

SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC
34th ZOOM STATED MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Rev. Kathi Parchem, Synod Moderator, welcomed first-time and returning Commissioners, Presbytery Leaders, Stated Clerks, Racial Ethnic Leaders, the Synod Presbyterian Women Leader, and guests gathered to conduct the business of the Synod. Due to the pandemic the May Stated Meeting was cancelled so the Synod held its first electronic meeting using ZOOM video conferencing.
- The Rev. Rick Douylliez of the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, Savannah Presbytery, led the Synod in worship using Matthew 14:22-33 as the scripture.
- During worship, the Synod Moderator, the Rev. Kathi Parchem, Savannah Presbytery, and the Synod Moderator-Elect, the Rev. Dr. David Shelor, Tampa Bay Presbytery, were installed with former moderator, Gloria Graham Boyd, asking the installation questions of the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and the Synod.
- Joyce Lieberman, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, reported on the status of the Synod, including the membership, the Presbytery and Synod minutes approvals, and Permanent Judicial Commission decisions. She welcomed the new Presbytery leaders and Clerks to the Synod. She reflected upon the “new normal” of what it means to be the church in this time and place, with widespread COVID and widespread racism.
- The Executive Administrative Commission (EAC) presented a number of proposed Synod Manual of Operations changes and updates as a first reading.
- The Synod voted in favor of the 2021 Stated Meeting dates of April 22-23, 2021 at Epworth-By-The-Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia, as well as an electronic meeting on November 5, 2021.
- Jodi Dodge, Synod Treasurer, was elected to serve another four-year term. Her gifts, expertise and innovations have supported the Synod’s staff and the Budget and Finance Committee.
- William “Bill” Byars, Cherokee Presbytery, was elected as the Chair of the Administration and Relationships Committee (ARC). Ken Whitehurst, Greater Atlanta Presbytery was elected as the Chair of the Ministry Support Committee (MSC).
- The Synod audit for 2019 was completed and in order. The 2021 proposed budget was approved with per capita remaining at \$1.50 and suggested mission giving remaining at \$1.00.
- The Rev. Dr. Alan Barody read the Ahmaud Arbery Statement from Savannah and Greater Atlanta Presbyteries, which was responded to by the other Georgia Presbyteries.