

**Annual Meeting of the Synod of Living Waters
January 29, 2018
by Transylvania Voting Delegates
Karen Hartsfield and Mary Weber**

One of the highlights of the Jan. 29 meeting was hearing from covenant partners. President Dr. Cynthia Warrick of Stillman College briefly reviewed the college's history, including the fact that Presbyterian Women in 1920 financed construction of the oldest building on the Tuscaloosa, AL, campus. She mentioned the need for one more board members, whom she would love to come from Presbyterian Women. Later in the Synod meeting Presbyterian Women's Synod moderator Nancy Bryson touchingly volunteered herself and future Synod PW moderators to serve on Stillman's board.

Patrick Noltemeyer, Chief Planning Officer and Special Assistant to the President of Centre College in Danville, KY, updated the Synod. Among the many highlights of his report he said that 85 percent of Centre's students graduate and 80 percent participate in volunteer activities. Fifty percent of the student body are Kentuckians.

Columbia Theological Seminary's Julie Bailey, who is Director of Alumni and Church Relations at the Decatur, GA, institution, invited Synod members to consider the question of how to most effectively support alumni once they've been out of seminary for one to five years, and to let her know your answers.

Brian Alderman, Chaplain and Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at King University in Bristol, TN, expressed a passion for Christ and fidelity to Presbyterian heritage.

Maryville College's Kathleen Farnham, Director of Church Relations for the Maryville, TN, institution, noted the approach of the college's 200th anniversary of instilling Presbyterian values. The college is sponsoring a breakfast on June 20th at the upcoming General Assembly. Breakfast will be at 8 a.m. and will cost \$15 per person.

Synod Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Nancy Bryson, reported that the next Synod Triennial of Presbyterian Women will be June 13-15, 2019 in Jackson, MS with a church-wide Gathering Aug. 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, KY.

Another highlight was Living Waters For the World's report in which Director Steve Young expressed gratitude to Mary Weber and all Presbyterian Women for their creative fund-raising of making and selling crocheted necklaces. \$52,000 has been raised to date through this project. An inspiring, child-focused youtube.com video, "Clean Water for All God's Children," is now available to share with anyone interested in participating or giving.

William McConnell, Presbyterian Mission Agency, reported that \$12 million has been received this year for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which helps after hurricanes, fires and other devastating events.

Synod training of commissioners and delegates to the General Assembly will take place April 29 and 30 in Franklin TN.

An overture regarding nuclear non-proliferation was sent to a Synod committee to enable the fullest consideration and participation.

Moderator Ruling Elder Leonard Jordan (Mid TN Presby) and Vice Moderator Rev. Tom Lovell (North Alabama Presby) were duly elected.