

## Highlights of the April Assembly of the Synod

- Ruling Elder Commissioner, Jacquelyn Rembert of New Harmony Presbytery was elected and installed as synod Moderator-Elect for 2024-2025!
- Concurred with General Assembly OVT-024 On Creating a General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid Councils.
- Financial Reports, including the 2023 audit, were received, and the 2024 budget was adjusted.
- Learned about grants awarded in 2023.

A report from the Synod Visioning Task Force report was received and the recommended "Journey Statement and Guiding Values" and new logo were adopted by the Assembly! Read more here.

## Our Journey

The Synod of South Atlantic, PC(U.S.A.) embodies the grace and love of Jesus Christ, cultivates authentic community within and across presbyteries, and inspires impactful ministry, developing leaders so that the Church becomes united in faith, hope, love, witness, and service.

## **Guiding Values**

**Grace:** We embody Jesus Christ's teachings by making grace the foundation of the Synod's work and interactions with others.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" - Ephesians 2:8-9

**Love:** We reflect Christ's love in our lives and work by listening deeply to one another and acting to build up the whole family of God.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**Authenticity:** We welcome the full selves of all who gather at our table, respecting one another and seeking to be open with each other, so that our relationships and interactions are sincere and true to the Christian faith.

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good" - Romans 12:9

**Transparency:** We seek to practice openness in the systems and structures of the Synod so that nothing need be hidden from one another.

"O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you." -Psalm 69:5

**Unity:** We work to unite the presbyteries and their congregations in faith, hope, love, witness, and service, emphasizing the importance of togetherness and collective purpose within the Synod.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" - Ephesians 4:3

**Hope:** We welcome the Spirit's presence that keeps us moving forward in hope, becoming the community God intends.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" - Romans 12:12

**Faithfulness:** In our faithfulness, we reflect a commitment and devotion to seeing tomorrow today and seek to make that desired future real throughout the Synod.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" - Hebrews 11:1

**Reforming:** As we are open to God's reforming work, we develop presbytery and congregational leaders who share their faith and disciple others, using the patterns of the past to help us discern where God is guiding the church for the future.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" - Matthew 28:19-20

Additional Ruling Elders are to be appointed to the Task Force.

- Two separate overtures from Flint River Presbytery to welcome Lamar Co, Georgia and Russel County, Alabama into their bounds.
- An Overture On Clarifying the Boundaries within the Synod of South Atlantic was approved to go to the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

