus on the congregation not to employ for pay or as a volunteer a former MWS who previously renounced jurisdiction during a disciplinary proceeding. How could said congregation be expected to have any such knowledge? The amendment also deletes the requirement that the former MWS resubmit to the judicial process, while leaving it up to the presbytery (which presbytery is not specified) to "restore" the MWS; yet no standards for the restoration are provided.

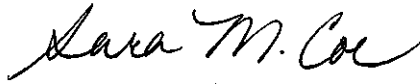
In addition, it stipulates that the provisions of D-12.0200 should apply. However D-12.0200 is no more, being contained now in proposed D-9.02 concerning restoration of a "person under the censure of removal from ordered ministry." As pointed out by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, "restoration" is a process that is appropriate when a person has been censured, not when they have renounced jurisdiction of the church. We wonder whether the new D-9.02 should specify that it also applies in cases of renunciation when a MWS seeks to be "restored" pursuant to G-2.0509. We in fact think it would be better if the Rules of Discipline Task Force would recommend the process outlined in the comments regarding 18-B-1 from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution and the 1989 Authoritative Interpretation cited by the ACC—that such MWS must become a member of a congregation and then go through the preparation for ministry process. In other words, we recommend that the Rules of Discipline Task Force take

Strengthening & Transforming Our Congregations

up the problems created by Amendment 18-B-1 insofar as that amendment relates to disciplinary matters.

The Task Force has done a wonderful job creating a clearer document that all stated clerks will appreciate. Our comments and questions are offered to perhaps staunch the inundation of confusing overtures we fear will come. We are available if you wish to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara M. Coe".

Sara M. Coe
Stated Clerk

scoe@thepresbytery.org
240-514-5352 (direct dial)

From the Leadership Council

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

April 3, 2019

Present: Miriam Dewhurst, Beth Goss, Lee Bishop, Brian Clark, Pat Futato, Dave McClung, Laura Cunningham, Quinn Fox, Sara Coe, LaJuan Quander, Karen Chamis, Todd McCreight .

Excused: Charles Barber, Cameron Byrd, Elsie Reid.

Absent: Neill Morgan

At 12:30, LC Vice Moderator Dave McClung called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Pat Futato

Miriam Dewhurst led a devotion including the reading of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 and a Lenten essay about the seasons in the life of the church.

Church Updates

- Sara Coe presented an update on former Community PC. Litigation continues. A trial date is scheduled for September 9, 2019 if a summary judgment is not granted before the trial date. Sara and Todd will bring information on the Community property value to the next meeting.
- Karen Chamis gave an update on Prince George's Community PC. Todd and Karen will write a covenant agreement between the church and the presbytery.

Annual Report from the Bills and Overtures Committee (BOC)

- Chair of BOC, Quinn Fox, presented its annual report which LC received with gratitude.

Financial Planning Task Force (FPTF) Report

Beth Goss presented the reports and LC voted on the following motions:

Motion: To dismiss, with gratitude, the Financial Planning Task Force.

Approved

Pat Futato has agreed to make a few edits to the final FPTF report.

Motion: To form a Vision Implementation Team, to include Brian Clark, Laura Cunningham, Lee Bishop, Pat Futato, LaJuan Quander, Karen Chamis, and Todd McCreight, to study the relationship between the budget categories and the accomplishment of the presbytery's stated mission addressing the need for increased membership growth in congregations.

Approved

Loan Proposal for Ebenezer PC

LC voted on the following motion:

Motion:

To grant:

(1) A three-year, no-interest loan to Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$20,000 from the Grandin Fund for the purpose of replacing the church's existing heating, ventilating and cooling units, pending approval by the Administrative Commission on Congregational Property. The NCP Treasurer is authorized as agent of the corporation to create and execute any documents required to complete the transaction.

(2) A six-year, no-interest loan to Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$30,000 from the Unrestricted General Directors Fund for the purpose of replacing the church's existing heating, ventilating and cooling units. Payments on this loan will commence in three years and be concluded in six years. The NCP Treasurer is authorized as agent of the corporation to create and execute any documents required to complete the transaction.

Approved

NCP Audit Review Team

Motion: To appoint LC members Dave McClung, Pat Futato, and Beth Goss to serve on the audit review team. The team will meet on 1:00 April 8 at the Presbytery Office to review the NCP 2018 Audit Report.

Approved

Meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer, led by Laura Cunningham, at 2:30 pm.

Next LC Meeting: May 1.

NCP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

May 1, 2019 Minutes

Present: Lee Bishop, Miriam Dewhurst, Laura Cunningham, Charles Barber, Elsie Reid, Brian Clark, Dave McClung, Neill Morgan, Pat Futato Sara Coe, Jan Moody, Todd McCreight, Karen Chamis, LaJuan Quander

Excused: Beth Goss, Quinn Fox, Cameron Byrd

Guest: LaKeshia Bradshaw Easter

At 12:00 Karen Chamis led the discussion of chapter six of *Canoeing the Mountains* concerning church and organizational culture.

At 12:30 Charles Barber called meeting to order with prayer.

