

Highlights of the 225th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
March 8-9, 2010, Richmond Korean Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia

Among the noteworthy decisions of the Synod Assembly were actions to:

- Concur with the Overture to the General Assembly, submitted by the Synod of the Southwest, regarding the appointment of a special committee to conduct a comprehensive study of middle governing bodies in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- Adopt revised Personnel Policies and Practices, which have been in process for more than a year.
- Renew the lease agreement with the Presbytery of the James for office space for one year, commencing in October, as per the original lease agreement of September 2007; and to authorize the Synod Executive to explore other options regarding the synod's office space and building, reporting to the Administration Committee as soon as feasible.
- Invite Carlos Malave, Ecumenical Relations Coordinator for the General Assembly, to address the next Synod Assembly and offer an educational presentation on ecumenical relations of the PC(USA).
- Set a governance budget for 2011 of \$420,650; to retain the synod per capita rate for 2011 at \$1.45, and to direct that interpretive information be made available to Synod Commissioners for sharing with their presbyteries.
- Explore the feasibility of allocating the cost of the Finance Manager position proportionately between the governance and investment functions.
- Amend the application procedure to allow the three synod caucuses (Korean, Hispanic and Black Caucuses) to make application directly to the Presbytery Initiatives Committee for support of mission or program activities.
- Approve several funding requests recommended by the Presbytery Initiatives Committee:
 - \$2,500 for printing additional Massanetta Springs 100th Anniversary histories (Shenandoah and Peaks)
 - \$3,000 for various appurtenances for a new chapel in Kikuyu, Kenya (New Castle and Shenandoah)
 - \$2,000 in scholarship aid for additional participants in Synod Men's Kenya Mission Project (Shenandoah and New Castle)
 - \$5,000 for the Haiti Orphanage and Fish Farm (James and Peaks)
 - Approve a \$10,000 grant to the National Black Presbyterian Caucus to assist youth and young adults to attend Youth Leadership Development conferences this spring and summer.
- Hear a progress report on an initiative in leadership development with Hispanic/Latino populations in three synods, Mid-Atlantic, Trinity and Northeast, made possible by the Heisermann Fund and the start of a similar initiative for African-American leadership development in two synods, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.
- Approve several grants recommended by the Grants & Awards Committee:
 - \$2,500 to Mountain Presbyterian Chapel, Shenandoah Presbytery
 - \$2,500 for HVAC repairs and upgrades at Amphill Church, Presbytery of the James
 - \$2,500 for repairs and remodeling, Milford Church, Presbytery of the James

- \$2,500 for building design costs, Unity Church, Salem Presbytery
- \$2,500 for basement renovations, Dongsan Church, Atlantic Korean Presbytery
- 15 scholarship grants for seminary students, (from the Euler Fund) totaling \$43,000 and 3 for students at Presbyterian colleges (from the Stultz Fund) totaling \$5,700
- Elect members to serve in new classes on several committee/commissions, and ratify the election of Bill Parish (Abingdon) as the at-large member of the Executive Committee.
- Hear a report from Fred Holbrook, Massanetta Springs' Executive Director on the activities of the Center, its 100th anniversary celebration this year, and the fact that the Center was able to finish the year 2009 \$44,000 in the positive.
- Adopt a resolution of profound thanks to the Richmond Korean Presbyterian Church for their outstanding hospitality as hosts for this meeting.

From the Desk of David McKee, Executive and Stated Clerk