

236th SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Report to Presbytery
October 27, 2015
Commissioner Jim Kirkpatrick

The 236th meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic was held during September 14-15.

This was my first meeting with the Synod of Mid-Atlantic and I was impressed with the stated purpose by which we are together seeking:

- To facilitate ministry in congregations,
- To encourage cooperative ministry between and among presbyteries,
- To support ministers in retirement,
- To develop racial ethnic leadership.

Here are a several highlights:

Massanetta

Trustee Randy Smith reported that Massanetta Springs facility usage has increased resulting from amplified outreach to non-PCUSA groups; Massanetta is debt free for the first time in 20 years; and is currently searching for an Executive Director. They are using a skilled consultant to help them keep up and move forward during changing times.

Discernment Committee Mandate

The Discernment Committee Mandate was "To review in total and to recommend to the synod assembly a clarification and or/redirection of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic's core mission and ministries in light of actions taken by the 2014 General Assembly to 'direct a new configuration of synod boundaries [currently 16] to be established [based on an emerging sense of purpose, partnership, context and call] through a collaborative process between synods and presbyteries resulting in no more than 10 to 12 synods.'" The synod executive committee will implement each approved recommendations as listed:

- That there be no administrative boundary changes of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic;
- That the Synod participate in the November leadership gathering in Dallas and that the outgoing synod moderator, moderator, vice-moderator and discernment chair represent the synod;
- That Synod identify accounts/trusts whose purpose and designation are outdated for the purpose of developing a unified stream of income to operate the synod;
- That new strategies be created to promote synod work to presbyteries and congregations;
- That an annual synod-wide gathering of congregations and constituents be held for the purpose of fellowship, information, cultural exchange, and worship in the model of the "Big Tent;"
- That synod continue conversations with other synods on specific mission partnerships;
- And that Synod Grants Committee extend assistance and opportunities to congregations by developing a matching funds initiative for new emergent ministries.

Grants and Awards

Kate B. Reynolds Fund -- distributions totaling \$592,088.00 were made in June 2015 to 477 retired minister members.

Speer Trust Fund -- awards totaling \$40,000 in grants were approved for eight projects receiving \$5,000 each. Churches and organizations include Front Royal PC - House of Hope (SHE); First Pres Durham – Triangle CAN (NHO); Black Mountain PC – Hope to Home (WNC); Grace PC – Project Literacy - (PEA); 1st Pres Wilmington – Grandparent Support Network (CCA); Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community engagement – (NAT); Seigle Avenue PC – College Preparatory Program (CHA); Takoma Park PC – Action in Montgomery (NAT).

New and Small Church Grants -- funds totaling \$20,000 were awarded in the amount of \$2,500 each to seven churches: New Friendship (CHA), Pineola (WNC), Colonial Heights (JAM), St. Paul (CHA), Falling Waters (SHE), Franklin (EVA), The Bridge (CCA), and Vision of Washington (AKAP). One Visionary Grant was awarded for \$2,500 to Good Hope (WNC).

Presbytery Initiatives -- grants totaling \$20,200 were awarded to five proposals from Caucuses, Presbyterian women and Presbyteries. They include: NAT and NEW Presbyteries – \$2,000 for a New Pastors Retreat; Synod Black Caucus - \$5,000 for program development; Presbyterian Women - \$3,200 for Moms and Kids Mission; CHA and NHO Presbyteries - \$5,000 for Charlotte Youth Ministry Consortium; and PEA and JAM Presbyteries - \$5,000 for the Protestant Center for Pastoral Care.

Jubilee Fund -- grants totaling \$16,828 were awarded to four churches in the amount of \$4,207 each. These ministries are: Calvary PC (CCA) – A music camp ministry; Carver Memorial PC (EVA) – A worship Intern; Catawba PC (CHA) – A summer enrichment program; and CN Jenkins PC (CHA) – Freedom School 2015.