- Elsie Reid led the devotion about ways to live out the season of Eastertide alleluias in a violent filled world as evidenced by recent acts of terror. As Easter people we believe in Christ's promise to be our refuge and strength always. We then listened to a recording of the hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing*.
- Seating of Guest: Reverend Lakesha Bradshaw Easter
- LaKeshia Bradshaw Easter presented the Annual Report from Spiritual Formation Team.

Motion: To receive with gratitude the annual report from the Spiritual Formation Team
Approved

- LaJuan Quander presented her report on NCP Communications. Miriam and Pat will meet with LaJuan to discuss possible development of a media instrument for outreach to people outside the presbytery. LaJuan will explore possibility of asking churches with a good media presence to host an Open Space.

Motion: To receive with gratitude the report from the Director of Communications
Approved

- Todd McCreight presented the Review of the 2018 NCP Audit. There was discussion of the need to consider changing auditors at some point as a best practice. The consensus was to keep this audit firm at this time but ask the firm to bring in new staff to conduct next year's audit.

Motion: To accept the Audit Report
Approved

- Todd McCreight presented the 2020 Mission Budget Guidance Number

Motion: To approve the 2020 projected mission income figure based on the Budget & Finance Committee recommendation of approximately \$894,948

Approved

- Todd McCreight presented the Endowment Spending Amounts for 2020 Budget

Motion: To approve the recommendation from the Investment Committee that the following spending amounts from NCP endowments and board-designated fund, as approved by the Investment Committee on April 17, 2019, be approved for inclusion in the 2020 Mission Budget:

Permanently Restricted Funds:

Garden Endowment	\$0
Moravetz Endowment	0
Bovard Endowment	79
Toland Endowment	375
General Scholarship Fund	2,404

Board Designated Funds:

NCP Scholarship Fund	\$38,147
Resurrection Fund	110,106
DC Resurrection Fund	35,317

Approved

- Pat Futato presented Funding Initiative report.

The Mission Funding Initiative (MFI) task force last reported to the LC on March 5, 2019. At that time, we decided to:

- Conclude our relationship with Horizons Stewardship
- Defer action on the proposal from another consultant, The James Company.
- Proceed cautiously with the Horizon recommendations involving two teams to focus on increasing designated mission giving—one with an emphasis on Church Growth and Transformation, the other with a Social Justice emphasis, using volunteer leadership with minimal staffing/funding from the presbytery.

Concurrently, the MFI task force was to communicate with the teams to determine whether there is sufficient energy and leadership for the teams to continue. The team has determined that continuing at this time would take staff energy beyond that which is currently available.

Motion:

To:

- receive the final report from Horizons Stewardship,
- approve disbanding of this task force,
- thank all those persons who agreed to serve on the two focus teams and
- consider revisiting this effort when we have a new GP.

Approved

- Sara Coe presented the Nominees and Chair for Nominating Committee

Motion: To nominate:

The Rev. Rachel Vaagnes, The Rev. Heemoon Youn, and Elder Byron Wong as members of the Nominating Committee Class of 9-1-22.

The Rev Jarrett McLaughlin as a member of the Nominating Committee Class of 9-1-22 if the way be clear.

The Rev. Rachel Vaagnes as Chair of the Nominating Committee Class of 9-1-22.

Approved

- Sara Coe gave an update on former Community PC
- Tressie Muldrow presented the Terms of Call for NCP General Presbyter

Motion:

To approve, with an expression of gratitude to the Search Committee and National PC for hosting the committee meetings, the following suggested terms of call for the NCP General Presbyter:

Effective cash salary (salary and housing)	\$ 125,000.00
Social Security offset	\$ 9,562.50
Total effective salary	\$ 134,562.50
Pension/Major Medical	\$ 46,000.00
Auto/Professional expenses	\$ 8,000.00
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00
Two weeks study leave	
Four weeks' vacation	
Total cost to NCP	\$ 190,062.50
	Approved

David McClung closed the meeting with prayer at 2:50.

Next Meeting: June 5, 2019

From the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

CPM enrolled Jan Moody and Tamarah Bush as Inquirers effective February 21, 2019.

From the Riverdale PC Administrative Commission

The Riverdale PC Administrative Commission is composed of the Rev. Maggie Hayward, the Rev. Geoff McLean, the Rev. Michael McNamara, Ruling Elder Lisa Massey, and Ruling Elder Sally Shiomichi. They have held an organizational meeting and will be setting up a meeting with the Riverdale Session.

From the Community PC Administrative Commission

On May 8, 2019, the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria ruled in National Capital Presbytery's favor on a Motion for Summary Judgment that will become final after 21 days. The Circuit Court Order declares that: "the August 8, 2018 Deed of Gift is void; the title to the Oronoco Street property is vested in National Capital Presbytery, Inc. for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); the Order may be recorded in the land records to clarify any future title-related issues; and, that the defendants are obligated to "promptly vacate" the property." The Administrative Commission will meet to determine next steps. Members of the Commission are: Kevin Powell (chair), Madeline Jarvis (secretary), Tressie Muldrow, and Joan Erickson.