Leadership Committee

The Leadership Development Committee approved grants for Campus Ministries in Public Universities and Colleges in Ohio and Michigan with endowment funds. (Read on ... Page 2)
In the summer of 2018, the Synod conducted 30 free health fairs and medical screenings for 1,031 adults and children through the Mobile Health Fairs Ministry (MHF).

The MHF ministry is conducted annually in the summer by six college young adults who travel throughout Michigan and Ohio to conduct free basic and much needed health/medical screenings, and are accompanied by professional healthcare practitioners. This ministry is conducted in partnership with congregations and presbyteries and often provide for additional medical and dental referrals. The Synod is currently planning for the 2019 summer and finalizing fairs schedule and participating congregations.

For inquiries or more information please contact the synod office or send an email to: mhf@synodofthecovenant.org

In 2018 Mission to the USA program featured the second of 3-year focus on Christian-Muslim Relations, and focused on the region of South Asia. In partnership with three congregations, the Synod welcomed and hosted three Christian leaders from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo, Ohio, hosted The Rev. John P. Hira, Principal of St. Andrew’s Theological College, the Church of Bangladesh.

Worthington Presbyterian Church, Ohio, hosted The Rev. Dr. Saman Perera, Moderator of the Presbytery of Lanka, Sri Lanka.

Canfield Presbyterian Church, Ohio, hosted The Rev. Dr. Nosheen Khan, President of the Gujranwala Theological Seminary, Pakistan.

The Synod welcomed The Rev. Dr. Steve Gorman as the new Coordinator for the Mission to the USA program, who is planning the 2019 MUSA program for the third-year theme of Christian-Muslim Relations with focus on Africa. We hope to invite 7-8 Christian leaders as International Mission Partners from 6-7 African countries. Please, welcome and connect with Steve through his email: musa@synodofthecovenant.org
In 2018 the Grants and Scholarships Committee had a budget of $100,000, the Peacemaking and Justice Committee had a budget of $120,400 and the Leadership Committee had a budget of $66,326 seek to use the mission dollars of the Synod of the Covenant in a faithful way.

The Grants and Scholarship Network received scholarship applications from church members that are designed to help College and Seminary Students. The committee awarded a total of $33,800 to Presbyterian applicants: 31 College Scholarships and 6 Seminary Scholarships.

The Committee awarded a total of $36,000 in New Covenant Grants for new mission initiatives which reflect the mission priorities of our Synod. New Covenant Grants are designed to promote new mission initiatives. Projects approved in 2018 included an Addiction Coalition of New Concord, Ohio; Radical Hospitality for the Chronically Homeless is Marquette, Michigan; support of a Safety Town program at the Groveport Presbyterian Church; support of a Korean American congregation youth group outreach in Columbus, Ohio; support for a Korean American congregation Campus Ministry in Lansing, Michigan; and helping to provide a more secure space for a Daycare in Akron, Ohio.

The Committee also awarded one Racial Ethnic Program Grant of $5,000 for the community outreach mission of the Trinity Community Presbyterian Church in Detroit, Michigan.

On August 3, 2018, The Synod Assembly voted unanimously to expand our initiative to welcome all our neighbors in the form of Welcome All Refugees. The original initiative Welcome Refugees was focused on refugee families from Iraq and Syria. The expanded initiative expanded the outreach of the church in partnership with congregations and presbyteries to demonstrate hospitality and respond in practical ways to serve all immigration or asylum related needs.
Committee on **Representation & Inclusiveness**

The Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness (CORI) held a training event for presbytery COR and Nominating Committee leadership within the Synod. Nine of the eleven Presbyteries participated. The event was led by The Rev. Molly Casteel, PCUSA Assistant Stated Clerk and Manager for Equity and Representation.

Cabinet on **Ethnic Church Affairs**

The Cabinet on Ethnic Church Affairs (CECA) falls under the Peacemaking and Justice Committee. CECA’s mission is to advocate for justice and reconciliation. In 2018, the Synod Assembly elected a new Moderator and membership, including the moderators of the five Racial Ethnic Caucuses, and continues to allocate mission for related outreach. The Moderator of the Synod’s CECA is RE Ruth Azar. The synod also supported the annual Korean American Pastors and Spouses Retreat.

**Leadership Committee**

The Leadership Development Committee approved grants for Campus Ministries in Public Universities and Colleges in Ohio and Michigan with endowment funds. In 2018, the committee approved total grants of $52,026. The Committee worked on renewing Covenants with the Presbyterian colleges within the bounds of the Synod, Alma College, The College of Wooster, and Muskingum University.

**SYNOD OFFICE**

In 2018 the Synod of the Covenant began using Zoom for all virtual meetings which added to the quality of interaction and discernment of participants, as well as contributed significantly to the stewardship of time and health of church leaders, and to the ongoing cost reduction effort. The committee structure of the Synod and maintaining a Synod office is the bulk of the Budget and Finance Committee expenses. The Ecumenical ministries of the Ohio Council of Churches are supported by the Synod of the Covenant. Administrative Commission expenses, PIC expenses, and the General Assembly sponsored Moderator’s Forum are also expenses of the Budget and Finance Committee.
Budget & Finance

The Assembly budgeted $140,030 for Synod Office expenses in 2018, which cover Synod Assembly meeting costs, committee meeting costs, and other office and administrative costs. The 2018 Budget was $756,764. The Personnel Services Committee budget in 2018 was $316,008.

The budget of the Synod of the Covenant is funded by the mission giving mostly of Presbyterians and congregations within the bounds of the Synod, and the faithful contributions of Presbyterian Women, Per Capita giving, interest income, and commissioners and staff contributions. In addition, Presbyterians contribute significantly through talents, time, and in-kind donations.

The mission and ministry of the Synod of the Covenant is made possible because of the gifts received, the efforts of commissioners and volunteers, and the work of the Synod Staff.

Please partner with us to love genuinely and serve faithfully. We look forward to hearing from you with feedback, inquiries, or more information:

Website: synodofthecovenant.org

COVENANT, GRACE, GRATITUDE,

Raafat Zaki
Synod of the Covenant Executive
A JUST-PEACE CHURCH

“ We, the Synod of the Covenant, in partnership with our presbyteries, congregations, the General Assembly, and other faith communions, are called and sent by God to be a living, active, and inclusive witness to the love of Christ. ”