

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Sept. 22, 2022

CONSENT MOTION

The Stated Clerk would to remind everyone that he is making a concerted effort to put as much business as possible into the Consent Motion. These are generally non-controversial items that are grouped together and voted on all at once to save time in our meetings. Sometimes, items that may require questions or more explanation may sneak into the Consent Motion. Don't panic! If you have questions, or would like to have items removed from the Consent agenda, please contact the Stated Clerk. The earlier you contact the clerk, the happier he will be.

MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATIONS

It is with joy that the Clerk notes that eight congregations have officially become "Matthew 25" Congregations and have notified the Presbytery and PCUSA of that action. Those congregations are:

Presbyterian Church of Dover
Georgetown Presbyterian Church
Coolspring Presbyterian Church
New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Community Presbyterian Church
West Nottingham Presbyterian Church
Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church of Easton

SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER: GUIDELINES FOR PRESBYTERIANS IN TIMES OF DISAGREEMENT

Included in the materials for this meeting is a resource recently provided by the PCUSA Office of Public Witness, entitled, *Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement*. Specifically offered as a resource that might be useful in the run-up to the November elections, reviewing the principles outlined in the document, especially with our sessions and members, may be a useful exercise. Copies are available in the meeting documents, or from PCUSA at: https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/guidelines.pdf.

REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES

The 2019 Minutes of Meetings of New Castle Presbytery were reviewed and approved by a reading team from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic in June of this year. As usual, the Stated Clerk was made to look exceptionally good due to the fine work of our Administrator, Donna Scully. Donna skillfully knitted together the year's worth of minutes from the work of two Stated Clerks (Jessie McMillan and Bob Schminkey) and she deserves all the credit for completion of this project.

REVIEW OF SESSION MINUTES

The Stated Clerk would like to report that the following 29 congregations have submitted Session Minutes from 2019.

Calvary, Chesapeake City (First), Chestertown, Community, Concord, Coolspring, Delaware City (First), Dover, Easton, Elkton, Green Hill, Hanover Street, Head of Christiana, Lower Brandywine, Makemie Memorial, Newark (First) New Castle, Ocean City (First), Perryville, Pitts Creek, Red Clay Creek, Rehoboth (Westover), Rock, St. Andrews, Trinity, Wesminster (Rehoboth), Westminster (Wilmington), West Nottingham, Wicomico

The Clerk would also like to apologize for not returning all the minutes in a prompt manner. Know that he is still working on this piece of the project. You are not forgotten!

Congregations who have not yet submitted Session Minutes are still welcome to do so. The Clerk will review them as quickly as possible.

SYNOD COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT

Attached to the Presbytery docket materials you will find our report to the Synod Committee on Representation. Submitted by George Hall from our Committee on Representation and Nominations, and signed by Caitlan Gartland, Chair of CORN and myself, this report was submitted to synod in July 2020.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Stated Clerk attended (and helped facilitate on Zoom) the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Assembly on September 14. Our own Pastor Mawuna Gardesey from Olivet Church is stepping down after two years as Synod Moderator, and while we are glad to have more of his time for New Castle Presbytery, he will be missed by the Synod. Rev. Dianne Demming (Milford) and RE John Curtis (Makemie) remain as our two Synod Commissioners.

I was quite impressed with the work of the Synod, something long-time New Castle folks might find unusual coming from me. Our Synod is the most racially diverse in the denomination, and the level of commitment to being a Matthew 25 church and especially dismantling institutional racism is a joy to behold. The synod is focusing much of its grant work going forward to program development in support of Matthew 25 initiatives, and is committing extra funds to that goal. The synod also made it clear that this was a place we could work collaboratively on anti-racism training.

It is a new day at the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and it is a joy to be part of it.

Submitted by:
Bob Schminkey