



October 7, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is my joy to share with you the highlights of the 258th Assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, gathered at Bartizan Events Venue in Glen Allen, Virginia. Under the theme "Dismantling Barriers, Cultivating Opportunities," commissioners, presbytery leaders, and guests spent two days in worship, study, conversation, and business, asking what it means for the church to make room for everyone and to turn that welcome into faithful action.

As you read, you will notice that the Assembly held reflection and action closely together. Our worship and Bible study called us to examine where familiar practices may limit the participation of others, and our learning sessions challenged us to think about equity not only as service, but as a shared practice of listening, partnership, and structural change. Presbytery sharing reminded us of the creativity and resilience at work across our region, as well as the places where our support is still needed.

Those conversations were matched by concrete decisions. The Assembly directed resources toward ministries serving children, youth, families, and congregations; strengthened our commitment to the next generation of leaders; approved the work ahead for 2027; and elected the leadership who will guide our gatherings in the coming year. We also paused to give thanks for colleagues whose long and faithful service has shaped the life of our Synod and the wider church.

I encourage you to read these highlights not simply as a record of what took place, but as an invitation to continue the work in your own setting. Consider sharing them with your session, presbytery council, committees, and ministry teams. Several of the resources included, particularly those offered by our presenters following the Assembly, are well suited for small-group conversation and practical planning.

I am grateful to all who made this Assembly possible: our moderator and officers, presenters and worship leaders, committee members, staff, volunteers, and every commissioner who came prepared to listen, discern, and decide together. Your faithfulness is what makes our shared ministry possible.

As we return to our congregations and communities, may we continue to ask the question that guided our time together: What barriers can we help dismantle, and what opportunities can we cultivate together?

With gratitude for our partnership in the gospel,

Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins

Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Synod of the Mid-Atlantic